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Contact: Nate Poppino
Phone: 208-296-9055
Email: npoppino@idcourts.net

New Administrative Judge Picked for First Judicial District

Judge Barry McHugh was recently selected as administrative district judge for Idaho's First Judicial District.

Judge McHugh's leadership role became effective on Jan. 1. He succeeds Judge Lamont Berez, who is now deputy administrative district judge.

Both jobs involve additional duties for the judge beyond the hearing of cases. An administrative district judge manages court operations, assigns judges to cases and sets local processes through administrative orders. Aided by a trial court administrator and other staff, they ensure courts are running smoothly across their district. Per Idaho law and court rule, the administrative judge is selected from among the district judges currently serving in a judicial district, picked by a vote of those judges.

Judge McHugh has spent a long career in north Idaho, primarily as a prosecutor at the county, state and federal levels. He also spent time in private practice focused on civil litigation and criminal defense. In 2022, voters elected him as a district judge with chambers in Kootenai County, and he was sworn in as a judge in January 2023.

The First Judicial District includes Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai and Shoshone counties. Judge McHugh's term as administrative district judge will last through the end of 2028.

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