PRESS RELEASE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

Kristine L. Seufert, Clerk
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Room 105
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Magistrate Judge Tim A. Baker to Retire August 5, 2027; Southern District of Indiana Accepting Applications to Fill Vacancy

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (October 7, 2026): After more than 25 years of dedicated service to the federal judiciary, United States Magistrate Judge Tim A. Baker has notified Chief District Judge James R. Sweeney II of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana of his intention to retire on August 5, 2027. Judge Baker was appointed to the court on October 1, 2001, and reappointed in 2009, 2017, and 2025.

Chief Judge Sweeney remarked, "Along with my fellow judges, I heartily congratulate and commend Magistrate Judge Baker on his long and successful judicial career. His dedication to the rule of law and commitment to service have been of great benefit to our district and those who come before the court and beyond; for example, Judge Baker's participation in the Reentry and Community Help program has helped numerous individuals successfully reenter society following incarceration. We will miss his good humor, expertise, patience, and intelligence. May his retirement be as rewarding and meaningful as the many years of service he has so generously given to the court."

Judge Baker has held numerous leadership positions in the judiciary and in the bar. In December 2023, Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. appointed Judge Baker to a two-year term as the Magistrate Judge Observer to the Judicial Conference of the United States. Judge Baker has also served on Federal Judicial Center Board of Directors, Magistrate Judge Education Committee, Indiana State Bar Association Board of Governors, and Indianapolis Bar Association (IBA) Board of Managers. He is a Life Fellow of the Indiana Bar Foundation, a Distinguished Fellow of the Indianapolis Bar Foundation, and two-time winner of the IBA's Dr. John Morton Finney, Jr. Award for Excellence in Legal Education. In 2022, he received the Founders Award from the Federal Magistrate Judges Association.

From 1995 until his appointment to the bench, Judge Baker served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana. Judge Baker was in private practice from 1991 to 1995 with Barnes & Thornburg in Indianapolis, and from 1989 until 1991 served as a law clerk to U.S. District Judge Larry J. McKinney of the Southern District of Indiana.

Judge Baker graduated with distinction from Valparaiso University School of Law in 1989, where he was an editor of and contributor to the law review. Judge Baker has published numerous other articles in various journals, magazines, and newspapers. He graduated from Indiana University in 1984 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism, where he was an award-winning writer for the university newspaper. After graduation from IU, Judge Baker was a writer for an Indiana daily newspaper before attending law school.

A Public Notice seeking applicants to fill the vacancy that will be created by Judge Baker's departure has been posted on the Southern District of Indiana's website and can be accessed at https://www.insd.uscourts.gov/employment-opportunities. 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.

In conjunction with the Magistrate Judge appointment process, United States Magistrate Judges Kellie M. Barr and M. Kendra Klump, Incoming Magistrate Judge Liberty L. Roberts, and Clerk of Court Kristine Seufert will host a webinar, "Understanding the Position of a U.S. Magistrate Judge," on Monday, October 19, 2026, at 12:15 p.m. (ET).

During this virtual event, Magistrate Judges Barr and Klump will provide an overview of the day-to-day responsibilities of a Magistrate Judge. Incoming Magistrate Judge Roberts and Clerk Seufert will also provide information and insights on the magistrate judge application process. All will be available to answer questions from participants. If interested, please register at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/magistratejudge. The webinar will be held via Zoom, and participants' cameras and microphones will be disabled during the webinar; questions may be submitted using the chat feature. The webinar is expected to be recorded and will be made available upon request. Please direct questions to Clerk of Court Kristine Seufert at (317) 229-3700.