



## United States District Court District of Montana

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### **COURT ANNOUNCEMENT**

The United States District Court for the District of Montana is pleased to announce the selection of Ms. Kathleen L. DeSoto of Missoula, Montana, to serve as the next United States magistrate judge in the Missoula Division. Ms. DeSoto was selected from among a highly qualified group of finalists compiled by a Court-appointed merit selection panel.

Ms. DeSoto was raised in Missoula, graduating from Loyola Sacred Heart High School. She earned a bachelor's degree from Santa Clara University in 1989 and attended graduate school at the University of Montana. Ms. DeSoto graduated with highest honors from the University of Montana School of Law in 1999. After graduation, she clerked for United States Chief District Judge Jack D. Shanstrom in Billings for two years. Since 2001, Ms. DeSoto has been in private practice with the Missoula firm of Garlington, Lohn & Robinson, where she is currently a partner. Her practice areas include insurance coverage, defense of insurance unfair claims practices act cases, school liability defense, legal malpractice, and federal criminal defense. She is a member of the American Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, and the Western Montana Bar Association. She is a former Lawyer Representative to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and is past-President of the Federal Bar Association for the District of Montana and Federal Practice Section of the Montana State Bar, a past-President of the Western Montana Bar Association, and a past officer with the School Law Section of the Montana State Bar.

The District of Montana has three full-time magistrate judge positions, located in Missoula, Billings, and Great Falls. Ms. DeSoto will become the third magistrate judge to serve on a full-time basis in the Missoula Division, and the first female federal judge to serve in the Missoula Division. Her appointment takes effect on August 3, 2019. She will succeed current United States Magistrate Judge Jeremiah C. Lynch, who has announced plans to retire on August 2, 2019.