

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Chief Judge Daniel L. Hovland of the United States District Court for the District of North Dakota announced the appointment of Mr. Clare R. Hochhalter to the position of United States Magistrate Judge for a term of eight years effective February 8, 2019. This appointment follows the retirement of Magistrate Judge Charles S. Miller, Jr., on November 5, 2018. As a federal magistrate judge, Mr. Hochhalter will conduct initial proceedings in criminal cases, preside over a wide variety of pretrial matters in civil and criminal cases, conduct pretrial conferences and settlement conferences, hear Social Security appeals, conduct misdemeanor trials, and preside over civil trials with the consent of the litigants. Judge Hochhalter will be stationed at Bismarck.

Clare Hochhalter grew up in Elgin, North Dakota, graduating from Elgin Public High School in 1975. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree (majors in English, History-Political Science) from the University of Jamestown in 1979. He received a Juris Doctor degree from the University of North Dakota, School of Law in 1983. Mr. Hochhalter has served thirty years as an Assistant United States Attorney in Bismarck. Since joining the United States Attorney's Office (USAO) in March of 1988, he has served as Branch Office Chief since 2002, as Criminal Chief since 2005 and as Criminal Team West, Team Leader, since 2014. His federal criminal experience includes investigation and criminal prosecution of international wire/mail fraud, international money laundering, organized crime, telemarketing fraud, computer fraud, federal program fraud, violent crime in Indian country, child exploitation and other federal criminal offenses. His federal civil experience includes Federal Tort Claims Act litigation, bankruptcy litigation, commercial litigation, employment discrimination and a variety of affirmative and defensive civil litigation. Prior to joining the USAO, he served as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of North Dakota.

Chief Judge Hovland said that Clare Hochhalter is well-respected by attorneys throughout the state and regarded as a champion for the fair treatment of persons charged with crimes arising out of Indian country. As a judge, Clare Hochhalter will be an invaluable member of the federal judiciary dedicated to ensuring the equal administration of justice and the rule of law.