

For Immediate Release
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PRESS RELEASE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

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**JEANNE J. GRAHAM
APPOINTED U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (September 12, 2005) Chief U.S. District Court Judge James M. Rosenbaum is pleased to announce the appointment of Jeanne J. Graham to the position of United States Magistrate Judge for the District of Minnesota. Graham will take the oath of office in the U.S. Courthouse in Minneapolis on Wednesday, September 28. A formal investiture will follow on October 27 in the Minneapolis Courthouse. She will maintain judicial chambers in St. Paul.

Graham will fill the position formerly held by Magistrate Judge Jonathan G. Lebedoff, who will retire on September 20, 2005. Rosenbaum and his colleagues appointed a nine-member panel of attorneys and business professionals to advise the court on a successor to Lebedoff. Graham was among a group of highly qualified finalists considered by the Merit Selection Panel. Charles Lundberg, Chair, said: "The Merit Selection Panel is very pleased that the Court decided to appoint Judge Graham as the new Magistrate Judge. She was clearly one of the strongest candidates. Her years as a state court judge and her prior experience in the U.S. Attorney's office will serve her well in this position, and she will definitely complement what is already an extraordinarily strong federal bench in Minnesota."

Graham, 47, was born in Lakewood, Ohio, and is a graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College and William Mitchell College of Law. She is a member of the Minnesota State Bar Association, Minnesota Women Lawyers, National Association of Women Judges, Minnesota District Court Judges Association, and the Federal Bar Association.

Before accepting her appointment as a U.S. Magistrate Judge, Graham served as a judge in Hennepin County District Court. As a district court judge, she served as co-chair of the Children's Justice Initiative, presided over cases involving the federal Indian Child Welfare Act, and helped manage the large trial docket in Hennepin County. She also chaired the District Court Security Committee to address security concerns and solutions in the Hennepin County Government Center. Prior to her judicial appointment in Hennepin County, she was an Assistant United States Attorney until 2001. United States Magistrate Judges are appointed by the Judges of the U.S. District Court for a term of eight years, and are eligible for reappointment to successive terms. Graham will join Magistrate Judges

Franklin L. Noel in Minneapolis, Raymond L. Erickson in Duluth, Arthur J. Boylan, Susan Richard Nelson, and Janie S. Mayeron in St. Paul, and part-time Magistrate Judge Mary Kay Klein in Bemidji.

Media are welcome to take photographs of the presentation of the oath at the investiture on October 27. Please call (612) 664-5026 for arrangements.