



Andrei Iancu

Former Under Secretary of Commerce for IP and Director for the USPTO, Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

Andrei Iancu is a partner at Sullivan & Cromwell and one of the leading voices in intellectual property law and innovation policy. He is a former Undersecretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property in the U.S. Department of Commerce and former Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), a position to which he was confirmed unanimously by the Senate. Andrei has decades of experience representing plaintiffs and defendants in IP matters across the technical and scientific spectra, including medical devices, genetic testing, therapeutics, the Internet, telephony, TV broadcasting, video game systems and computer peripherals. He represents clients in litigation and trials before the district courts, the U.S. International Trade Commission and the USPTO, the Federal Circuit and U.S. Supreme Court, and also counsels clients on obtaining, licensing, enforcing and defending against IP rights globally.



Hon. J. Rodney Gilstrap

Chief Judge, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas

Judge Rodney Gilstrap was nominated by President Barack Obama to serve as United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas and was confirmed in 2011. He assumed the position of Chief Judge in 2018. He resides in Marshall, Texas and has judicial responsibilities in both the Marshall and Texarkana Divisions of the EDTX. Prior to assuming the bench, Judge Gilstrap was engaged in private practice of law in East Texas. During this time, he also was elected three times as County Judge of Harrison County, Texas. He holds a BA *magna cum laude* from Baylor University where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He also holds a JD from the Baylor University School of Law where he was an Assoc. Editor of the Baylor Law Review. He has served as President of the Baylor Law Alumni Association. In 2018 he was named “The Baylor Lawyer of the Year” -- the highest recognition given by his alma mater. He was also selected as the 2018 “Jurist of the Year” by TEXABOTA (comprising all 16 chapters in Texas of the American Board of Trial Advocates). In 2023, he was recognized with the Outstanding Public Service Award from The New York Intellectual Property Law Association.



Hon. Rebecca R. Pallmeyer

Chief Judge, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

Rebecca R. Pallmeyer graduated from Valparaiso University and earned her law degree from the University of Chicago Law School. Following a one-year clerkship with Justice Rosalie Wahl of the Minnesota Supreme Court, Judge Pallmeyer practiced commercial litigation with a Chicago law firm.

From 1985 until 1991, Ms. Pallmeyer was an Administrative Law Judge with the Illinois Human Rights Commission, a quasi-judicial agency responsible for enforcement of the state's anti-discrimination laws. On October 1, 1991, Ms. Pallmeyer was appointed a United States Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of Illinois. She served as Presiding Magistrate Judge from 1996 until 1998. In 1997, President Clinton nominated her for a seat in the U.S. District Court in Chicago, where she has served since October 1998.

Judge Pallmeyer is an honorary fellow of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers and a fellow of the American Bar Foundation. Since 2006, Judge Pallmeyer has served on the faculty for the annual ALI-CLE program, Current Developments in Employment Law, held in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Judge Pallmeyer is past President of the Lawyers Club of Chicago, past President of the Richard Linn American Inn of Courts, and an active member of the Chicago Bar Association, the Chicago Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, the Women's Bar Association of Illinois, and the American Bar Association. She is past Secretary to the ABA Labor and Employment Law Section.

Judge Pallmeyer was sworn in as Chief Judge for the Northern District of Illinois on July 1, 2019, the first woman to serve in that role in the Court's 200-year history.



Hon. Christopher J. Burke

Magistrate Judge, United States District Court for the District of Delaware

Judge Christopher J. Burke has served as a United States Magistrate Judge on the United States District Court for the District of Delaware since August 4, 2011. Judge Burke's civil caseload predominantly consists of patent litigation matters, and he often oversees civil cases from their initial stages up through and including expert discovery, summary judgement and/or trial. Additionally, he presides over the early stages of criminal felony cases.

Prior to joining the bench, from 2005 to 2011, Judge Burke was an Assistant United States Attorney at the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Delaware. From 2001 to 2005, he was an associate at the Washington, D.C. office of the law firm of Covington & Burling LLP. Prior to that, he served as a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Kenneth F. Ripple of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Judge Burke is a 2000 graduate of the University of Michigan Law School. He received his undergraduate degree from Georgetown University in 1997.

Judge Burke currently serves as the Chairman of the Federal Trial Practice Seminar, a trial skills development program jointly sponsored by the United States District Court for the District of Delaware and the Federal Bar Association's Delaware Chapter ("FBA"). He also presides over the District Court's criminal Re-entry Court, which focuses on providing oversight, support and assistance to individuals serving terms of federal supervised release. He is the District Court's liaison judge as to the FBA, as well as to the District Court's Federal Civil Panel, which provides representation to indigent parties with civil cases pending before the Court. And he created and oversees the District Court's High School Summer Fellowship Program, which provides mentoring to high school-aged youth in New Castle County and exposes those students to the work of the federal court system.

Judge Burke also serves as an Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Pennsylvania's Carey Law School.