

PRESS RELEASE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

46 East Ohio Street, Suite 105

Indianapolis, IN 46204

Roger A. G. Sharpe, Clerk

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (March 13, 2023): A formal investiture ceremony celebrating the appointment of Kellie M. Barr as United States Magistrate Judge took place on Friday, March 10, at the Birch Bayh Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in Indianapolis. Judge Barr officially assumed her duties on November 1, 2022, and fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Magistrate Judge Debra McVicker Lynch.

During the ceremony, Chief Judge Pratt remarked, "I've learned a few things about Judge Barr since she assumed the bench. I know that she is good at settling cases. I know that despite having a busy professional life, she is very committed to her family. She is a very loyal friend and trusted advisor to many. And I know that she enjoys being a mentor to young lawyers. These are all qualities that will make her an excellent judge."

Judge Barr said, "While I have been very fortunate to have multiple stimulating and fulfilling roles in various parts of the legal industry, for me, there's nothing quite like the feeling of public service through our judiciary. An independent judicial branch is a bedrock of strong government, and it is the honor of my lifetime to serve in it as a United States Magistrate Judge. I will do my very best to make you proud."

Judge Barr is a 2003 graduate of Indiana University – Bloomington, where she received Bachelor of Arts degrees in Psychology and Speech & Hearing Sciences and a Minor in Spanish. Judge Barr earned her law degree from the Indiana University Maurer School of Law in 2006. While in law school, she was an Articles Editor for the Indiana Law Journal, Champion of the Sherman Minton Moot Court Competition, and a recipient of the National Order of Barristers honor. She also served as Chief Justice of the Sherman Minton Moot Court Board and as an elected class representative for the Student Bar Association.

Prior to becoming a Magistrate Judge, Judge Barr served as a law clerk to then-Chief Judge John G. Baker at the Indiana Court of Appeals (2006-2008), a Litigation & Appellate Associate at Bose McKinney & Evans LLP (2008-2010), and as a law clerk to District Judge Jane Magnus-Stinson at the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana (2010-2017). In 2017, she joined the legal department of Indiana University Health where she was promoted to positions of increasing responsibility and ultimately served as Lead Attorney for IU Health Physicians until her appointment as U.S. Magistrate Judge.

Judge Barr has completed the Civil Mediation Training Program offered by the Indiana Continuing Legal Education Forum. She has been an active volunteer in the legal profession and wider community, having previously participated in the Southern District of Indiana's Recruited Counsel Program, served as a Big Sister for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Indiana, and been an active member on various leadership committees of the Indianapolis Bar Association. Judge Barr was recognized as a Distinguished Fellow of the Indianapolis Bar Foundation in 2021 and is currently a Master Member of the Indianapolis American Inn of Court. Judge Barr received the 2023 Mentorship Award from the Indianapolis Bar Association's Women & the Law Division.

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