

PRESS RELEASE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

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Magistrate Judge William T. Lawrence Nominated to District Judgeship

February 15, 2008

On February 14, 2008, United States Magistrate Judge William T. Lawrence was nominated by President George W. Bush to fill the vacant seat on the bench of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana. The vacancy was created by the elevation of Judge John Daniel Tinder to the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit last year. Judge Lawrence now faces a hearing in front of the Senate Judiciary Committee, followed by a confirmation vote by the full Senate. A timeline for these proceedings has not been established.

Magistrate Judge Lawrence has been serving in his current position since November 2002, when he was appointed by the District Judges. Prior to his appointment, he was elected Judge of the Marion County Circuit Court from 1996 to 2002. He was also a part-time Master Commissioner at the Marion County Circuit Court from 1983 until his 1996 election.

Judge Lawrence has experience as a Public Defender in the Marion County Criminal Court and in private practice. Other community contributions have included his appointment as Executive Director of Indiana's first Merit Selection Commission on Federal Judicial Appointments (1980); service on the Indianapolis Fire Department Civilian Merit Board (1983-1989); and Chairmanship of the Indianapolis Bar Association's Continuing Legal Education Commission (1997-2003).

Magistrate Judge Lawrence received his law degree from Indiana University School of Law in Indianapolis in 1973, following his undergraduate degree from Indiana University in 1970.