

PRESS RELEASE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

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Magistrate Judge Debra McVicker Lynch Celebrated at Retirement Event

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (October 28, 2022): The United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana came together on October 27 to celebrate and honor retiring Magistrate Judge Debra McVicker Lynch. Judge Lynch was appointed to the court on October 24, 2008, and she was reappointed in 2016. She officially steps down on October 31, 2022, concluding 14 years of dedicated service to the court.

Judge Lynch was recognized during an informal ceremony, at which Chief Judge Pratt remarked, "We have been so lucky to have you as a member of our federal court family. Throughout threats of sequestration, extremely heavy caseloads, and a pandemic, you have met every challenge head-on and kept your cases moving and your court running smoothly. Your expertise, knowledge, and your ability to get litigants to meet one another halfway and settle their differences has been invaluable to all of us. On behalf of all the Judges, my sincerest thanks for all you've done, for your commitment and dedication to the U.S. District Court these past 14 years, and for being such a dear friend and a great colleague."

Magistrate Judge Tim A. Baker reflected on Judge Lynch's service and dedication to the court and to the Local Rules Advisory Committee. He also noted her opinion in *Equal Employment Opportunities Commission v. Simply Storage Management*, a 2010 civil case in which Judge Lynch determined that one party could legally request and obtain the social media posts of another party as part of discovery. Her opinion in the case has since been cited hundreds of times by judges and attorneys across the United States.

Reflecting on her career and tenure with the court, Judge Lynch thanked her family, colleagues on the bench, staff, and fellow attorneys. She also quoted John Dewey: "To find out what one is fitted to do, and to secure an opportunity to do it, is the key to happiness." Judge Lynch continued, "I am so grateful that I did find what I was fitted to do (and if you beg to differ, please hold your peace at least for today). And I'm grateful that I secured an opportunity to do it. I have loved my work as a judge, I have loved working in this courthouse and with all the people who make our endeavors to do justice cooperative and effective. I'm also grateful to the lawyers and to their clients for their respect and trust. Working with you has been challenging and fulfilling."

Before joining the Southern District of Indiana as magistrate judge in 2008, Judge Lynch practiced with the law firm Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP (formerly Sommer Barnard)

from 1988 to the time of her appointment. Her practice included litigation of contract disputes, business dissolutions, antitrust matters, securities fraud cases, professional malpractice actions, and non-competition and trade secret matters. Judge Lynch served as a law clerk to District Judge Sarah Evans Barker from 1986 - 1988. She was a high school English teacher for several years before entering law school.

Judge Lynch is a *summa cum laude* graduate of the Indiana University School of Law, Indianapolis, where she served as Editor-in-Chief of the Indiana Law Review, and a *magna cum laude* graduate of the University of Miami (Florida). Judge Lynch was formerly an adjunct professor at the McKinney School of Law, where she taught the Complex Litigation course. She served as Special Master for Judge Barker in the Bridgestone/Firestone Tires Products Liability Multidistrict Litigation from 2000 to 2004. She has been an active member of the Local Rules Advisory Committee for the Southern District of Indiana since its inception. Judge Lynch is also a member of the Indianapolis Bar Association, having served two terms as a board member, and the Seventh Circuit Bar Association. She was a Master Member of the Indianapolis American Inn of Court for many years.

Judge Lynch will be succeeded by Kellie M. Barr, who will take the oath as a magistrate judge on Monday, October 31, 2022, in a private ceremony. A public investiture for Judge Barr will follow at a date to be determined.

United States Magistrate Judges are appointed by the District Judges of the United States District Court for terms of eight years and are eligible for reappointment to successive terms.