

HOLD FOR RELEASE UNTIL JULY 20

Appointment of RAY KENT as MAGISTRATE JUDGE to the United States District Court, Western District of Michigan

Grand Rapids, Michigan, July 20, 2015 - The Judges of the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan are pleased to announce the appointment of Ray Kent as Magistrate Judge. Mr. Kent will fill the position opened by the retirement of Magistrate Judge Hugh W. Brenneman after 35 years of distinguished service. The appointment is effective August 1, 2015.

Mr. Kent, 59, has already served this district with distinction for over ten years as the Federal Public Defender. There he led the office entrusted with defending persons accused of federal criminal offenses who cannot afford legal counsel. For seventeen years before that appointment, he served in private practice, handling a variety of complex civil and criminal litigation.

Mr. Kent has also served the legal community in leadership roles with the Federal Bar Association, the Hillman Advocacy Program, and the Combined Federal Campaign. He earned his undergraduate degree from Michigan State University and his law degree from Wayne State Law School.

A Merit Selection Committee, chaired by attorney Craig Lubben with the Kalamazoo office of Miller Johnson , forwarded finalists to the District Court Judges who unanimously selected Mr. Kent as the next Magistrate Judge for this District.

Upon signing the appointment papers, Chief District Judge Robert Jonker stated: "As my first official action as Chief Judge of the District, I am delighted to formalize the appointment of Magistrate Judge Ray Kent. We at the Court are pleased that a person of Ray Kent's stature and accomplishment will become our newest Judicial Officer, and we know he will provide the same outstanding service to the people of this District that Magistrate Judge Brenneman has provided during his distinguished tenure."

Contact:
Tracey Cordes, Clerk of Court
United States District Court, Western District of Michigan
110 Michigan Street, NW, Room 399
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
Tracey_Cordes@miwd.uscourts.gov
616/456-2360

###