United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio

CINCINNATI— Chief Judge Sarah D. Morrison announced Grace Royalty will serve as United States Magistrate Judge for the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio.

Ms. Royalty will sit in Cincinnati, filling the vacancy being created by the retirement of United States Magistrate Judge Karen L. Litkovitz in October.

"We are pleased to welcome Ms. Royalty to the bench," said Chief Judge Morrison. "Her extensive legal background, commitment to public service, and deep familiarity with our court will be a tremendous asset to our district, our bar, and the people of the Southern District of Ohio."

Prior to her appointment, she spent nearly twenty years as the Career Law Clerk for United States District Judge Michael R. Barrett, a position she held beginning in 2006. Before that, she served as a law clerk for United States District Judge Michael H. Watson starting in 2004.

“I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve as a United States Magistrate Judge,” Grace Royalty said. “After many years of working in the federal courts, it is especially meaningful to begin this new chapter of service to the Court and the people who come before it. I am mindful of the important role the Magistrate Judges in the Southern District of Ohio have played not only in the courtroom, but throughout the legal community. I am excited for the challenges ahead, grateful for the confidence placed in me, and honored to take on this responsibility.”

Ms. Royalty earned her Bachelor of Arts in Art History from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville and obtained her Juris Doctor from the University of Cincinnati College of Law.

Judge Litkovitz will continue to serve the Court on recall status by mediating disputes, hearing cases, and ruling on matters before it.

“Serving the people of the Southern District of Ohio has been the honor of my professional life,” Magistrate Judge Litkovitz said. “When I took the oath as a Magistrate Judge sixteen years ago, I pledged to foster justice, to apply the law fairly and impartially, to resolve every case before me without undue delay, and to treat all who came before the court with dignity, patience, and respect. It is my sincere hope that I have kept that promise.”

United States Magistrate Judges handle essential judicial duties, including presiding over civil consent cases, conducting preliminary proceedings in criminal matters, managing discovery disputes, and issuing reports and recommendations on dispositive motions.