



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Consenting to the Jurisdiction
of a Magistrate Judge



HONORABLE MARGO K. BRODIE

Chief Judge

Eastern District of New York

BRENNA B. MAHONEY

Clerk of Court

Eastern District of New York



Alfonse M. D'Amato
United States Courthouse
100 Federal Plaza,
Central Islip, New York, 11722



Theodore Roosevelt
United States Courthouse
225 Cadman Plaza East,
Brooklyn, New York, 11201

A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF DISTRICT JUDGE MARGO K. BRODIE

If you are involved in a civil lawsuit in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, I encourage you to familiarize yourself with our Court's Magistrate Judges and to consider consenting to have a Magistrate Judge preside over your entire case. If you choose to consent, the assigned Magistrate Judge will handle all aspects of your case, including discovery, dispositive motions, jury or court trial, and the entry of judgment.

By way of background, there are two types of judges who preside in our Court: District Judges and Magistrate Judges. District Judges are appointed for life by the President of the United States and must be confirmed by the Senate. Magistrate Judges are appointed by the District Judges of each United States District Court for an initial term of eight years after a competitive merit selection process; their terms may be renewed after a rigorous review of their work and consideration of community input.

The Eastern District of New York has a long tradition of excellence in our Magistrate Judges. It is our standard practice to refer almost all civil cases to a Magistrate Judge to oversee pretrial case management.

Our Magistrate Judges have a depth of civil experience unmatched in the federal courts. In supervising hundreds of cases each year, they each handle a wide range of responsibilities, including managing discovery, conducting settlement conferences, writing opinions, and presiding over evidentiary hearings, jury selections, and trials. For example, last year alone, our 17 Magistrate Judges handled over 25,000 civil pretrial duties, the highest number of any district court in the United States.

Because our Court is very busy, if the parties in your case agree to proceed before a Magistrate Judge, your case may be resolved more quickly than if it remains before a District Judge. This is because our District Judges preside over felony criminal trials, which often must go to trial quickly, ahead of civil cases. If your civil case must be tried, a trial date with a Magistrate Judge may be more certain and be less likely to be postponed.

Every Magistrate Judge in the Eastern District of New York underwent a highly competitive selection process and had years of litigation experience before being appointed to the bench. Each was selected after a careful review of detailed, confidential feedback from the bar and the community, designed to ensure each is prepared to handle the full range of issues presented to our Court. As the following biographies demonstrate, many Magistrate Judges in our District are active in law school teaching and continuing legal education for attorneys. Many have been appointed to important committees within our District, the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and national governing bodies.

We thank you for your continuing support of our District's efforts to assist you in securing a just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of each of your cases.

Margo K. Brodie,
Chief United States District Judge
Eastern District of New York

HOW CONSENT JURISDICTION WORKS

Under a law passed by Congress in 1976, the parties in a civil lawsuit in federal district court have the option of consenting to have the case handled by a United States Magistrate Judge. Magistrate Judges are appointed by the District Judges of each United States District Court after a competitive merit selection process. Magistrate Judges serve for an initial term of eight years and may be reappointed to additional eight-year terms after a thorough review of their work and consideration of input from the community.

When a civil lawsuit is filed in the Eastern District of New York, it is randomly assigned at the outset either to both a District Judge and a Magistrate Judge or solely to a District Judge or Magistrate Judge.

For every case assigned solely to a Magistrate Judge, all parties (that is, all plaintiffs and all defendants) are asked to consent to have the entire case handled by a Magistrate Judge — all the way through trial and entry of judgment. The parties are encouraged to make a decision regarding Magistrate Judge jurisdiction as early in the case as possible, and no later than within 30 days after the first case management court conference. If any party does not consent, a District Judge will be assigned to the case, and the Magistrate Judge will remain assigned to handle all pretrial case management.

For those cases assigned directly to a District Judge and Magistrate Judge, the Magistrate Judge will normally handle all pretrial case management, but dispositive motions and any trial would usually be handled by the District Judge (although the District Judge may refer such motions and jury selection to the Magistrate Judge). Even when a District Judge and a Magistrate Judge are both assigned to a case, the parties may consent to Magistrate Judge jurisdiction at any time.

If all parties consent to Magistrate Judge jurisdiction, the assigned Magistrate Judge will preside over all aspects of the case and any appeals from the Magistrate Judge's rulings would be made directly to the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

The Magistrate Judges in the Eastern District of New York regularly manage a civil docket of between 350–500 cases. Each Magistrate Judge has an assigned courtroom and dedicated staff, including a courtroom deputy and law clerks. Magistrate Judges, unlike District Judges, do not preside over felony criminal cases, which often must be brought to trial quickly. A Magistrate Judge may be able to provide a faster, confirmed trial date. Because of their diverse professional experiences before their appointment and during their service as judges, the Magistrate Judges of the Eastern District of New York are well qualified to preside over all types of civil litigation.



LOIS BLOOM

Chief Magistrate Judge

Lois Bloom was appointed as a Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of New York on June 1, 2001, and was appointed as Chief Magistrate Judge in 2023. She has presided over hundreds of settlement conferences, numerous bench and jury trials, and authored hundreds of opinions. She takes great pleasure and pride in helping parties reach resolution even in the most difficult of cases.

Among other responsibilities, Judge Bloom oversees the Court's pro se program including the pro se staff attorneys in Brooklyn as well as administration of the Court's pro bono panel.

Judge Bloom received a B.A. degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and J.D. degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo. She was a visiting student at New York University for her last year of law school, during which time she worked as an intern at Chelsea Legal Aid in the civil division.

Following her law school graduation, Judge Bloom served as a staff attorney in New York at the West Side SRO Law Project, part of the Goddard-Riverside Community Center, where she represented indigent tenants in housing court. She conducted numerous hearings and trials in housing court. She then served for thirteen years as the Senior Staff Attorney of the Pro Se Office in the Southern District of New York. In that role, she supervised a staff of fifteen and advised the Court on several important new laws, including the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act and the Prison Litigation Reform Act. While heading the Southern District Pro Se Office, she received the Second Circuit Merit Award three times.

Judge Bloom has taught at Columbia and New York Law Schools. She is a sought-after speaker and has presented at numerous conferences on access to justice issues, employment discrimination, habeas corpus, and prisoners' rights. For over a decade, Judge Bloom trained Magistrate Judges as part of the Federal Judicial Center's orientation program for new judges. She also participates in the Second Circuit's Justice for All Civic Education efforts.

Judge Bloom has been the Court's liaison to and an ex-officio member of the Eastern District Civil Litigation Fund (EDCLF) Board for more than two decades. With the EDCLF's support as well as the EDNY's Board of Judges, she helped create a limited representation clinic for pro se litigants in the Brooklyn courthouse. The clinic, run by the City Bar Justice Center, has been successfully assisting litigants in the Eastern District for almost a decade. Judge Bloom is a proud Board member of the Sonia and Celina Sotomayor Judicial Internship Program since its inception. She has been appointed to the Second Circuit Judicial Conference planning committee by several former and the current Second Circuit Chief Judge.



SANKET J. BULSARA

Magistrate Judge

Sanket J. Bulsara was appointed as a Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of New York on August 28, 2017. Upon his appointment, Judge Bulsara became the first South Asian American federal judge to serve on any court in the Second Circuit.

As a Magistrate Judge, he has presided over 400 settlement conferences, numerous bench and jury trials, and authored over 300 published opinions. Among other committee responsibilities, he serves as Co-Chair of the EDNY and SDNY Joint Local Rules Committee, and on the Court's Criminal Justice Act Committee. He was also appointed by Chief Justice Roberts to serve on the Judicial Conference Committee on the Administration of the Magistrate Judges System. Judge Bulsara is an Adjunct Professor of Law at St. John's Law School where he teaches Remedies and Securities Litigation, and a guest instructor at the Harvard Law School Trial Advocacy Workshop. Judge Bulsara frequently speaks and writes on issues of civil procedure and trial practice.

Judge Bulsara received an A.B. degree *magna cum laude* in 1998 from Harvard College, and a J.D. degree *cum laude* from Harvard Law School in 2002. He is a graduate of Edgemont High School.

Upon graduating from law school, Judge Bulsara was a law clerk to Judge John G. Koeltl of the Southern District of New York. Thereafter, he was an associate at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr in New York, where he worked from 2005 to 2015, including as a partner of the firm. In private practice, Judge Bulsara tried 14 cases to verdict. In recognition of his pro bono work in support of victims of domestic violence, he received the Sanctuary for Families Above & Beyond Award three separate times.

In 2015, he became the Deputy General Counsel for Appellate Litigation, Adjudication, and Enforcement at the Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington, DC. Immediately prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Bulsara served as Acting General Counsel of the SEC.



JAMES R. CHO

Magistrate Judge

James R. Cho was appointed as a Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of New York on April 5, 2021. He is the first Korean American to serve as a federal judge in the Eastern District.

Prior to his appointment, Judge Cho served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Civil Division of the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York. During his more than

12 years at the U.S. Attorney's Office, Judge Cho litigated both affirmative and defensive cases across a wide subject area. He tried numerous cases and regularly represented the United States in appellate cases before the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. While at the U.S. Attorney's Office, he held the position of Chief of Bankruptcy and Immigration Litigation. Judge Cho also served as the Civil Division's training coordinator, where he was responsible for AUSA training, and on the Office's hiring committee. Before joining the U.S. Attorney's Office, Judge Cho worked in private practice with Seyfarth Shaw LLP where he litigated labor and employment matters, in its Chicago and New York offices.

Judge Cho graduated with high honors from the University of Michigan and *cum laude* from the University of Minnesota Law School.

Judge Cho previously taught courses in government civil litigation as an adjunct professor at New York University Law School and Brooklyn Law School. He also served as president of the Korean American Lawyers Association of Greater New York and the Asian American Bar Association of New York, one of the largest affinity bar associations in the country.



LEE G. DUNST

Magistrate Judge

Lee G. Dunst was appointed as a Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of New York on May 31, 2022.

From June 2000 until his appointment, Judge Dunst was a litigation partner at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP in New York City, where his practice focused on white collar investigations, as well as complex civil litigation. While at Gibson Dunn, he represented numerous clients, including Fortune 500 companies, accounting firms, corporate executives, and special board committees, in connection with a wide of range of civil litigation and government investigations. From 1995 to 2000, he served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Eastern District of New York. Judge Dunst received the Director's Award for Superior Performance from the Department of Justice in 1997 and also served as Deputy Chief of the Narcotics Section in Brooklyn. Prior to joining the U.S. Attorney's Office, he was a litigation associate at Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton LLP from 1993 to 1995.

Judge Dunst graduated *magna cum laude* from Brown University in 1986 and *cum laude* from New York University School of Law in 1992. During the years between college and law school, he worked as a television news writer at News12 Long Island and later as an account executive at a New York City advertising agency. Following law school, he served as a law clerk for Judge Reena Raggi of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York from 1992 to 1993.

During his legal career, Judge Dunst has spoken and written extensively on white collar investigation and civil litigation issues. He is a member of the Federal Bar Council American Inn of Court and previously served as an Adviser to the American Law Institute's Principles of the Law of Compliance Enforcement & Risk Management project and also as a member of the boards of the Mount Sinai Adolescent Health Center and Democracy Prep Charter School.

In 2020, The National Law Journal recognized Judge Dunst as one of their "Masters of the Courtroom: Our Winning 2020 Litigators" for his role in obtaining a successful civil jury verdict on behalf of a Fortune 250 company, and *The Am Law Litigation Daily* named him as "Litigator of the Week" for that same successful case. He has also been recognized for his white collar defense and investigation work in The Legal 500 US and has been named a "Litigation Star" and "Local Litigation Star" by *Benchmark Litigation*.



LARA K. ESHKENAZI

Magistrate Judge

Lara K. Eshkenazi was appointed as a Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of New York on May 20, 2024.

Prior to her appointment, Judge Eshkenazi served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Civil Division of the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York. During her 21 years at the United States Attorney's Office, Judge Eshkenazi litigated and supervised, both defensively and affirmatively, a broad range of cases over a wide variety of subject matter areas, including civil rights, employment law, civil fraud, torts, social security, tax, immigration, the Freedom of Information Act, administrative law, and constitutional law. As an AUSA, Judge Eshkenazi conducted and supervised many trials, and argued multiple appeals before the Second Circuit. During her tenure at the U.S. Attorney's Office, Judge Eshkenazi served in several supervisory roles, including Deputy Chief of the Civil Frauds Unit, Co-Chief of the Civil Rights Unit, and Deputy Chief of the Civil Division. In her capacity as a supervisor, Judge Eshkenazi supervised and trained AUSAs on investigations in affirmative matters, as well as all aspects of civil litigation in both defensive and affirmative cases. Judge Eshkenazi also served on the Hiring Committee for over a decade.

During her time as an Assistant United States Attorney, Judge Eshkenazi received several distinguished awards including the Director's Award for Superior Performance as an Assistant United States Attorney, the Attorney General's John Marshall Award for outstanding legal achievement for participation in litigation, and the New York City Bar Association's Henry L. Stimson Medal in recognition of outstanding work as an Assistant United States Attorney.

Judge Eshkenazi graduated from Vassar College in 1992 with general honors and an A.B. in English. She then earned a J.D. cum laude from Boston University Law School in 1995, where she was named an Edward F. Hennessey Distinguished Scholar and a Paul J. Liacos Scholar, and was awarded the American Jurisprudence Prize in constitutional law.

Upon graduating law school, Judge Eshkenazi became a law clerk for the Honorable Nicholas Tsoucalas of the United States Court of International Trade. Upon completion of her clerkship, Judge Eshkenazi joined the Manhattan District Attorney's Office as an Assistant District Attorney, where she investigated and prosecuted crimes involving attempted murder, robbery, domestic violence, sex crimes, narcotics trafficking, grand larceny, extortion, and embezzlement. As an ADA, Judge Eshkenazi handled hundreds of grand jury presentations and a dozen trials.



MARCIA M. HENRY

Magistrate Judge

Marcia M. Henry was appointed as a Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of New York on May 10, 2021. Upon her appointment, she became the first Black woman to serve as a Magistrate Judge in this district.

As a Magistrate Judge, she has presided over hundreds of cases, including dozens of settlement conferences, multiple jury selections and trial, and has authored numerous opinions. She is the Magistrate Judge overseeing the Brooklyn courthouse's Justice Institute, a summer program during which over 50 high school students attend a week-long civic education program and participate in a mock trial competition.

Judge Henry earned her J.D. from New York University School of Law, where she was Editor-in-Chief of the *New York University Review of Law & Social Change*, and her B.A. in Psychology and Afro-American Studies, *cum laude*, from the University of Pennsylvania. After a short period of practicing law, she served as a law clerk to the Honorable Carl E. Stewart of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and to the Honorable Sterling Johnson, Jr., of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

Immediately prior to her appointment, Judge Henry was a Deputy Superintendent at the New York State Department of Financial Services, Cybersecurity Division, where she supervised policy initiatives related to cybersecurity regulation of financial services institutions. Before that, Judge Henry served for over seven years as an Assistant United States Attorney in Eastern District of New York, where she prosecuted complex federal crimes, including international narcotics trafficking, money laundering, and wire fraud, and was the district's first Opioids Coordinator. Judge Henry's litigation practice included chairing or supervising multiple jury trials and evidentiary hearings, and oral argument before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Before joining the U.S. Attorney's Office, Judge Henry practiced management-side employment litigation and counseling at Seyfarth Shaw LLP and Rao Tiliakos LLP in New York. Prior to law school, she worked at J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. in human resources and diversity program management.

Judge Henry was recently appointed as an adjunct professor of clinical law at Brooklyn Law School, where she will teach Negotiations. Judge Henry serves on the Diversity and Rules Committees of the Federal Magistrate Judges Association; the Judicial Advisory Committee for Just the Beginning – A Pipeline Organization; and as a Judicial Team Leader for the Federal Bar Council's American Inn of Court. She is also a member of the Metropolitan Black Bar Association and the Federal Bar Association, and a former Director of the Federal Bar Foundation. She has been a guest lecturer at Columbia Law School and Brooklyn Law School.



PEGGY KUO

Magistrate Judge

Peggy Kuo was appointed as a Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of New York on October 9, 2015. As a Magistrate Judge, she has presided over numerous bench and jury trials, conducted hundreds of settlement conferences, and authored over 300 published opinions covering a wide range of civil and criminal issues.

Judge Kuo received a Bachelor of Arts degree *summa cum laude* in history from Yale University and a Juris Doctorate degree *cum laude* from Harvard Law School.

Upon graduating from law school, Judge Kuo was a law clerk for the Honorable Judith W. Rogers, then Chief Judge of the D.C. Court of Appeals. From 1989 until 1993, she served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the District of Columbia, where she conducted dozens of jury trials in criminal cases. From 1994 to 1998, she was a trial attorney and then Acting Deputy Chief of the Civil Rights Division Criminal Section at the U.S. Department of Justice, investigating and prosecuting hate crimes and allegations of police misconduct throughout the United States. From 1998 to 2002, Judge Kuo prosecuted war crimes and crimes against humanity at the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague, Netherlands, including conducting two multi-month trials regarding mass rape and detention in Bosnia.

Judge Kuo was litigation counsel at Wilmer Hale, LLP until 2005, when she was appointed Chief Hearing Officer at the New York Stock Exchange and presided over numerous hearings involving violations of federal securities laws. From 2011 until her appointment to the bench, she was Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel of the New York City Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings, the largest municipal tribunal in the country.

Judge Kuo has received numerous awards and honors including the Asian American Bar Association of New York Leadership Award, the U.S. Department of Justice Special Achievement Award, and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation German Chancellor Fellowship. She is past President of the Federal Bar Council American Inn of Court and an active member of the New York City Bar Association Council on International Affairs.

Judge Kuo has been an instructor with the Practising Law Institute, the Attorney General's Advocacy Institute, and National Institute for Trial Advocacy, and frequently speaks on issues of civil procedure and trial practice. She also regularly volunteers as a judge in student moot courts and mock trials and engages in civics education and outreach.



ROBERT M. LEVY

Magistrate Judge

Robert M. Levy was appointed as a Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of New York in 1995. He has presided over numerous civil trials, both jury and bench, and written extensively on a broad range of civil and pretrial criminal issues. Judge Levy has substantial experience in pretrial civil case management, particularly complex civil litigation, and in settlement.

Judge Levy is the Oversight Judge for the EDNY's Alternative Dispute Resolution ("ADR") Programs and has assisted courts in the United States and abroad in designing court-annexed ADR programs. He was a Consultant in Mediation for the Federal Judicial Center ("FJC") and has served on the faculty of the FJC's Mediation Skills Workshops for federal district and magistrate judges. Chief Justice John Roberts appointed him to the FJC's Education Advisory Committee for Magistrate Judges.

For over a decade Judge Levy has presided over the EDNY's STAR Court, a re-entry court program that offers enhanced services and supervision upon release from prison to individuals with addiction and mental health problems, to help them regain and maintain their sobriety and mental health.

Judge Levy has taught at overseas training programs for foreign prosecutors and judges organized by the U.S. Department of Justice ("DOJ") on money laundering and international terrorism. He developed and delivered a two-day training session (in French) for the DOJ on judicial ethics for African judges.

Judge Levy is an adjunct professor of law at Columbia and New York University law schools and is the co-author with Leonard Rubenstein of *The Rights of People With Mental Disabilities* (Southern Illinois University Press, 1996). At the time of his appointment, Judge Levy was General Counsel to New York Lawyers for the Public Interest.

Judge Levy is a graduate of Harvard College and New York University Law School. He speaks fluent French and German and has a working knowledge of several other languages.



ARLENE R. LINDSAY

Magistrate Judge

Arlene R. Lindsay was appointed as a Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of New York in 1994. She has presided over numerous trials and settlement conferences and written countless opinions during her many years of service. She served as an Adjunct Professor teaching trial practice at Touro Law School and served in the Department of Justice's Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training program, which is designed to promote the rule of law by assisting in the reform of foreign justice systems consistent with international norms. Through OPDAT, over a period of 10 years, Judge Lindsay met with judges and attorneys throughout Central Asia, various Republics of the former Soviet Union, and countries in South America in an effort to mentor and work with these foreign governments as they took steps to enhance their justice systems.

Judge Lindsay earned her Juris Doctor from New York University in 1975. Before joining the bench, Judge Lindsay was the Chief of the Long Island Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York. She was also a Deputy County Attorney in the Suffolk County Attorney's Office, and before that served as the Town Attorney of Huntington, New York.

Her career started in the Bronx District Attorney's Office, after which she became an Assistant United States Attorney in the Eastern District of New York. In addition to supervising the work of other attorneys, Judge Lindsay has tried many civil and criminal trials in both state and federal court. She has handled cases covering most areas of law including constitutional matters, civil rights, municipal law, negligence, contracts and property law and has also conducted many investigations and settlement conferences in these matters.

Finally, Judge Lindsay's service, for now over 20 years, as a volunteer with the Huntington Community First Aid Squad, which responds to all 911 calls in her district, has earned her a 20-year milestone watch that she is extremely proud of.



STEVEN LOCKE

Magistrate Judge

Steven Locke was appointed as a Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of New York in 1994. He is also an Adjunct Professor of Employment Law at St. John's Law School.

Prior to his appointment, Judge Locke maintained his own practice for 15 years representing plaintiffs in employment-related litigation, ranging from cases involving unlawful discrimination and harassment claims, to restrictive covenant actions to contract litigation. Prior to founding his own practice, Judge Locke was an associate at the firms of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP in New York and Fox and Grove, chartered in Chicago. Judge Locke also served as law clerk to the Hon. Arthur D. Spatt in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

In his practice, Judge Locke represented clients at all levels of the trial and appellate courts in the State of New York as well as before various administrative agencies including the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the New York State Division of Human Rights, the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, the New York City Commission on Human Rights, the New York State and United States Departments of Labor, the American Arbitration Association, and JAMS. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Locke was a certified mediator and a member of the federal mediation panel for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York. He also served as a special master in the federal courts.

In addition to his litigation and counseling experience, Judge Locke was a member of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, where he served as member of the Bar's Labor and Employment Law Committee from 2006 through 2008 and played an instrumental role in connecting the Committee to local and state legislators. He was also a member of the Brooklyn Bar Association and the New York Chapter of the National Employment Lawyers' Association.

Judge Locke has also lectured at CLE seminars and participated on panels for the Federal Bar Council, the Federal Bar Association, the New York County Lawyers' Association and the New York chapter of NELA. Judge Locke is admitted to practice before all courts in New York and Illinois, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, the United States District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, and the Northern District of Illinois. He has also represented clients in the federal trial courts for the Districts of New Jersey and Rhode Island.

Judge Locke earned his J.D. from the Hofstra University School of Law in 1993 where he served as Editor-in-Chief of Volume 10 of the Hofstra Labor Law Journal. Judge Locke is the author of many legal articles, including *The Fair Labor Standards Act Exemptions and the Pharmaceuticals Industry: Are Sales Representatives Entitled to Overtime?*, 13 BARRY L. REV. 1 (2009) (cited in *Christopher v. SmithKline Beecham Corp.*, 635 F.3d 383, 395 n.8 (9th Cir. 2011)); and *Family Responsibilities Discrimination and the New York City Model: A Map for Future Legislation*, 51 S. TEX. L. REV. 19 (2009).



JOSEPH A. MARUTOLLO

Magistrate Judge

Joseph A. Marutollo was appointed as a Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of New York on September 25, 2023.

Judge Marutollo received his B.A. degree *summa cum laude* in 2007 from Fordham University, and a J.D. degree *cum laude* in 2010 from Pace University School of Law, where he was Executive Articles Editor of the Pace Law Review. Upon graduating from law school, Judge

Marutollo served as an Assistant Corporation Counsel in the Special Federal Litigation Division of the New York City Law Department. While at the New York City Law Department, Judge Marutollo handled over 100 federal cases brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983, including multiple trials.

Prior to joining the bench, Judge Marutollo served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York from March 2015 to September 2023. While at the U.S. Attorney's Office, Judge Marutollo served as Chief of the Civil Division, where he oversaw all civil litigation involving the federal government in the district. During his tenure as Chief of the Civil Division, Judge Marutollo worked with senior management to help create the Office's Civil Rights Team, Consumer Protection Team, and Environmental Justice Team. Additionally, Judge Marutollo served as Co-Chair of the Legal Issues and Positions Subcommittee for the Department of Justice's Opioid Epidemic Civil Litigation Task Force and as a member of the Department of Justice's Civil Chiefs' Working Group. Judge Marutollo also held other supervisory positions at the U.S. Attorney's Office, including Acting Chief of the Civil Division, Principal Deputy Chief of the Civil Division, Deputy Chief of the Civil Division, Chief of the Immigration Litigation Unit, Ethics Advisor, and Professional Responsibility Officer. While at the U.S. Attorney's Office, Judge Marutollo served as the lead attorney on behalf of the United States in over 150 federal cases, including successful trials in the Eastern District of New York and appeals at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

In 2019, Judge Marutollo received a Director's Award for Superior Performance as an Assistant United States Attorney from the Executive Office for United States Attorneys for his exemplary performance in leading the district's civil immigration practice. Also in 2019, Pace University School of Law awarded Judge Marutollo its Rising Star Award. In 2022, Judge Marutollo received the Younger Federal Lawyer Award from the Federal Bar Association.

Judge Marutollo has served as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Pace University School of Law, Fordham Law School, and Brooklyn Law School, as well as an Externship Coordinator at Cardozo Law School. Judge Marutollo serves as a member of the EDNY and SDNY Joint Local Rules Committee; the Advisory Committee on Civil Litigation of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York; the Board of Editors of the Federal Bar Council Quarterly; and the Board of Advisors at Fordham University's Curran Center for American Catholic Studies.



TARYN A. MERKL

Magistrate Judge

Taryn A. Merkl was appointed as a Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of New York on May 3, 2021. As a Magistrate Judge, she has presided over hundreds of cases and dozens of hearings and settlement conferences, and she has authored over 100 opinions. She is also the presiding Magistrate Judge responsible for overseeing the E.D.N.Y.'s Pretrial Opportunities Program, an alternative-to-incarceration court focusing on individuals who have a history of addiction.

Judge Merkl earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1996 from the University of Michigan in political science and Russian, with honors, and her Juris Doctor from Columbia Law School in 2000. During law school, Judge Merkl served as the Editor-in-Chief of *The Columbia Human Rights Law Review*, and *The Jailhouse Lawyer's Manual*, 5th Edition. Following law school, she served as a law clerk to District Judge Jan E. DuBois of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania (2000–2001) and Chief Judge John M. Walker, Jr., of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit (2001–2002).

Prior to joining the bench, Judge Merkl served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Eastern District of New York from October 2002 through April 2019. In that role, she had many supervisory positions, including Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division, Chief of the Civil Rights Section, and Chief of the Organized Crime and Gangs Section. As Chief of Civil Rights from 2013 to 2019, she supervised all criminal civil rights and human trafficking cases in the district and was the founding Co-Chair of the Brooklyn Human Trafficking Task Force. As an AUSA, she served as counsel on approximately 20 trials, including several multi-month RICO trials. She also argued numerous appeals to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, including an *en banc* argument in *United States v. Cavera*.

From April 2019 until her appointment as a Magistrate Judge, she served as Senior Counsel at the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law, where she conducted criminal justice research and authored policy recommendations. In 2021, she was appointed as an adjunct professor of law at New York University School of Law, where she teaches a seminar on Human Trafficking. She also taught as a lecturer at Columbia Law School on federal criminal litigation from 2008 to 2019, and as an adjunct professor of white collar crime at Cardozo School of Law from 2006 to 2008. She has received numerous awards and honors including, among others, the U.S. Department of Justice's Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service, the Executive Office of U.S. Attorneys Director's Award, and the Women in Federal Law Enforcement Foundation's Award for Top Prosecutor – Human Trafficking. In 2016, she was recognized as one of the New York Law Journal's Top Women in Law. She is the author of various articles and policy recommendations, and she also serves as a Judicial Team Leader for the Federal Bar Council's American Inn of Court. In addition, she regularly volunteers as a judge in student moot courts, and she frequently guest lectures on human trafficking and habeas corpus.



CHERYL L. POLLAK

Magistrate Judge

Cheryl L. Pollak was appointed as a Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of New York on November 1, 1995. As a Magistrate Judge, she has presided over thousands of cases, dozens of trials, authored hundreds of opinions, and conducted over 3,800 settlement conferences. She served as Chief United States Magistrate Judge from February 3, 2020 to February 3, 2023, and was responsible for overseeing the Court's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, preparing an Emergency Manual, setting protocols for the shutdown of the Courthouse, developing procedures, and ensuring training in

technology to enable the Court to conduct remote proceedings so that criminal defendants and other litigants would safely have access to justice in this critical time.

For over 20 years, Judge Pollak has served on the E.D.N.Y.'s Criminal Justice Act Committee, which is responsible for selecting criminal defense attorneys qualified to defend indigent defendants. She has served as Chair of that Committee for close to 15 years and oversees the E.D.N.Y. Mentoring Program, organizes CLE programs for Panel members, and supervises disciplinary inquiries. Since 2013, Judge Pollak has also served as one of two presiding judges for the E.D.N.Y.'s Special Options Services (SOS) Program, an alternative-to-incarceration court, designed to provide young nonviolent criminal defendants with intense pretrial supervision, with the hope that the defendants will obtain education, employment training, and ultimately avoid felony records and lengthy prison sentences.

Judge Pollak graduated *magna cum laude* from Princeton University in 1975 and received her J.D. degree from the University of Chicago Law School in 1978, where she served as Articles and Book Review Editor of the University of Chicago Law Review. Following law school, Judge Pollak served as a law clerk to the Honorable William H. Timbers on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Thereafter, from 1979 to 1986, she was an associate at Davis Polk & Wardwell in New York.

In August 1986, Judge Pollak became an Assistant United States Attorney in the Eastern District of New York, where she served as Chief of the Narcotics and Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force Unit from 1991 to 1994, and Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division from 1994 to 1995. As an AUSA, she was the lead prosecutor responsible for the conviction of narco-terrorist Dandeny Muñoz Mosquera, aka "La Quica," who, as the chief sicario for Pablo Escobar, the notorious head of the Medellín Cartel, was responsible for the murder of numerous politicians and police officers, and the bombings of the Departamento Administrativo de Seguridad (DAS) Headquarters, the American Embassy in Bogotá, and an Avianca airliner that killed 110 people, including two American citizens. Despite threats to her life and her family, she oversaw the conviction of La Quica, who was sentenced to 8 life sentences.

She is the recipient of many awards, and is also a member of the American Bar Association and the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, where she has served as a member of the Federal Courts Committee, the Committee on Women in the Legal Profession, and the Criminal Law Committee. Judge Pollak has also served as a Master in the Inns of Court for the Federal Bar Council, and as an adjunct professor at Brooklyn Law School for three years, where she supervised the Prince Moot Court competition program. She has participated in moot court, mock trial, and trial advocacy programs at Columbia, NYU, Cardozo, St. John's University Law School, and New York Law School. In her free time, she has participated in fostering and training guide dogs for Guiding Eyes for the Blind.



VERA M. SCANLON

Magistrate Judge

Magistrate Judge **Vera M. Scanlon** was appointed to the bench of the United States District Court of the Eastern District of New York on August 14, 2012. As a magistrate judge, she has supervised pretrial matters in more than 4,000 civil cases and has authored more than 350 published decisions.

Judge Scanlon graduated from the Marymount School of New York and received her A.B. *summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, from Columbia College of Columbia University, which awarded her the Robert Lincoln Carey Award. After college, Judge Scanlon served with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in Louisiana. She received her J.D. from the Yale Law School, where she was the Managing Editor and Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Yale Journal of Law & the Humanities. In 2022, she earned a First-class Honours Diploma in Irish Studies from the National University of Ireland—Galway.

After law school, Judge Scanlon was an associate with Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP. She clerked for the Hon. Daniel Dominguez in the District of Puerto Rico, the Hon. Frederic Block in the Eastern District of New York, and the Hon. Robert A. Katzmann with the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. From 2001 through her appointment, she was an associate then partner at Beldock Levine & Hoffman LLP, where she litigated primarily civil rights and commercial cases.

Judge Scanlon has taken an active role with the Second Circuit's The Robert A. Katzmann Justice for All initiative, working particularly on civic education projects with New York high schools and middle schools. She developed the Initiative's The Judiciary and the Arts pilot project, organized several of the Institute's teacher education programs and spear-headed the extension of student programs at the EDNY courthouse. She has planned the Initiative's Annual Law Day celebration for several years, as well as the annual Constitution Day/Citizenship Day celebration for the Eastern District of New York since 2016.

Judge Scanlon has been an adjunct professor at Brooklyn Law School since 2017. She has also given presentations to new magistrate judges through the Federal Judicial Center. She has been a member of the New York City Bar Association's Special Committee to Encourage Judicial Service for many years; she previously served on the Association's Federal Courts Committee and volunteered with its Monday Night Law Project. She is a former board member of the New York Civil Liberties Union; the Catholic Migration Services, Inc.; the Marymount School of New York; and the Federal Magistrate Judges Association. In recent years, she has taken up pickleball.



ANNE Y. SHIELDS

Magistrate Judge

Anne Y. Shields was appointed as a Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of New York in March of 2015, and was reappointed to a second term in 2023.

A life-long resident of the Eastern District of New York, Judge Shields earned her undergraduate degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and her J.D. from St. John's University School of Law. At St. John's, Judge Shields was an editor of the St. John's Law Review. Judge Shields served as a law clerk at both the Circuit and District Court levels, serving the Honorable George C. Pratt of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals and the Honorable Leonard D. Wexler of the Eastern District of New York.

Judge Shields also spent several years as a litigator at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom. There, her practice focused primarily on Lanham Act and state law advertising and trademark compliance and litigation, as well as product liability litigation. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Shields served as an Officer and Member of the Board of Directors of Brooklyn Defender Services, a New York City public defender organization providing criminal defense and related services to criminal defendants in Brooklyn, New York. She was also a founding member of the Board of Directors of Courtyard Kids, a childcare center serving Federal and State employees that was built and managed by the United States General Services Administration in Central Islip, New York.



STEVEN L. TISCIONE

Magistrate Judge

Steven L. Tiscione was appointed as Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of New York on March 21, 2016. As a Magistrate Judge, he has handled all pretrial management for over 2,650 civil cases, served as presiding judge in 250 cases on consent, written over 300 published opinions, and conducted more than 1,100 settlement conferences. Judge Tiscione has also presided over a number of notable trials including: an \$82 million civil rights action against Suffolk County for the 2008 death of a 24-year old Latino man following a violent encounter with police officers, which resulted in the largest verdict ever issued against the County; the criminal prosecution of a Catholic priest and leading member of a radical anti-abortion group labeled a domestic terrorist organization by the New York State Attorney General, who was convicted of violating the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act by using chains and padlocks to bar the entrance of a Long Island Planned Parenthood clinic; and more than a dozen other civil and criminal trials in both Brooklyn and Central Islip.

Judge Tiscione received his B.A. degree *magna cum laude* from Hofstra University and was the recipient of the school's highest academic scholarship awarded to only a single student every year. Judge Tiscione graduated from Yale Law School where he was awarded the Francis Wayland prize for the most exceptional student in preparing and presenting a case in negotiation, arbitration, and trial. He also served as Senior Editor of the Yale Law & Technology Journal and President of the Yale Barrister's Union, representing the school as the captain of its national mock trial team. Following law school, Judge Tiscione served as a law clerk to then Chief District Judge Edward R. Korman, Eastern District of New York; and the Honorable Reena Raggi, United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Judge Tiscione also worked as a litigation associate for Proskauer Rose LLP.

Immediately prior to his appointment, Judge Tiscione was an Assistant United States Attorney in the Eastern District of New York for 11 years. He spearheaded the creation of the International Narcotics and Money Laundering Section and served as its Chief for several years. Under his leadership, the Eastern District successfully targeted some of the world's most notorious international organized crime and drug cartel bosses. Judge Tiscione was responsible for heading multi-district teams of AUSAs that investigated, captured and eventually extradited to the U.S. for trial Joaquim "El Chapo" Guzman, the leader of the Sinaloa Cartel, Mexico's largest criminal organization; Dairo Antonio Úsuga, also known as "Otoniel," the leader of a narco-terrorism paramilitary group in Colombia, who was widely viewed as the world's most dangerous drug lord and the most wanted man since Pablo Escobar; and Ricardo Fanchini, a powerful Russian mafia boss, who was nicknamed the "Al Capone of Europe" by the international press. The program that Judge Tiscione championed has been so successful that the Eastern District of New York has been repeatedly recognized as "one of the world's premier venues for prosecuting and bringing down narcotics kingpins."

Judge Tiscione is a three-time recipient of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force Award of Excellence, the Federal Law Enforcement Foundation's Prosecutor of the Year Award, the Federal Drug Agent Foundation's "True American Hero Award" and the prestigious Attorney General's Award for Exceptional Service. He regularly lectures for the DEA and HSI.



JAMES M. WICKS

Magistrate Judge

James M. Wicks was appointed as a Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of New York on April 26, 2021. As a Magistrate Judge, he regularly presides over bench and jury trials, conferences, and manages all aspects of the pre-trial phases of civil cases. To date, he has authored well over 200 opinions. He serves as Chair of the EDNY Litigation Advisory Committee and a member of the EDNY's Grievance Committee. He also serves on the EDNY/SDNY Joint Rules

Committee and the Second Circuit's New York Federal Judicial Advisory Council. Other appointments include his appointment by the Chief Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals to the N.Y. Judicial Institute of Professionalism. He is also a former Chair of the N.Y.S. Bar Association's Commercial & Federal Litigation Section and is the current Chair of the Federal Bar Council's Central Islip Courthouse Committee.

Judge Wicks is an Adjunct Professor of Law at St. John's University Law School, where he teaches both Pretrial Advocacy and Deposition Skills classes. He frequently speaks and writes on issues of attorney professionalism and ethics, as well as civil procedure and trial practice.

Judge Wicks graduated from St. John's University School of Law in 1989, where he was Executive Articles Editor of the *St. John's Law Review*. He received his B.A. degree from Wheeling College where he was inducted into *Alpha Sigma Nu*, the Jesuit National Honor Society, as well as Psi Chi, the Psychology National Honor Society. Immediately after law school, he served as Law Clerk to the Honorable Arthur D. Spatt of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

Following his clerkship with Judge Spatt, Judge Wicks spent his early years as an associate at White & Case and later became a partner and General Counsel at Farrell Fritz, P.C. where he practiced for over 25 years before his appointment to the bench. While in private practice, he concentrated his practice in the areas of business and commercial litigation, as well as attorney ethics and professionalism. Judge Wicks has tried many bench and jury trials.

