

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA
46 East Ohio Street, Suite 105
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Roger A. G. Sharpe, Clerk

Crystal S. Wildeman Sworn in as United States Magistrate Judge

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (September 1, 2023): The Honorable Tanya Walton Pratt, Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana, is pleased to announce that Crystal S. Wildeman was sworn in as United States Magistrate Judge for the Southern District of Indiana at a private ceremony this morning. A formal investiture ceremony will take place at a later date.

Judge Wildeman fills the vacancy created by the recent elevation of the Honorable Matthew P. Brookman from Magistrate Judge to District Judge of the Southern District of Indiana. She will maintain chambers in the Evansville Division and also travel to Indianapolis to hear cases.

Before administering the oath, Chief Judge Pratt remarked, "Crystal's strong work ethic, diligence and passion for upholding the law and ensuring access to justice will serve her well as she embarks on her judicial career. We are excited for her to join our court because we know that she will bring those wonderful qualities with her to the bench. And we are confident she will be an excellent Magistrate Judge."

Magistrate Judge Wildeman stated, "I wouldn't have dreamed I would be standing here today as a magistrate judge when I graduated law school. And really, until a year ago, this wasn't part of my plan. But I was led here and I'm so grateful that I have been. I haven't even started yet and I already feel blessed beyond measure in this job. I'm rested and I'm ready, and I couldn't be more excited to join you."

Born in Evansville, Indiana, Judge Wildeman is a 2003 graduate of Indiana University – Bloomington, where she received Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts degrees after double majoring in psychology and criminal justice with a minor in biology. In May 2006, Judge Wildeman earned her law degree from DePaul College of Law in Chicago, Illinois. While in law school, Judge Wildeman earned the Best Brief Award in DePaul's Moot Court Competition and then was elected to serve as the Chief Justice of the Moot Court Society. She also served as the Case Notes Editor for the *DePaul College of Law Health Care Law Journal* and worked as a Summer Associate/711 Licensed Student-Attorney with the Chicago Transit Authority.

Following law school, Judge Wildeman began her legal career in Evansville at Kahn Dees Donovan & Kahn, LLP where she remained until 2014. Judge Wildeman then joined the Evansville office of Wooden McLaughlin LLP, which later merged into Dinsmore & Shohl LLP.

In 2022, Judge Wildeman joined Barber & Bauer LLP, as partner, where she represented businesses and individuals in litigation in a variety of areas including employment, contract, personal injury, and insurance. Judge Wildeman also has extensive mediation experience and is a certified, trained mediator.

United States Magistrate Judges are appointed by the Judges of the United States District Court for a term of eight years and are eligible for reappointment to successive terms. Magistrate Judges preside over many pretrial proceedings in both civil and criminal cases in federal court. A critical component of the position is conducting mediation and settlement proceedings in civil cases, helping parties settle their disputes by agreement.