

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ALASKA
Clerk of Court
Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse
222 West Seventh Avenue #4
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7564

July 5, 2024

For Immediate Release

Candice Duncan, Clerk of Court
Candice_duncan@akd.uscourts.gov
(907) 677-6106

Clerk's Office Statement Regarding Resignation of U.S. District Court Judge Joshua M. Kindred

Anchorage, Alaska – On Wednesday, July 3, 2024, U.S. District Court Judge Joshua M. Kindred submitted a resignation letter to President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. Judge Kindred's resignation is effective Monday, July 8, 2024. Judge Kindred is currently assigned to 77 open criminal cases (with 102 defendants) and 148 civil cases in the District of Alaska. All of these cases will be reassigned to Chief Judge Gleason, except for seven open cases in the Juneau Division which will be reassigned to Senior Judge Burgess. The District of Alaska's Court Management/Electronic Court Filing system will be updated after 3pm (AK Time) on July 5, 2024 with the case reassignments. Future reassignments may be made by agreement of the judges.

Alaska currently has three Article III District Court judicial positions. Article III judges are nominated by the President of the United States. The individual nominated by the President must then be confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve on the federal bench as a lifetime appointment. There is no mandatory retirement age for Article III judges. One of the active Article III judicial positions also holds the "Chief Judge" designation for the district. The Chief Judge often serves a seven-year term as Chief, although this can vary depending on circumstances, and is involved in budgetary and administrative matters of the district.

Of the three current article III positions, one is held by Chief Judge Sharon L. Gleason and the other two will both be vacant effective July 8, 2024 upon Judge Kindred's resignation. The other position has been vacant since December 31, 2021, when Judge Timothy Burgess entered senior status.

Senior judges are Article III judges who have met age and service requirements and generally take a reduced caseload. Alaska currently has five district court Judges in senior status. These judges may agree to hear cases reassigned from Judge Kindred depending on personal availability, current caseload, etc. Judge Kindred will not qualify to serve as a senior judge due to his resignation.

Magistrate judges are appointed by a majority of the U.S. district judges in each district for eight-year terms. Alaska currently has two active full-time magistrate judges, one part-time magistrate judge, and one recalled magistrate judge. In criminal matters, magistrate judges authorize search and arrest warrants, hear preliminary matters in felony criminal cases, and preside over petty offenses committed on federal lands. In civil matters, a magistrate judge will preside over pretrial motions and hearings. While only district judges will preside over a criminal felony trial, a magistrate judge may preside over a civil trial if all parties consent.

With Judge Kindred's departure, Chief Judge Gleason will be the remaining active Article III judge on the Alaska Bench with the assistance and support of the senior judges and magistrate judges. With only one Article III district judge position filled at this time, the increased caseloads will lead to some delays due to the reassigned judge's availability and/or due to the reassigned judge's increased case load. It is possible that judges from other federal district courts may be available to sit as visiting judges in the District of Alaska. Cases will continue to be scheduled for hearings and trials based on availability of the assigned judicial officer and the parties in the case and the requirements of the Speedy Trial Act in criminal cases. The Clerk's Office will continue to provide case management and courtroom support on all cases.

The Clerk's Office has no further information regarding Judge Kindred's resignation other than what has been posted to the District of Alaska Website under News and Announcements at <https://www.akd.uscourts.gov>.

###