

Court Information Release



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION
219 SOUTH DEARBORN STREET
CHICAGO, IL 60604

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Contact: Joel Daly
(312) 435-5693 (phone)
(312) 554-8239 (fax)
joel_daly@ilnd.uscourts.gov

U.S. Magistrate Judge Brown and U.S. Magistrate Judge Mahoney Reappointed to New 8-Year Terms

CHICAGO – By unanimous vote, the United States District Judges of the Northern District of Illinois voted today to reappoint Magistrate Judge Geraldine Soat Brown and Magistrate Judge P. Michael Mahoney to new terms of service as United States Magistrate Judges. Magistrate Judge Brown was originally appointed to serve as a magistrate judge for the Eastern Division of the Northern District in 2000. This will be her second 8-year term with the U.S. District Court. Magistrate Judge Mahoney was originally appointed to serve as a part-time magistrate judge for the Western Division of the Northern District in 1976, and was later appointed full-time in 1992. This will be his fifth 8-year term with the U.S. District Court. Magistrate Judge Mahoney is the longest-sitting magistrate judge currently serving in the Seventh Circuit.

In January of this year, Chief Judge James F. Holderman empaneled two Magistrate Judge Merit Advisory Panels for the purpose of reviewing the service of each magistrate judge and making a report to the district judges of the court recommending whether each magistrate judge should be reappointed. By statute, each panel must include at least two non-lawyer members of the community. After interviewing district judges, reviewing any comments submitted in response to the public notices regarding the reappointments, surveying various attorneys with experience appearing before each magistrate judge, reviewing statistical information regarding each magistrate judge's case load, and meeting with the individual magistrate judge up for reappointment, the panels each unanimously recommended reappointment to another term.

United States Magistrate Judges perform a variety of duties for the court, including the conduct of preliminary proceedings in federal criminal cases, the trial and disposition of federal misdemeanor cases upon consent of the litigants, the conduct of various pretrial matters and evidentiary proceedings on reference from a district judge of the court, and the trial and disposition of federal civil cases upon consent of the litigants.