

## Court Information Release



### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

219 SOUTH DEARBORN STREET  
CHICAGO, IL 60604

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### **Magistrate Judge Schenkier Appointed to Be Presiding Magistrate Judge as Presiding Magistrate Judge Denlow's Four-Year Term Comes to an End**

After four years of service to the Court in the position of Presiding Magistrate Judge, this Friday, January 25, 2008, Magistrate Judge Morton Denlow will pass the torch to his colleague, Magistrate Judge Sidney I. Schenkier.

Pursuant to the Court's Internal Operating Procedures, the Presiding Magistrate Judge is appointed by the Chief Judge of the District Court for a term of two years. Historically, magistrate judges have been nominated for more than one consecutive term, but have stepped-down after serving two terms as Presiding Magistrate Judge. Duties of the Presiding Magistrate Judge include presiding over meetings of the magistrate judges, serving as an *ex-officio* member of the Executive Committee, maintaining communications with the district judges and as liaison to the Chief Judge, as well as performing such other duties as the Chief Judge requests.

Judge Denlow became a United States Magistrate Judge on March 1, 1996. A graduate of Washington University (A.B. Economics, 1969, *cum laude*) and Northwestern University School of Law (J.D., 1972, Order of the Coif, *cum laude*), Judge Denlow practiced for twenty-four years as a trial and appellate lawyer in complex litigation prior to assuming the bench. Judge Denlow has been an active arbitrator, mediator, adjunct professor and lecturer for many years. Recently, Judge Denlow spearheaded this Court's efforts to create, implement, and expand its Settlement Assistance Program for *Pro Se* Litigants. Judge Denlow has served as Presiding Magistrate Judge since January, 2004.

Judge Schenkier became a United States Magistrate Judge on March 30, 1998, after litigating at Jenner & Block for over seventeen years. Judge Schenkier was a Bigelow Teaching Fellow at the University of Chicago Law School, and clerked for District Judge Marvin Aspen after graduating from Northwestern University School of Law in 1979 (Order of the Coif, *cum laude*). Judge Schenkier also received a Bachelor's of Science in Journalism in 1976 from Northwestern University, which was awarded with distinction. Judge Schenkier has taught as an adjunct professor and lecturer at his law school alma matter and for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy.

As in the past when a new Presiding Magistrate Judge has been appointed, no formal ceremony is planned to commemorate the changeover. Judge Denlow will continue to maintain a full caseload as an active United States Magistrate Judge, as will Presiding Magistrate Judge Schenkier.