



TRAVIS R. McDONOUGH  
CHIEF DISTRICT JUDGE  
JOEL W. SOLOMON U.S. COURTHOUSE  
900 GEORGIA AVE., ROOM 317  
CHATTANOOGA, TN 37402

**CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE, January 2, 2025** - The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee is pleased to welcome Michael J. Dumitru as its newest United States Magistrate Judge. Magistrate Judge Dumitru took his oath of office on January 1, 2025, in a private ceremony in Chattanooga's Joel W. Solomon U.S. Courthouse. He will succeed Magistrate Judge Susan K. Lee, who is retiring after serving the Court since 2004. A public investiture will take place in the coming months.

Magistrate Judge Dumitru has worked as a Circuit Court Judge in Hamilton County since September 1, 2022. Prior to becoming a Circuit Court Judge, he worked as a litigator for more than ten years, including eight years with the law firm of Miller & Martin PLLC in Chattanooga. He earned his Doctor of Jurisprudence from Vanderbilt University Law School in 2011, as well as a Master of Science in Global Affairs from New York University in 2006 and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Fordham University in 2004.

District judges appoint magistrate judges for terms of eight years. They have authority to issue warrants, to conduct preliminary criminal proceedings, such as initial appearances and arraignments, and to hear cases involving petty offenses committed on federal lands. In many districts, magistrate judges handle pretrial motions in both civil and criminal cases. While district judges try most civil cases, magistrate judges may also preside over civil trials if all parties consent.

Magistrate Judge Dumitru joins Chief Magistrate Judge Christopher H. Steger in Chattanooga, Magistrate Judge Debra C. Poplin and Magistrate Judge Jill E. McCook in Knoxville, and Magistrate Judge Cynthia R. Wyrick in Greeneville.

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Attached Photograph:

Chief District Judge Travis R. McDonough administers the oath of office to new Magistrate Judge Michael J. Dumitru.