

PRESS RELEASE

January 30, 2009

The United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts has announced that as of February 1, 2009, Magistrate Judge Judith Gail Dein will succeed Magistrate Judge Kenneth P. Neiman as Chief Magistrate Judge of the Court. She will serve a term of three years and becomes the seventh Chief Magistrate Judge of the District of Massachusetts since the Judicial Conference Committee on the Administration of the Magistrate Judges System endorsed the practice of district courts designating a chief or presiding magistrate judge in 1988. Former Chief Magistrate Judge Neiman served in that capacity from February 1, 2006 through January 31, 2009.

Judge Dein was appointed United States Magistrate Judge by the United States District Court on July 31, 2000 and re-appointed for a second eight year term in 2008. She is the First Circuit Representative on the Board of Directors of the Federal Magistrate Judges Association, and a member of the National Association of Women Judges. Judge Dein also is a Fellow of the Massachusetts Bar Foundation, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Society. She is active in the Discovering Justice Program, which involves elementary, middle and high school students in various law-related programs at the court, serves as a panelist on many MCLE and Bar Association programs, serves as a judge in local and national mock trial competitions, and has been a volunteer faculty member of the Harvard Law School Trial Advocacy Program (January term) for a number of years.

Judge Dein is a 1976 graduate of Union College in Schenectady, New York, summa cum laude, and a 1979 graduate of Boston College Law School, cum laude, where she was the editor-in-chief of the Boston College Environmental Affairs Law Review. After serving as a law clerk to the Justices of the Massachusetts Superior Court (1979-80) and the Honorable Robert Braucher, Associate Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court (1980-81), Judge Dein was in private practice in Boston until her appointment to the bench. She was a member of the Litigation Department at Hale and Dorr LLP, where she was elected as a Junior Partner, and then became a Partner at Warner & Stackpole LLP, which merged with Kirkpatrick & Lockhart LLP. Her practice centered on complex civil litigation matters, with an emphasis on commercial and employment law.

Please contact: Sarah Allison Thornton, Clerk, U.S. District Court, District of Massachusetts, 617-748-9165.