

## Court Information Release



United States District Court  
Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division  
219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604

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the Northern District of Illinois  
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### **Northern District of Illinois Welcomes Judge Virginia M. Kendall as Its Chief Judge**

Chicago, Ill.- Judge Virginia M. Kendall became the Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois at midnight, earlier today upon Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer stepping down as Chief after a five-year term.

"It is my absolute privilege to serve as Chief for this talented and busy court," said Chief Judge Kendall.

Judge Pallmeyer who will remain on the bench as a senior district court judge with cases in the Eastern and Western Divisions, stated: "As I turn over my chief judge responsibilities to Judge Kendall, I know she will lead our court with enthusiasm and talent."

Clerk of Court Thomas G. Bruton stated, "I look forward to working with Chief Judge Kendall as we continue to make improvements in our district. Judge Pallmeyer's thoughtful and practical leadership helped our court successfully navigate the many challenges of the COVID-19 global pandemic."

Judge Kendall grew up in Skokie, Illinois. She was nominated to the federal bench by President George W. Bush on September 28, 2005. She was confirmed by the Senate on December 21, 2005, and received her commission on January 3, 2006. Judge Kendall served for six years on the Judicial Conference's Judicial Codes of Conduct Committee where she was responsible for drafting changes to the Codes of Conduct in several areas. She currently serves on the Judicial Conference's International Judicial Relations Committee where she travels globally to support rule of law and foreign judiciaries. Judge Kendall has traveled domestically and internationally to train judges, attorneys, and investigators on the rule of law, ethics, and human trafficking and serves on the United Nation's Judicial Integrity Network. She is a member of the American Law Institute and teaches law at University of Chicago, Loyola University School of Law, and Northwestern Pritzker School of Law. She was the *Peter and Patricia Gruber Fellow in Women's Rights* at Yale Law School in 2018. She has published two books on human trafficking and numerous legal articles and serves as an editor on the *Litigation Journal*. Prior to becoming a District Court Judge, Judge Kendall

worked as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Northern District of Illinois, where she served as Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division, Child Exploitation Coordinator, and Coordinator of Project Safe Neighborhoods.

Judge Kendall earned her undergraduate degree from Northwestern University, her Master of Arts from Northwestern University, and her law degree from the Loyola University Chicago School of Law where she attended night school while raising her three young children.

A special ceremonial session of the court took place on Thursday, August 1, 2024, to welcome Chief Judge Kendall.

Chief Judge Kendall's Chambers are in Room 2548 of the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse, and her courtroom is 2541. Judge Pallmeyer has relocated to Chambers Room 2588, and her courtroom is 2503.

Under federal law, a court's chief judge vacancy is filled by the district judge with the most seniority, who has not yet reached age 65. The law allows the chief judge to serve up to seven years or until he/she reaches age 70, whichever comes first.

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