

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA  
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Denise M. Lucks  
Clerk of Court

Gabriela Acosta  
Chief Deputy Clerk

**July 14, 2021**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA NAMES THE  
HONORABLE ROBERT F. ROSSITER, JR., NEXT CHIEF JUDGE**

Effective July 15, 2021, Robert F. Rossiter, Jr., will succeed John M. Gerrard as Chief United States District Judge for the District of Nebraska. Judge Gerrard, appointed to the District Court on February 6, 2012, became Chief Judge on November 1, 2018. Judge Rossiter stated, "I take this opportunity to publicly thank Judge Gerrard for his leadership during one of the most challenging times our world and our District has seen. His steady hand and proactive approach to handling the COVID-19 challenges we faced for the last year-and-a-half kept us operating and in a much better position than most of our peer courts. He also dealt with extraordinary issues such as the untimely death of our friend and esteemed colleague Laurie Smith Camp. He also presided over the integration of services between the Bankruptcy Court and our District Court."

Judge Rossiter has served as a district judge for more than five years. He was nominated by President Barack Obama on June 11, 2015, on the recommendation of Senators Mike Johanns and Deb Fischer. The United States Senate confirmed his nomination on June 27, 2016. Prior to serving as district judge, Judge Rossiter practiced law for three decades at Fraser Stryker law firm and was an adjunct professor at Creighton Law for over 15 years. Judge Gerrard stated, "Judge Rossiter has been an outstanding District Judge since June 29, 2016, and we have been working toward a smooth leadership transition over the last several weeks. I do not anticipate any major changes over the next several months and court operations should proceed status quo for the foreseeable future. Judge Rossiter has earned all of our trust and great confidence over the past several years – the transition should be seamless."

As authorized by 28 U.S.C. § 45, the chief judge assumes the position based on seniority and oversees the administrative operations of the court. Judge Gerrard will maintain his active status as a district judge.

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