

For Immediate Release
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PRESS RELEASE

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA
SOUTH BEND DIVISION
Chanda J. Berta, Clerk
204 S. Main Street
South Bend, IN 46601**

**U.S. Magistrate Judge Michael G. Gotsch, Sr., to Retire in
August 2024, Creating a Vacancy in the South Bend Division**

South Bend, Indiana (December 12, 2023): After nearly forty years of public service, nearly twenty years as a judge, and more than seven years of service to the federal judiciary, U.S. Magistrate Judge Michael G. Gotsch, Sr., has notified Chief Judge Holly A. Brady of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana of his intent to retire in August 2024.

Before being appointed to an eight-year term by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana as a U.S. Magistrate Judge in 2016, Judge Gotsch served as Judge of the St. Joseph Circuit Court (60th Judicial Circuit) from 2004 to 2016. In that position, he was responsible for the supervision of the Circuit Court, the Probation Department, the Domestic Relations Bureau, and the Public Defenders' Office. Under his leadership, St. Joseph County renovated the old jail building into usable space for criminal courts, the adult probation department, and the community substance abuse program. In addition, he championed the creation of a civil protective order (CPO) court – a problem solving court dedicated to protecting victims of domestic violence. While Circuit Judge, he served on the Board of Directors for the Indiana Judicial Conference and was its judicial technology liaison. In that role, he assisted in developing, designing, and delivering the Odyssey case management system to courts in all 92 counties, along with deploying the system to St. Joseph County in 2014. Judge Gotsch was selected as the outstanding judge in Indiana on two occasions – in 2015 by the Young Lawyers Section of the Indiana State Bar Association and in 2010 by the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The YWCA of North Central Indiana honored him as Man of the Year in 2012, and the League of Women Voters honored him with the Making Democracy Work award in 2015.

A decorated veteran of the United States Army, Judge Gotsch graduated from the Notre Dame Law School in 1987. He was formerly an adjunct professor of law at his alma mater, where he taught trial advocacy for more than a decade. Judge Gotsch is a member of the St. Joseph County Bar Association, where he has served on the board for more than 25 years and was the Association's

president in 1999-2000. He is a Master Member of the Robert A. Grant Inn of Court and a Fellow of the Indiana Bar Foundation. He is also a member of the American Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, the Indiana State Bar Association, and the Federal Magistrate Judges Association. He previously served on the U.S. Presidential Task Force on Criminal Nonsupport, the Indiana Governor's Task Force on Abused and Neglected Children, and the Indiana Supreme Court Committee on Evidence Based Pretrial Release Practices. In addition, he has volunteered on numerous community boards and committees, especially the Boy Scouts of America and its LaSalle Council.

Chief Judge Brady said: "The judges of the Northern District of Indiana are grateful for Magistrate Judge Gotsch's service to the Court. His retirement marks the end of an exemplary career in the judiciary. Judge Gotsch's contributions to the courts and communities he has served for the past 40 years will have a lasting impact allowing the courts to better serve litigants."

The District Judges of the United States District Court appoint U.S. Magistrate Judges to terms of eight years, and magistrate judges are eligible for reappointment to successive terms. A magistrate judge may retire after reaching 65 years of age and serving more than 8 years.

A Public Notice seeking applicants to fill the vacancy created by Judge Gotsch's retirement is posted on the Northern District of Indiana's website, and can be accessed at: <https://www.innd.uscourts.gov>