

June 10, 2021

Announcement from Chief Judge Sykes Regarding New Circuit Executive:

On May 5, 2021, longtime Circuit Executive Collins Fitzpatrick announced that he will retire in September. On behalf of my colleagues on the court of appeals and the entire Seventh Circuit judiciary, I offer warm congratulations and deep gratitude to Collins for his long service to the courts of our circuit. He has been a true pioneer in this position, having started at the court of appeals as a law clerk in 1971 and advancing to the job of Circuit Executive when it was first created in our circuit in 1976. In the 45 years since then, he has served the 15 courts in the Seventh Circuit with great dedication and throughout enormous operational changes in the administration of the federal courts. As he retires, he takes with him our lasting appreciation, admiration, and affection.

It is my pleasure to announce that the Judicial Council of the Seventh Circuit has appointed Sarah O. Schrup, currently the Deputy Circuit Executive, to succeed Mr. Fitzpatrick as Circuit Executive. Sarah joined the Circuit Executive's Office last September after 16 years on the faculty at Northwestern University's Pritzker School of Law, where she was a Clinical Professor of Law and Director of the law school's Appellate Advocacy Center. In that capacity she had teaching and supervisory responsibility over the law school's Federal Appellate and Supreme Court Clinics. She also taught courses in judicial decisionmaking and communications and legal reasoning, and she served as faculty advisor and coach to the law school's moot court competition and its national moot court team. Among other awards during her academic career, Sarah won a Fulbright Fellowship (to teach law in Thimphu, Bhutan) and a Dean's Teaching Award.

Sarah also has firsthand experience working in the federal courts. Before joining the law faculty at Northwestern, she served as a law clerk for Judge Rubén Castillo of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and as a staff attorney for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. She began her legal career as a litigation associate in the Chicago office of Kirkland & Ellis. She holds a law degree from the University of Michigan Law School and a bachelor's degree from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. Ms. Schrup will assume her new role on September 29. Mr. Fitzpatrick retires on September 28, shortly after marking the 50th anniversary of his service to the Seventh Circuit on September 7.

Chief Judge Diane S. Sykes
U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit