



## United States District Court

### District of Minnesota

John R. Tunheim, Chief Judge  
Kate M. Fogarty, Clerk of Court  
612-664-5000

Warren E. Burger Federal  
Building and U.S.  
Courthouse  
316 North Robert Street  
Suite 100  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Edward J. Devitt U.S.  
Courthouse and Federal  
Building  
118 South Mill Street  
Suite 212  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Gerald W. Heaney  
Federal Building and U.S.  
Courthouse and  
Customhouse  
515 West First Street  
Suite 417  
Duluth, MN 55802

Diana E. Murphy United  
States Courthouse  
300 South Fourth Street  
Suite 202  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

June 30, 2022

## NEWS RELEASE

### New Chief Judge named for U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota

Minneapolis, MN – Effective July 1, 2022, the chief judge for the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota will be the Honorable Patrick J. Schiltz.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 136, every one of the 94 federal district courts has a chief judge who serves as the administrative head of the court. The statute currently provides that the chief judge in each district shall be the district judge in regular service who is senior in years of service, who has not reached his or her 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, who has served for one year or more as a district judge, and who has not served previously as chief judge. A chief judgeship lasts for 7 years unless the chief judge opts to retire or take senior status on reaching the age of 65. Chief Judge John R. Tunheim completes his 7 years of distinguished service as the chief judge for the District of Minnesota on June 30, 2022.

Judge Schiltz was appointed by President George W. Bush on April 26, 2006, and took office on May 30, 2006, succeeding Judge Richard H. Kyle, who had taken senior status.

Judge Schiltz was born and raised in Duluth, Minnesota. He graduated *summa cum laude* from the College of St. Scholastica and *magna cum laude* from Harvard Law School, where he was an editor of the *Harvard Law Review*. After serving as a law clerk to Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, Judge Schiltz practiced law at Faegre & Benson in Minneapolis. He left private practice in 1995 to join the faculty of Notre Dame Law School, where he taught Civil Procedure, Evidence, and Sports Law. While at Notre Dame, Schiltz wrote "On Being a Happy, Healthy, and Ethical Member of an Unhappy, Unhealthy, and Unethical Profession," one of the most widely read law-review articles ever published. In 2000, Judge Schiltz left Notre Dame to become the founding



associate dean of the University of St. Thomas School of Law. He had primary responsibility for almost every significant aspect of creating the new law school, from hiring the faculty to designing the building. Judge Schiltz has held three important positions on committees of the Judicial Conference of the United States, which is the national policy-making body for the federal courts: He served as the Reporter to the Advisory Committee on the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure from 1997 to 2006, he served as a member of the Standing Committee on the Rules of Practice and Procedure from 2010 to 2016, and he has served as Chair of the Advisory Committee on the Federal Rules of Evidence since 2020.

Past chief judges for the District of Minnesota are as follows:

Gunnar H. Nordbye  
September 1, 1948-February 4, 1958

Edward J. Devitt  
February 4, 1958-April 30, 1981

Miles W. Lord  
April 30, 1981-May 20, 1985

Donald D. Alsop  
May 20, 1985-May 20, 1992

Harry H. MacLaughlin  
May 20, 1992-October 1, 1992

Diana E. Murphy  
October 1, 1992-October 13, 1994

Paul A. Magnuson  
October 13, 1994-July 1, 2001

James M. Rosenbaum  
July 1, 2001-July 1, 2008

Michael J. Davis  
July 1, 2008-July 1, 2015

John R. Tunheim  
July 1, 2015-July 1, 2022



Patrick J. Schiltz  
July 1, 2022-

Out-going Chief Judge John R. Tunheim and Chief Judge-elect Schiltz will both remain chambered in the Diana E. Murphy U.S. Courthouse in Minneapolis. Additional questions can be directed to Public Information Officer Rebeccah Parks at [Rebeccah Parks@mnd.uscourts.gov](mailto:Rebeccah_Parks@mnd.uscourts.gov).

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