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P R E S S R E L E A S E

United States District Court Northern District of Indiana

Abizer Zanzi Selected as United States Magistrate Judge

HAMMOND, Indiana (February 1, 2024): The Judges of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana are pleased to announce the selection of Abizer Zanzi for the position of United States Magistrate Judge for the Northern District Court in the Hammond Division. Mr. Zanzi will succeed the Honorable Joshua P. Kolar upon his recent elevation to Circuit Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Mr. Zanzi was among 26 individuals who applied for the judgeship. A panel of lawyers and non-lawyers reviewed the applications and recommended 5 finalists for the position. The Court's bench then interviewed the finalists and selected Mr. Zanzi.

Mr. Zanzi is a graduate of University of Pennsylvania (2000) and Duke University School of Law (2005). He currently serves as an Assistant United States Attorney in Hammond, Indiana, and has held the position since 2015, serving as a Supervisor of the General Crimes Unit since early 2022. During his tenure, he has handled sensitive national security matters and led investigations and prosecutions involving public corruption, international and domestic terrorism, human trafficking, child exploitation, and white-collar crimes. Mr. Zanzi began his legal career in the civil sector and served as a law clerk for the Honorable Philip P. Simon. He has devoted countless hours to representing indigent clients and when not practicing law, coaching youth baseball.

Regarding the selection of Mr. Zanzi, Chief Judge Holly A. Brady remarked, "While many qualified candidates applied for the position, Mr. Zanzi's extensive experience in both civil and criminal litigation and his prior experience clerking with the Court made him a clear choice for the vacancy. In addition to his diverse experience, the pro bono work he has performed demonstrates his clear commitment to equal justice under the law. We are all anxious for Mr. Zanzi to join the Court. He will be a tremendous asset to the Court and litigants."

A magistrate judge's duties are demanding and wide-ranging and include: conducting preliminary proceedings in criminal cases; hearing and determining any non-case-dispositive pretrial matter (such as procedural and discovery motions); hearing case-dispositive motions (such as motions for summary judgment or dismissal, or for suppression of evidence) and submitting findings and recommended dispositions of such court's motions to a district judge; holding trial and disposing of misdemeanor cases and civil cases upon consent of the litigants; conducting settlement conferences and other alternative dispute resolution proceedings; and additional duties as are not inconsistent with the Constitution and laws of the United States. The basic authority of a United States magistrate judge is specified in 28 U.S.C. § 636.

Mr. Zanzi's appointment will be effective upon the completion of required IRS and FBI background investigations.