

**United States District Court
Northern District of Indiana**

P R E S S R E L E A S E

The Judges of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana announce that they have selected Susan L. Collins to serve as a United States Magistrate Judge for the Court in the Fort Wayne Division. Ms. Collins will succeed the Honorable Roger B. Cosbey upon his retirement.

Collins was among 37 people who applied for the judgeship. A panel of lawyers and non-lawyers reviewed the applications and recommended five (5) finalists for the position. The judges on the court interviewed the finalists and selected Collins.

Chief Judge Philip P. Simon said that Collins “is an outstanding attorney with significant experience prosecuting complex criminal cases in Federal court as an Assistant U.S. Attorney.” Simon noted Collins was chosen from a group of highly qualified applicants and commended the Magistrate Judge Selection Panel “for having done an exceptional job of screening the applicants.” Simon said the judges of the Northern District of Indiana “look forward to welcoming Susan Collins as a United States magistrate judge on our court.”

A magistrate judge’s duties include conducting most preliminary proceedings in criminal cases and presiding over hearings and the trial in civil cases and misdemeanor cases with the consent of all parties. At the request of district judges, magistrate judges also handle pretrial motions and attempts to resolve civil cases short of trial.

Collins is a graduate of the Drake University School of Law. She currently serves as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Hammond and she has held this position since

2003. She handles a wide array of Federal criminal cases including wire fraud, health care fraud, child exploitation, human trafficking and kidnaping. From 1987 until 2003, Collins served as a deputy prosecuting attorney with the Lake County Prosecutor's Office.

Ms. Collins will assume office January 16, 2015.