

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 13, 2020

Milwaukee, Wis - On Monday, May 11, 2020, Gina Colletti was sworn in as the new clerk of court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, filling the vacancy created by the selection of former clerk Stephen C. Dries as a magistrate judge for the district.

Chief Judge Pamela Pepper privately administered the oath to Colletti on Monday in Pepper's office; both wore masks and stood more than 6' apart.

Colletti will report directly to Pepper and the other judges of the Eastern District. The Eastern district serves more than 3.4 million people in twenty-eight counties, and the clerk is the most senior non-judicial officer, supporting five authorized district judges, three full-time magistrate judges and three recalled magistrate judges. The clerk supervises some forty clerk's office staff.

Colletti's responsibilities will encompass a multitude of legal and administrative duties, from managing the Eastern District Court's budget, information technology and space and facilities, to overseeing the staff responsible for docketing and processing civil and criminal cases, jury services, and courtroom operations.

Colletti graduated from Marquette University with a degree in psychology and holds a paralegal certification from Milwaukee Area Technical College. She began her career in the law by serving as a legal assistant and paralegal for Horizons Law Group in Brookfield, Wisconsin. She spent almost five years as a trustee assistant and paralegal to then-bankruptcy lawyer and Chapter 7 trustee (now Waukesha County Circuit Court judge) Michael P. Maxwell. When Judge Maxwell took the bench, Colletti joined O'Neil, Cannon, Hollman, DeJong and Laing, working as a legal assistant from 2015 to 2017. She gained federal experience when she worked as a case administrator for United States District Judge Lynn Adelman from March 2017 to March 2018. She left that position when she was elected clerk of the circuit court for Waukesha County, where she served for over two years before returning to the district court as its new clerk.

In a Zoom welcome meeting with her new staff on Monday afternoon, Colletti expressed pleasure at being back with the federal court, noting that it felt as if she'd never left, and she thanked the staff for the warm—albeit remote—welcome. Although Colletti returns to the federal court at a challenging time, she brings a wealth of knowledge, ideas and experience. Chief Judge Pepper stated that the court looks forward to the future under Colletti's leadership.