

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

Official Investiture Ceremony Held for Magistrate Judge M. Kendra Klump

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (September 20, 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 M. Kendra Klump was honored at a formal investiture ceremony on Friday, September 15, 2023, as United States Magistrate Judge. Judge Klump fills the vacancy created by the recent elevation of the Honorable Doris L. Pryor from Magistrate Judge of the Southern District of Indiana to Circuit Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

During the ceremony, Chief Judge Pratt remarked, "Judge Klump, in the eight months since you joined our federal court family you have been a superstar. I've heard from the lawyers who have appeared before her that she appreciates the challenges they face but demands the best from them and gives the best of herself. By example she sets high standards which encourages participants in a case to perform that much better. I am honored to have the privilege of formally welcoming you aboard. On behalf of the District Court Judges, thank you for your persistence. We are confident that your presence here will be marked with honor and distinction."

After taking the oath, Judge Klump thanked and recognized the many people who have played an important role in her life. In addition to her family, the court, and other members of her proverbial village, Judge Klump recognized her former colleagues:

I started as an assistant U.S. attorney in Cleveland. It was there that my former colleagues in the Northern District of Ohio did the hard work of introducing me to the legal profession. My mentors – both official and unofficial – showed me how to be a zealous but compassionate advocate and instilled in me that the chair in which I sat would always be more important than whoever sat in it. A fierce group of Cleveland women taught me how to be brave inside of the courtroom and set a sky-high bar for what it means to be a friend. And my colleagues here in the Southern District – from the U.S. Attorney's Office, the law enforcement agencies, and the defense bar – continued to develop me as an attorney and as a professional.

Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Judge Klump is a 2004 graduate of Georgetown University, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in physics and mathematics, with a minor in French. From August 2004 – August 2005, she served as a Brookhaven National Laboratory Fellow with the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria. Judge Klump then

joined the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission in Washington, D.C. as a general scientist.

In May 2008, Judge Klump enrolled at the University of Michigan Law School, where she was a Darrow Scholar, recipient of the Rakow Scholarship, and earned certificates of merit for performance in Administrative Law and Securities Regulation. She was a contributing editor on the Michigan Law Review and graduated *magna cum laude* in December 2010.

Following law school, Judge Klump served as a law clerk to the Honorable Judith W. Rogers at the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. In September 2012, Judge Klump took a position as an Assistant United States Attorney in Cleveland, Ohio, where she remained until January 2017. At that time, Judge Klump became an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana. In February 2022, she became the Chief of the Southern District of Indiana's Drug Trafficking Unit.

United States Magistrate Judges are appointed by the Judges of the U.S. 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.