

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA**

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**PRESS RELEASE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR
THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA
November 12, 2009**

The United States District Court for the District of Nebraska today announced that it had selected Cheryl Renae Zwart as the next United States Magistrate Judge for the district. Now a law clerk for the district, Ms. Zwart will succeed Magistrate Judge David L. Piester, who retired in August.

The selection of Ms. Zwart is subject to the completion of the required and customary FBI and IRS background checks, which are expected to take approximately three months to complete. Ms. Zwart will take office in Lincoln soon after the successful completion of those checks.

Born in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Ms. Zwart, who is 51 years old, presently resides in Lincoln, Nebraska. Ms. Zwart graduated summa cum laude from the University of South Dakota in 1980, and obtained her law degree with high distinction from the University of Nebraska College of Law in 1988. Ms. Zwart is known for her integrity, professionalism, intellect, work ethic, and even temperament.

Ms. Zwart focused on civil litigation while working at Knudsen Law Firm as associate and partner until 2001. She also served as a mediator in personal injury, contract, and employment disputes. While working at Knudsen, Ms. Zwart served as an adjunct professor at the University of Nebraska College of Law, teaching civil clinic and pretrial litigation.

In August 2001, Ms. Zwart commenced employment with this court as Magistrate Judge Piester's law clerk. As a law clerk, Ms. Zwart drafted memoranda, orders, and report and recommendations in civil and criminal cases. In addition to performing the many duties of a law clerk, Ms. Zwart worked on the pro se docket and served on the court's Continuity of Operations Plan Committee and Docket and Local Rules Committee. Ms. Zwart also continued her work as an adjunct professor at the University of Nebraska College of Law, teaching pretrial litigation, remedies, and trial advocacy. She also judged moot court, served as a facilitator for beginning law students during break-out sections on professionalism, and served as a mentor for the Summer Pre-Law Institute at the College of Law. Ms. Zwart is the President of the Van Pelt Inn of Court and previously served as President-Elect, Program Chair, and an Executive Committee member.

Since 1996, Ms. Zwart has mentored young people in the community through the Girl Scouts of America, serving as Service Unit Event Coordinator, Silver and Gold Award Advisor, and Troop Leader. She has also volunteered her time and talents to the Lincoln

Arthritis Foundation Board, Presbyterian Youth Committee, and Southeast Community College.

Out of 23 applicants, Cheryl Zwart was one of five individuals recommended to the court for consideration by the Merit Selection Panel. The Panel, chaired by Assistant Attorney General Charles E. Lowe, included Dr. Nancy Biggs, Judi M. gaiashkibos, Michael J. Hansen, Amie C. Martinez, Jeanette L. Stull, Professor Raneta Lawson Mack, Jan W. Sharp, John A. Sharp, and Marsha E. Fangmeyer.

The Merit Selection Panel said the following about the court's selection of Ms. Zwart:

Cheryl Renae Zwart has been the magistrate judge's law clerk since 2001 and, before that, had extensive private law practice experience, primarily in the civil area and often in federal court. Ms. Zwart is clearly very well-qualified for the position of magistrate judge, and the court is undoubtedly familiar with her work and her abilities. She is highly respected in the Lincoln legal community. Ms. Zwart is a pleasant, enthusiastic person who is very much interested in having the magistrate judge's office be as welcoming and helpful to the litigants and counsel as possible.

In announcing this selection, the court thanked the members of the Merit Selection Panel, and particularly Charles Lowe, for their outstanding contribution in the selection of the new United States Magistrate Judge. The court also thanked all of the applicants for allowing their names to be considered.

For further information, contact:

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