



PRESS RELEASE
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CONTACT
Brandy S. Lonchena
Clerk of Court
(412) 205-7500

NEW MAGISTRATE JUDGE SELECTED

The United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania is pleased to announce the appointment of Kezia O. L. Taylor as a United States Magistrate Judge, resident in its Pittsburgh Division. Ms. Taylor will enter on duty on December 22, 2023. Ms. Taylor fills the vacancy resulting from the recent retirement of Judge Lisa Pupo Lenihan.

United States Magistrate Judges are appointed by the Court's District Judges, and pursuant to federal law, preside over a wide range of proceedings on the Court's civil and criminal dockets, and broadly participate in the full range of the Court's activities and responsibilities.

Ms. Taylor is an honors graduate of Howard University, and received her law degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, where she was a member of the Law Review and was honored at the University's Honors Convocation upon her graduation. She then served as a law clerk to the Hon. Mary Jane Bowes of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

Prior to joining the Court, Ms. Taylor engaged in the private practice of law in Pittsburgh, served as an Assistant City of Pittsburgh Solicitor, and most recently, served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania, including as a faculty member at the Department of Justice's National Advocacy Center.

Ms. Taylor comes to the Court with a long record of engagement with the legal profession and the community, including chairing the Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners upon the appointment of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, serving as the Vice-Chair of the Federal Court Section of the Allegheny County Bar Association, along with service on the Bar Association's Nominating and Bench-Bar Committees. Ms. Taylor has served on the Boards of the Kelly Strayhorn Theater and the NEED Pittsburgh Foundation, in leadership on the YWCA's Young Leaders Board, and with the CORO Pittsburgh Leadership Development Program and the Mentoring Partnership of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

The Court welcomes Ms. Taylor to federal judicial service, and to the Court's work as it serves the approximately 3 million residents of the 25 counties that make up the Western District of Pennsylvania.

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