

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA
Roman L. Hruska U.S. Courthouse
111 South 18th Plaza, Suite 3259
Omaha, NE 68102-1322**

Joseph F. Bataillon
Chief United States District Judge

Phone: (402) 661-7302
FAX: (402) 661-7306

**Press Release
United States District Court for the District of Nebraska
July 24, 2009**

United States Magistrate Judge David L. Piester has decided to retire after nearly three decades of service to this court. His retirement will be effective August 1, 2009.

Judge Piester, a native of Minden, Nebraska, and long time resident of Lincoln, graduated from the University of Nebraska College of Law in 1972. Prior to his appointment, he served as a staff attorney with the Legal Aid Society of Lincoln, Inc.; the executive director of Legal Services of Southeast Nebraska; and an assistant attorney with the United States Attorney's Office.



Judge Piester was appointed to serve as a magistrate judge in 1981, and has served continuously since then. Members of a merit selection panel that unanimously recommended Judge Piester's reappointment in 2004 captured his many strengths. They wrote that Judge Piester exhibited "good judicial temperament," was "impartial and fair in his rulings," issued "thoroughly researched and well-reasoned opinions," "is considered to be highly ethical and is respected as a judge by members of the legal community," and "is committed to excellence in the continued performance of his duties."

On behalf of all of the judges and employees of the court, Chief Judge Joseph F. Bataillon thanked Judge Piester for his nearly 30 years of service, stating: "Judge Piester possessed, and exhibited daily, all the traits of a great judge and the District of Nebraska will sorely miss his wise counsel and dedication to the ideals of justice."

To select a replacement judge, federal law requires the appointment of a merit selection panel consisting of lawyers and lay people to make recommendations to the district judges of the court. The court anticipates the merit selection panel will be appointed soon and that applications will thereafter be solicited. The merit selection panel will review the applications, interview candidates as necessary, and make its recommendations. The district judges will then decide who to appoint from those persons recommended by the merit selection panel.

For further information, contact:

Denise Lucks
Clerk of the Court
Roman L. Hruska U.S. Courthouse
111 South 18th Plaza, Suite 1152
Omaha, NE 68102
Telephone: 402.661.7350