

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

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (February 29, 2024): A formal investiture ceremony celebrating the appointment of Crystal S. Wildeman as United States Magistrate Judge took place on Friday, February 23, 2024, in Evansville. Judge Wildeman fills the vacancy created by the elevation of the Honorable Matthew P. Brookman from magistrate judge to district judge of the Southern District of Indiana.

In the necessary absence of Chief Judge Tanya Walton Pratt, Senior District Judge Richard L. Young presided over the ceremony and said, "Today we are all smiling and grateful that Judge Wildeman chose to bring her education, experience, and desire to serve her community home to Evansville. The Evansville community and the Southern District of Indiana will all benefit from her judicial service for many years to come."

Magistrate Judge Kellie M. Barr spoke on behalf of the court's magistrate judges. "Since being officially sworn in September 1, 2023, it has become abundantly clear to me and to my magistrate judge colleagues that Judge Wildeman will go the extra mile – really, the extra 175 miles between Evansville and Indianapolis – to make sure that she is in the room when possible. Doing so has quickly allowed her to become an integral member of our team, and she always provides practical and useful insights on our day-to-day work."

Judge Wildeman remarked, "There are truly not enough words to properly thank all those who have had a hand in building me into the person I am today. Thank you for pushing me further than I thought I could go, and for helping me to believe in my own abilities and possibilities that hard work, resolve, and prayer could bring. I am overwhelmed and deeply touched."

Born in Evansville, Indiana, Judge Wildeman is a 2003 graduate of Indiana University - Bloomington, where she received Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts degrees after double majoring in Psychology and Criminal Justice with a minor in Biology. In May 2006, Judge Wildeman earned her law degree from DePaul College of Law in Chicago, Illinois. While in law school, she earned the Best Brief Award in DePaul's Moot Court Competition, was elected to serve as the Chief Justice of the Moot Court Society, and served as a summer associate for the Chicago Transit Authority.

Following law school, Judge Wildeman worked at Kahn Dees Donovan & Kahn, LLP, from 2006 through 2014. From 2014 through 2022, she held a partner position with Wooden McLaughlin LLP (merged into Dinsmore & Shohl LLP). In 2022, Judge Wildeman joined Barber & Bauer, LLP. She also has extensive mediation experience and is a certified, trained mediator.

An active participant in the legal profession and wider community, Judge Wildeman is a member of the Indiana and Kentucky State Bar Associations and the Evansville Bar Association. She is a previous board member and Secretary of the Rotary Club of Evansville, where in 2021, she received the 20 Under 40 Award. She is also an advisory board member of Youth First, Inc., where she has served as the chair of the organization and on many committees.

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