

United States District Court
Eastern District of Missouri
111 South 10th Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63102

James G. Woodward
Clerk of Court

314-244-7900

September 12, 2012

Press Release

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI APPOINTS A NEW MAGISTRATE JUDGE.

Chief Judge Catherine D. Perry announced today that Shirley A. Padmore Mensah took the oath of office on Monday, September 10, 2012 to begin her new duties as United States Magistrate Judge. Judge Mensah was selected in June 2012 from nominees submitted by a Merit Selection Panel which consisted of St. Louis area attorneys and lay persons. She fills a vacancy created when Judge Mary Ann L. Medler retired September 7, 2012. The term of office of a magistrate judge is eight years, with the opportunity to renew the appointment for additional terms. The duty station for this position will be at the Thomas F. Eagleton Courthouse in St. Louis, with some duties performed in the court's division locations in Cape Girardeau and Hannibal.

Before joining the Court, Judge Mensah was a partner with the Husch Blackwell, LLP law firm in Clayton, Missouri. She has been engaged in the practice of law since 1995, first as an associate in the litigation department of Husch & Eppenberger and later as a partner when the firm merged with Blackwell Sanders. Judge Mensah has been an active civil litigator in state and federal courts, as well as in arbitration proceedings across the United States. She has experience in business and complex commercial litigation related to financial services, construction and biotechnology. In addition, Mensah was been responsible for training and professional development of associates and paralegals in the firm's business litigation department. Beyond her law firm responsibilities, Judge Mensah has had a distinguished record of service to the legal profession and to the St. Louis community. Her volunteer activities have included service on the board of Women's Support and Community Services (now Safe Connections) which assists victims of domestic violence. She also

has been an active supporter of The Links, Incorporated, which conducts various outreach activities to address the needs of at-risk high school aged girls. As an attorney, Judge Mensah was recognized by the *St. Louis Business Journal* in the 2004 class of "40 Under 40" and is also a graduate of the 2006-2007 Leadership St. Louis class. Additionally, she has experience teaching trial practice and procedure as an adjunct professor at Washington University School of Law.

Born in Liberia, Judge Mensah came to the United States with her family at the age of ten. She became a naturalized United States citizen in 1988. She earned her undergraduate degree at the University of Pennsylvania and is a graduate of Washington University School of Law. She is admitted to practice law in both Missouri and Illinois.