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**For Immediate Release**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK  
SELECTS NEW MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

**Rochester, NY** – Chief U.S. District Judge Frank P. Geraci, Jr. has announced that the Court has selected Mark W. Pedersen as the new Magistrate Judge of the District Court for New York Western. Mr. Pedersen currently serves as Principal Law Clerk to Sr. District Judge Charles J. Siragusa. He fills the Magistrate Judge vacancy created by the retirement of Magistrate Judge Jonathan W. Feldman, effective November 5, 2019. Mr. Pedersen will be sworn in at and will hold court at the Kenneth B. Keating United States Courthouse in Rochester, New York.



In 1979, Mr. Pedersen graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Syracuse University in International Relations, and in 1982 he graduated with a Juris Doctor degree from SUNY Buffalo Law School. He joined the U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps from 1982 to 2013. In 1986, Mr. Pedersen joined the Monroe County District Attorney's Office as an Assistant District Attorney, serving until 1997. He has served the New York Western District Court since 1997. From 2008 to 2011, Mr. Pedersen also served as a judge for the Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals in Washington, D.C. He retired from the Navy as a Captain in 2013.

Mr. Pedersen is an active member of the Monroe County Bar Association where he has served as Dean of the Academy of Law and participated in the presentation of many Continuing Legal Education programs over the years. He continues to serve as an Adjunct Instructor at Medaille College at the Rochester Campus.

The District Judges appointed the Magistrate Judge Selection Committee that screened the applications for the vacancy. Its Chair was the Honorable Patricia D. Marks, retired New York State County Court Judge. Other members of the committee included: Heidi Schult Gregory, Esq.; Christine Wagner, SSJ; George Haizlip, Jr.; Hon. William Johnson; Jon Getz, Esq; and John Speranza, Esq. The Merit Selection Panel recommended five names to the Court after they completed their process.

The Court is confident that Mr. Pedersen will serve the people of the New York Western District with integrity and look forward to welcoming him in his new role.

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