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PRESS RELEASE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

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46 East Ohio Street
Room 105
Indianapolis, IN 46204

The Hon. William T. Lawrence Announces Decision to Take Senior Status

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (December 13, 2017): More changes are coming to the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana, as District Judge William T. Lawrence has notified President Donald J. Trump of his intention to take senior status effective July 1, 2018. Judge Lawrence will continue to render substantial judicial service as a senior judge. President Trump, with the guidance of Indiana's United States Senators Joseph S. Donnelly and Todd C. Young, will nominate Judge Lawrence's successor.

Judge Lawrence first joined the Court as a Magistrate Judge in November 2002. President George W. Bush, with the confirmation of the Senate, elevated Judge Lawrence to the position of District Judge on June 30, 2008, making him the first Magistrate Judge in the Southern District to become a District Judge. He filled the vacancy created by Judge John Daniel Tinder's elevation to the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Prior to being a Magistrate Judge, Judge Lawrence was the elected Judge of the Marion County Circuit Court from 1996 to 2002, after serving as a Master Commissioner there for over 13 years. He served as a major felony Public Defender in the Marion County Criminal Court for nine years.

In 1980, Judge Lawrence was appointed Executive Director of Indiana's first Merit Selection Commission on Federal Judicial Appointments by Senator Richard Lugar. He served on the Indianapolis Fire Department Civilian Merit Board from 1983 to 1989. He served as president of the merit board in 1989. He has been a member of the Indianapolis Bar Association since 1973. Judge Lawrence was elected to the Board of Directors of the Indiana Judicial Conference in September 1997, and re-elected in 1999 and in 2001, where he served on the Court Management Committee. In 1997 he was

appointed, and then re-appointed in 1999 and 2001, as Chairman of the Indianapolis Bar Association's Continuing Legal Education Commission. He was nominated in 1997 as a "Fellow of the Foundation" by the Indianapolis Bar Foundation and previously served as "Master" in the Sagamore American Inn of Court. In 2012 and again in 2015, Judge Lawrence was appointed by Chief Justice John Roberts to the Criminal Law Committee of the United States Judicial Conference.

Judge Lawrence was raised in Mooresville, Indiana, and attended Louisiana State University from 1965 to 1968. He graduated from Indiana University in 1970 and the Indiana University School of Law in Indianapolis in 1973.

Chief Judge Jane E. Magnus-Stinson remarked on behalf of the Court, "Judge Lawrence has served the citizens of the Southern District of Indiana with great dignity throughout his 35-year career in the law. The Court is grateful to him for his remarkable service as a Magistrate and District Judge. He is everything that litigants deserve to have in a judge: fair, patient, intelligent, and well-reasoned. While my fellow judges and I are sad to see Judge Lawrence begin to wind down his career, we are delighted that he will be staying on as a senior judge and continuing to serve our citizens and our Court."

Judge Lawrence stated: "It has been my honor to serve as a judge on the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana. It has been an immense privilege to serve on a court whose judicial officers, without exception, endeavor each and every day to remain faithful to our oaths of office and to apply the law fairly and equally to all parties who appear before us. Despite the fact that we are laboring under a judicial emergency, and indeed currently have the second highest weighted caseload among the 94 federal judicial districts in the nation, this court continues to resolve cases as efficiently as possible while ensuring that each litigant's position receives the attention that justice requires. This would simply not be possible without the passionate commitment of each member of the court to the bedrock principles upon which our nation was founded. I am truly blessed to be finishing my legal career among such dedicated public servants."