



## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

### District of Minnesota

John R. Tunheim, Chief Judge

Kate Fogarty, 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

September 4, 2018

## PRESS RELEASE

### ELIZABETH COWAN WRIGHT SELECTED TO SERVE AS NEXT U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE

MINNEAPOLIS, MN – Chief Judge John R. Tunheim is pleased to announce the Court has selected Elizabeth Cowan Wright to serve as the next U.S. Magistrate Judge. Wright will replace Magistrate Judge Franklin L. Noel who is retiring. Wright will take the oath of office on September 4, 2018. A formal investiture ceremony will be held at a later date.

Chief Judge John R. Tunheim noted, "I am thrilled to welcome Elizabeth Cowan Wright to our Court. Her outstanding career and glowing reputation within the community will serve her well as our next U.S. Magistrate Judge."

Wright graduated from William Mitchell College of Law, valedictorian and *summa cum laude*, in 2006. She received her bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering from Iowa State University, with distinction, and her master's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Illinois. Before her appointment, Wright was a partner at Faegre Baker Daniels LLP, where her practice focused on patent litigation and other complex intellectual property litigation. Wright litigated patent cases across the United States, including in the District of Minnesota, the District of Delaware, the Eastern District of Texas, the Western District of Pennsylvania, and the Western District of Wisconsin. She served as a law clerk for the Honorable Joan N. Ericksen, and is a registered patent attorney. Before she became a lawyer, Wright worked as an engineer at 3M for five years.

Wright has taught a patent litigation course at the University of Minnesota Law School and is a co-author on the course textbook. She speaks regularly about intellectual property law and discovery issues in complex litigation, including at the Minnesota CLE Midwest IP Institute. Wright has published on issues relating to federal court practice and patent law, and presented on patent law practice at the District of Minnesota's recent judicial exchanges involving members of the judiciary from Pakistan and Ukraine. She is a member of the Editorial Board of the American Intellectual

Property Law Association Quarterly Journal and is a member of the Honorable Jimmie V. Reyna Intellectual Property Inn of Court.

Wright is an active member of the Minnesota Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. She has served as the chair of the IP committee, as Vice-President of Membership, as co-chair of the Legal Education Committee, and as co-chair of the Monthly Luncheons. While at Faegre Baker Daniels, she recently represented (pro bono) two detained immigrants in connection with petitions for cancellation of removal.

Wright will be chambered in the St. Paul Federal Courthouse, located at 316 North Robert Street.

###