



Federal Courts' National Educational Outreach that
Involves, Informs, Inspires, and Ignites

WHAT IS THE JOB OF U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGES?

This is a teaching tool that simplifies key points for students. Find more information in the educational resources section of uscourts.gov

DO MEDIATION

Settle cases with methods of Alternative Dispute Resolution



CONDUCT TRIALS

Conduct trials with consent of the parties



SERVE AS SPECIAL MASTER

Handle complex and/or time-consuming cases



HANDLE PRE-TRIAL MATTERS

Preside over arraignments, motions, discovery



U.S. Magistrate Judges are Federal Judges Appointed on Merit by the U.S. District Court. They hear cases authorized by law and assigned by District Judges.



U.S. Magistrate Judges

ROLE: U.S. Magistrate Judges are often the first judge that litigants encounter. They help expedite justice by reducing congestion in trial courts. They handle certain kinds of matters and proceedings.

- Conduct misdemeanor trials with consent of the parties
- Settle civil cases using alternative methods of dispute resolution
- Handle pre-trial and discovery proceedings for trials conducted by U.S. District Court Judges

Magistrate Judges serve in the Judicial Branch, as described in Article III of the U.S. Constitution. They take the oath of office required of all Article III judges.

OATH OF OFFICE: JUSTICES AND JUDGES

Each justice or judge of the United States shall take the following oath or affirmation before performing the duties of his office:

"I _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will administer justice without respect to persons, and do equal right to the poor and to the rich, and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent upon me as _____ under the Constitution and laws of the United States. So help me God."

June 25, 1948, ch 646, 62 Stat. 907; Pub. L. 101-650, title IV, § 404. Dec. 1, 1990, 104 Stat. 5124.

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