

PRESS RELEASE

April 26, 2017

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — Chief Judge William C. Griesbach announced today that the judges of the United States District Court have selected Stephen C. Dries to serve as clerk of court of the Eastern District of Wisconsin, effective May 1, 2017. The Eastern District consists of the twenty-eight counties in the eastern half of Wisconsin and is home to some 3.4 million residents. The federal district court has five district judge positions, including one headquartered in Green Bay, and three full-time magistrate judges.

A Wauwatosa native, Mr. Dries graduated from Marquette University High School and has honors degrees from Georgetown University and the University of Wisconsin Law School. He also spent a year at the London School of Economics and is currently enrolled in a judicial administration program at Michigan State. He began his legal career as a corporate lawyer with the Chicago law firm of Jenner & Block LLC, and then entered government service, where he served one year as law clerk to the Hon. Diane S. Sykes of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, and nearly fourteen years as law clerk to Chief Judge Griesbach.

Chief Judge Griesbach stated, “Steve Dries’ excellent academic record, strong character and interpersonal skills, along with his fifteen years of experience working with federal judges, well equip him for the important job of leading the Clerk of Court’s office. The judges of the district are confident that Steve will continue the improvements in the office retiring Clerk Jon Sanfilippo made during his tenure and will use his extensive knowledge of federal law and the internal workings of chambers to add to those improvements in ways that best serve the interests of the entire court family and, more importantly, the public whom we all serve.”

As Clerk of Court, Mr. Dries, 41, of Brookfield, will report directly to Chief Judge Griesbach and the other judges of the Eastern District. The clerk of court leads an office of some 45 employees who provide a wide variety of services to members of the court community and the public at large. His duties will include managing the court’s budget and information technology, its space and facilities, and the staff responsible for the docketing and processing of civil and criminal cases, jury services, and courtroom operations. In addition, he will be responsible for overseeing public ceremonies and events, supervising the court’s human resources functions, and will serve as the court’s public information officer.

“I am humbled to have been chosen to serve the court, and the public, in this new capacity,” Mr. Dries said. “I have the honor of joining an office that is staffed with excellent and capable employees who have dedicated themselves to public service.” Dries replaces Jon W. Sanfilippo, who is retiring after ten years of distinguished federal service and a lengthy prior career in public service and private practice. Chief Judge Griesbach added that the judges of the court “extend their best wishes to Jon for a happy and healthy, and much deserved, retirement.”