

For Immediate Release

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

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

**Judge Robert L. Miller, Jr. to Sit by Designation on the
U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana**

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana – October 2, 2017: The ongoing [Judicial Emergency](#) in the Southern District of Indiana has been exacerbated by the recent unexpected death of Senior District Judge Larry J. McKinney. In a continued effort to ease the Judicial Emergency, effective September 26, 2017, Senior District Judge Robert L. Miller, Jr., of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana, will sit on the bench of the Southern District of Indiana by designation. This designation, signed by the Honorable Diane P. Wood, Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, remains effective through December 31, 2018, and for such additional time as may be required to complete unfinished business heard during this period.

The Southern District of Indiana is in a state of Judicial Emergency by virtue of an existing judicial vacancy and a weighted filing in excess of 800 cases per Judgeship. In the 12-month period ending June 30, 2017, the weighted filings per Judgeship in the Southern District stood at 915, first in the Circuit and second in the nation. At the time of his death last week, Judge McKinney had 250 pending civil cases and 27 pending criminal cases. While most cases will be reassigned to his colleagues in the Southern District of Indiana, additional assistance is needed.

Therefore, Senior District Judge Robert L. Miller, Jr., of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana, will accept a continual docket of 50 cases in the Southern District. Judge Miller's inherited caseload includes a complex multidistrict litigation case that has multiple pending post-judgment motions.

Chief Judge Jane E. Magnus-Stinson said, "Our judicial colleagues from across the Seventh Circuit continue to humble us with their willingness to assist in our time of great need. We are deeply appreciative of Judge Miller's willingness to sit by designation and welcome him to the Southern District's court family. His tremendous experience, including supervision of multi-district litigation, will capably serve both our court and those appearing before it."

Judge Miller was appointed to the Northern District of Indiana by President Ronald Reagan in October 1985 and confirmed by the Senate in December 1985. He served as the Chief Judge of the Northern District from 2003 through 2010, and assumed senior status on January 11, 2016. He is a 1972 graduate of Northwestern University, where he received his B.A. He received his J.D. from the Indiana University McKinney School of Law in 1975.

For further information regarding the designation of Judge Miller to the Southern District of Indiana, please contact Chief Deputy Clerk Alison Chestovich at (317) 229-3710.