

PRESS RELEASE

The United States District Court announced today that, with the consent of the other judges, Chief Judge Motz has entered an order delegating to the Honorable Catherine C. Blake the responsibilities and powers of the chief judge. The order states:

“With the consent of my colleagues, I hereby delegate to the Honorable Catherine C. Blake, who at the court’s request has agreed to serve as its administrative judge, the responsibilities and powers conferred upon me as chief judge, except for those that statute or regulations promulgated by the Judicial Conference of the United States require me to exercise personally. Since this delegation constitutes an exercise, not a relinquishment, of my statutory authority, I must and do reserve the right to rescind this order if at any time I believe the interest of the court so requires. Of course, I will also withdraw the order if at any time Judge Blake so requests.”

Judge Motz has been serving as chief judge since October 1994. Although he will not be eligible for senior status until 2008, his statutory term as chief judge expires in October 2001. Judge Frederic N. Smalkin, who will succeed Judge Motz, has indicated he intends to enter a similar delegation order when he becomes chief judge. The court, together with its constituent agencies, has become a large and complex organization, and Judge Smalkin and Judge Motz believe it is critical to implement a plan that ensures continuity of management and administration.

Judge Blake has been serving as the court’s administrative judge since April 1999. In that capacity, she has earned the respect of all the judges and the members of the courthouse staff. Judge Blake was appointed to the District Court on August 14, 1995. She previously had served as a United States Magistrate Judge for eight years. Before becoming a magistrate judge, she had served for nine

years in the United States Attorney's office, as a line assistant, then as the First Assistant, and ultimately as the United States Attorney under a court appointment.