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US Senate approves US Attorney for central Ill.

Associated Press

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SPRINGFIELD, Ill.

A longtime federal prosecutor has been named the new U.S. attorney for the Central District of Illinois.

The U.S. Senate approved the appointment of James Lewis on Tuesday.

The 69-year-old has been both an assistant U.S. attorney and chief of the civil division for more than 25 years.

The New York native received his law degree from the University of Chicago in 1966. He's also worked as a law professor at the University of Illinois at Springfield.

Lewis was nominated by President Barack Obama in March.

U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin says he's confident in Lewis' work ethic and depth of knowledge.

The central district covers 46 Illinois counties. The court hears cases in Peoria, Urbana, Springfield and Rock Island.

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