



LEAVE A LEGACY. HONOR A VETERAN.

Click to add your veteran's name to the monument.

HEROES  
HEALTH  
HOPE

the 

Quick Links: 2016 Year in Review | New laws for 2017 | Indiana court vacancies | Indiana Voter ID law | Trial Reports

Home » Southern District to 'borrow' judges to ease judicial emergency

# Southern District to 'borrow' judges to ease judicial emergency

February 28, 2017 | IL Staff

KEYWORDS JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS / U.S. ATTORNEY FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA / U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA / DISTRICT COURTS / JUDGE JANE E. MAGNUS-STINSON / COURTS

COMMENTS | PRINT |     

Two Wisconsin district court judges will begin lending their services to the Hoosier state Wednesday as part of a pilot partnership designed to ease the caseloads of the judges of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana, consistently ranked among the 10 busiest federal district courts.

After Judge Sarah Evans Barker assumed senior judge status in June 2014, her vacant seat on the Southern District bench, which has yet to be filled, prompted the beginning of what the U.S. Courts Administrative Office terms a "judicial emergency" within the court. In the 12-month period ending June 30, 2016, the weighted filings per judgeship in the Southern District were 717, and the district had the seventh-highest number of total case filings and fourth-highest number of civil filings of any of the nation's 94 district courts that year.

But through the new "borrowing and lending" partnership that will launch tomorrow, Chief Judge William C. Griesbach and Judge Lynn S. Adelman of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin will begin taking a "discrete number" of civil case assignments from the Indianapolis docket for the next three months.

The Judicial Conference of the United States Committee on Intercircuit Assignments identified the Indiana Southern District as a potential pilot court for the new program, which was officially approved by the Judicial Conference last September. Earlier this month, the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals entered a designation to allow Griesbach and Adelman to perform duties in the Southern District.

story continues below

Even before Barker assumed senior status in June 2014, the Southern District of Indiana carried the sixth-heaviest weighted caseload, with each of the judges handling an average of 724 cases. President Barack Obama nominated Winfield Ong to succeed Barker, but the chief of the criminal division of the Southern District U.S. Attorney's office never received a confirmation vote in the Senate.

"We've been, according to weighted caseload measures set up by the Administrative Office, short a judge for 20 years, but it's highly unlikely we'll get a new judgeship created," Chief Judge Jane Magnus-Stinson told Indiana Lawyer in late 2016.

In announcing the pilot partnership, the Southern District said it continues to seek a more permanent solution to its judicial emergency. In every study it has conducted since 2005, the Judicial Conference has recommended that Congress create an additional judgeship to ease the caseload in Indiana's Southern District.



ADVERTISEMENT

## ADVANCED SEARCH

INDIANA LAWYER presents

# Practicing Law in Indiana

2 CLE/Ethics hours

## Ethics: Stay Up-to-Date with Current Rules

October 31, 2017  
1:30 - 3:45 pm  
2 CLE/Ethics hours

Presented in Partnership with  


**Chair & Moderator:**  
James Bell,  
Paganelli Law Group

**Featured Speakers:**  
James Bell,  
Paganelli Law Group

John Higgins,  
Katz Korin Cunningham

Seth Pruden,  
Supreme Court  
Disciplinary Commission

Caitlin Schroeder,  
Barnes & Thornburg

G. Michael Witte,  
Supreme Court  
Disciplinary Commission

RSVP now

## IN THIS ISSUE



Southern District of Indiana shoulders heavy caseload, hopes for new judge

McKinney remembered as humorous, hardworking

New limits proposed for civil

forfeiture

Most Read

Comments

Most Emailed

Senior Judge Larry McKinney dies overnight

McKinney remembered for intelligence, sense of humor

Bose McKinney announces merger as law firm M&A increase nationwide

Judge's order calls out lawyer who accused magistrate judge of bias

337 pass July bar as pass rate holds steady