



United States Courts for the District of Idaho

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NEWS RELEASE

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Amanda K. Brailsford Takes Reins as Idaho's Chief District Judge

BOISE – U.S. District Judge Amanda K. Brailsford has assumed the role of Chief Judge of the United States District Court as of January 2, 2026. Regarding this role, she said, "I look forward to continuing my public service as Chief Judge for the District and working with our outstanding District Court Judges, including Judge Nye and Senior Judge Winmill; our Magistrate Judges; and our Bankruptcy Judges. We are all very grateful for Chief Judge Nye's commitment to the District of Idaho and for his outstanding leadership for the last seven years." Judge Brailsford is Idaho's 13th District Judge and is also the first woman to be appointed to the federal District bench.

Judge David C. Nye will step down from his role as the Chief Judge effective today, a role he has served in since January 2, 2019. When asked about his tenure, Chief Judge Nye stated, "It has been an honor and privilege to serve the District of Idaho as Chief Judge the past 7 years. Our Court will be in good hands under the direction of Chief Judge Brailsford." Despite stepping down from his role as Chief Judge, Judge Nye will remain one of Idaho's two active District Judges and will continue to maintain a full civil and criminal caseload.

Chief District Judges generally serve a seven-year term. In addition to maintaining a full caseload, the Chief Judge handles administrative duties including, but not limited to, ensuring that a system of internal controls is in place to protect government money and property; overseeing the development and execution of the Court's budget; developing and implementing the court's various management and long-range plans; overseeing Court staff and operations alongside the Clerk of Court; serving as a general point of contact between District of Idaho judges, other courts, circuit-level authorities, the Administrative Office, non-judiciary agencies, and the public; and appointing Magistrate Judges.

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