



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

District of Minnesota

Michael J. Davis, Chief Judge
Richard D. Sletten, Clerk

Warren E. Burger Federal
Building and U.S. Courthouse
316 North Robert Street
Suite 100
St. Paul, MN 55101
(651) 848-1100

U.S. Courthouse
300 South Fourth Street
Suite 202
Minneapolis, MN 55415
(612) 664-5000

Gerald W. Heaney Federal Building
and U.S. Courthouse and Customhouse
515 West First Street
Suite 417
Duluth, MN 55802
(218) 529-3500

Edward J. Devitt U.S. Courthouse
and Federal Building
118 South Mill Street
Suite 212
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
(218) 739-5758

November 24, 2014

PRESS RELEASE

BECKY R. THORSON APPOINTED U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Michael J. Davis, Chief U.S. District Judge, is pleased to announce the appointment of Becky R. Thorson to the position of United States Magistrate Judge for the District of Minnesota. Magistrate Judge Thorson took the oath of office in the U.S. Courthouse in Minneapolis on November 24, 2014. A formal investiture ceremony will be held at a later date. Thorson will begin hearing cases on December 8, 2014.

The U.S. District Judges of the District of Minnesota appointed a fourteen-member Merit Selection Panel to review applications, interview prospective candidates, and recommend to the District Judges the candidates they deemed best qualified for the position. Minneapolis attorneys Sam Hanson and Rachel Zimmerman co-chaired the Panel.

Thorson graduated summa cum laude from the William Mitchell College of Law in 1995 after earning a B.A. from Hamline University. Before and during law school, Thorson worked in the field of computer graphics and communications. Until her appointment, Thorson was a partner at the Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi LLP law firm, where she had a national practice in intellectual property litigation. Prior to joining Robins, she was a partner at the Greene Espel PLLP law firm. She has been a speaker at programs related to intellectual property law, electronic discovery and trial practice, and taught pretrial litigation as an adjunct professor.

Thorson recently chaired the District of Minnesota's Federal Practice Committee. She was elected to William Mitchell's Board of Trustees in 2013. She is a past president of the Minnesota Chapter of the Federal Bar Association and has served as the Editor-in-Chief of the FBA's magazine, *The Federal Lawyer*. Thorson has served on various nonprofit boards including the YWCA of Minneapolis, Twin Cities Diversity in Practice, and Disability Justice.

United States Magistrate Judges are appointed by the District Judges of the U.S. District Court for a term of eight years and are eligible for reappointment to successive terms. Magistrate Judge Thorson will chamber in the Warren E. Burger Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in St. Paul.