

Court Information Release



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

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Contact: Julie Hodek, Public Information Officer
United States District Court for
the Northern District of Illinois
219 S. Dearborn St., #2514a
Chicago, IL 60604
312-435-5693

Court Welcomes U.S. Magistrate Judge Jeannice Appenteng in Ceremonial Investiture

Chicago, Ill. – On May 17, 2024, Judge Jeannice Appenteng was sworn in as a magistrate judge at a ceremonial investiture. Judge Appenteng makes history as she is the first African American woman to serve as a Magistrate Judge in this district.

“We are so happy to welcome Judge Appenteng to our Magistrate Judge Bench and celebrate this history-making appointment. Judge Appenteng’s outstanding credentials, including expertise in handling highly complex civil and criminal litigation, are an asset to our court,” said Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer.

Chief Judge Pallmeyer welcomed guests. U. S. District Judge James A. Beaty, Jr. (Ret.) of the Middle District of North Carolina, made the motion to administer the Oath of Office, and U.S. District Judge Sharon Johnson Coleman of this Court, administered the Oath. Judge Appenteng served as law clerk to both Judge Beaty and Judge Coleman.

From 2015 until joining the bench, Judge Appenteng served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Northern District of Illinois. Prior to joining the USAO, she served as Judge Coleman’s law clerk and, before that, she practiced litigation for approximately five years at Schiff Hardin LLP. Judge Appenteng received her undergraduate degree from Georgetown University and her law degree from Tulane University School of Law. After graduating from Georgetown and before entering law school, Judge Appenteng worked for a non-profit organization, serving a middle school in New Orleans whose target group was pre-teen, at-risk, Black males.

Judge Appenteng fills the magistrate judge vacancy created when Judge Jeffrey I. Cummings was elevated to the district court bench.

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Photo by Jim Slonoff