

PRESS RELEASE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

**Laura A. Briggs, Clerk
46 East Ohio Street
Room 105
Indianapolis, IN 46204**

June 27, 2008

United States Senate Confirms William T. Lawrence as District Judge

On Thursday, June 26, the United States Senate voted unanimously to confirm the appointment of the Hon. William T. Lawrence to the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana. Judge Lawrence had served as a United States Magistrate Judge in the Southern District of Indiana since November 2002 and is the first magistrate judge in the Southern District of Indiana to become a district judge. Judge Lawrence was nominated to the judgeship by President Bush following Judge John Daniel Tinder's elevation to the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in late 2007.

Prior to his appointment as a magistrate judge, Judge Lawrence was an elected Judge of the Marion County Circuit Court, serving 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.