



## Attorney James P. O'Hara Named U.S. Magistrate Judge

James P. O'Hara, managing partner of the Shughart Thomson & Kilroy law firm's Overland Park office, has been appointed U.S. Magistrate Judge in Topeka, Kansas.

O'Hara, 44, of Overland Park, will succeed Ronald C. Newman, who died in September 1999. He will be one of four U.S. Magistrate Judges in Kansas, and will have a split docket between Topeka and Kansas City, Kansas. O'Hara was selected from among 24 applicants by U.S. District Judges in Kansas with the assistance of a merit selection panel of 11 Kansas lawyers and laypersons.

"I'll miss my colleagues at Shughart Thomson & Kilroy," said O'Hara. "It's been a real pleasure to be associated with such a talented and experienced team of attorneys."

John M. Kilroy, Jr., managing partner of the firm, commended O'Hara.

"We feel lucky to have practiced law with Jim for the last 18 years. He will be an outstanding Magistrate and we are fortunate that he is willing to make this commitment to public service."

As a U.S. Magistrate Judge, O'Hara will handle pre-trial scheduling and procedures for civil cases and will preside over settlement conferences, mediation and, with consent of the litigants, disposition of civil cases. Magistrate Judges also prepare criminal cases for trial and try misdemeanor cases.

O'Hara joined Shughart Thomson & Kilroy in 1982 and was named a shareholder and director in 1987. During his 18-year career as a trial attorney, he has handled primarily business litigation and complex divorce cases. He has served on the firm's executive, associates and hiring committees, and has been managing partner of its 12-lawyer Overland Park office since 1998.

O'Hara earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska in 1977 and his law degree with honors from Creighton University School of Law in 1980. He served as a law clerk for two Federal Judges: the late Robert V. Denney, U.S. District Judge in Nebraska; and C Arlen Beam, formerly U.S. District Judge in Nebraska, now a U.S. Circuit Judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit. He has served as a member of the Bench Bar Committee of the U.S. District Court in Kansas and as a member of the Kansas Board for Discipline of Attorneys, a 20-member board appointed by the Kansas Supreme Court to conduct evidentiary hearings and adjudicate disciplinary complaints.

Effective immediately, O'Hara has resigned as a shareholder and director of Shughart Thomson & Kilroy, a leading Kansas City law firm. The firm announced Tuesday that Lawrence A. Swain, Chair of the Intellectual Property and Technology Group, has been named the new partner in charge of the Overland Park office.

###

Contact us by email at [solutions@stklaw.com](mailto:solutions@stklaw.com).

©Shughart Thomson & Kilroy. All rights reserved.

[Click here](#) to read our [Disclaimer](#).