

**HONORABLE  
THOMAS J. RUETER**

U.S. Magistrate Judge Thomas J. Rueter was appointed to the court on February 22, 1994 and served as Chief Magistrate Judge from 2007 to 2011. By designation of Chief Justices Rehnquist and Roberts, Judge Rueter served two three-year terms as a member of the U.S. Judicial Conference Committee on Criminal Law. From 1985 to 1994, Judge Rueter served as an Assistant United States Attorney in Philadelphia, and from 1990 to 1994, was Chief of the Narcotics Section.

From 1982 to 1985, Judge Rueter was an associate of the Philadelphia law firm of White and Williams following a two year clerkship with the Honorable Joseph L. McGlynn, Jr., United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Judge Rueter is a summa cum laude graduate of the University of Scranton and received his J.D. in 1980 from the Dickinson School of Law of the Pennsylvania State University where he was notes editor of the law review.

**HONORABLE  
CAROL S. WELLS**

U.S. Magistrate Judge Carol S. Wells obtained her J.D. from The University of Pennsylvania, after completing her B.S. degree in education at West Chester University. Judge Wells began her legal career in general litigation and medical malpractice defense work before joining the City of Philadelphia Law Department where she earned the rank of Senior Attorney.

On June 3, 1996, Judge Wells took her oath as a Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and was later appointed Chief Magistrate Judge from October 2011 through 2015. Judge Wells has served on numerous committees and boards in her school, church, and legal communities. Judge Wells was recognized as “A Drum Major for Justice” by West Chester University, and named one of Philadelphia’s “Influential Black Women.” Judge Wells was featured as a role model in the publication “Voices,” which identified successful Pennsylvania African-American and Latina Women.

Judge Wells would like attorneys who practice before her to know that she encourages mediation of disputes as early as practicable in every case.

**HONORABLE  
LINDA K. CARACAPPA**

U.S. Magistrate Judge Linda Caracappa graduated with honors from The Pennsylvania State University in 1971 and received her J.D. from The Villanova School of Law in 1974. Judge Caracappa was the first woman to join the Office of the Bucks County District Attorney as a prosecutor, and served as an assistant, and then Deputy DA, from 1975 through 1981.

Thereafter, Judge Caracappa enjoyed private litigation practice in the law firm of Harris and Harris representing individual, business, and municipal clients in a wide range of matters in both federal and state courts. Judge Caracappa was also a member of the solicitor’s office in Bucks County prior to her appointment to the bench, and has served on a variety of community boards, including the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority Board (SEPTA) from 1995 through 2000.

Judge Caracappa was appointed to the bench as a magistrate judge in November 2000 and has served as Chief Magistrate Judge since 2015.

**HONORABLE  
TIMOTHY R. RICE**

U.S. Magistrate Judge Timothy R. Rice was appointed as a magistrate judge in 2005. Before joining the bench, Judge Rice spent most of his legal career as a criminal prosecutor in the Office of the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Judge Rice works with our court’s Reentry Program, where he continues to assist men and women upon their release from federal prison.

Judge Rice worked as a newspaper reporter before attending Temple University School of Law, from which he graduated in 1986. Judge Rice attempts to make federal court litigation a kinder and less stressful experience for all.

**HONORABLE  
DAVID R. STRAWBRIDGE**

U.S. Magistrate Judge David Strawbridge graduated from Brown University in 1967 and Villanova Law School in 1971. After working as an assistant prosecutor in both the Philadelphia District Attorney and United States Attorneys’ Offices, Judge Strawbridge joined the then small Philadelphia litigation firm of Cozen O’Connor in 1978. Judge Strawbridge handled a wide variety of insurance coverage cases over his many years with the firm, where he chaired the Arson & Fraud practice group before opening the firm’s first international office in London in 1998.

Judge Strawbridge is a global traveler who has taught a variety of legal programs in places both far away, such as Beijing China and Kampala Uganda, and closer to home in Temple’s Trial Advocacy Program among others. Judge Strawbridge is also a frequent presenter in PBI and bar association programs here in Philadelphia.

Judge Strawbridge was sworn in as a United States Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in 2005. His community activity includes, among other things, service as a current Board member and past Board Chair of the Center City based Bethesda Project, a non-profit organization serving the abandoned poor.

**HONORABLE  
HENRY S. PERKIN**

U.S. Magistrate Judge Henry Perkin was appointed to the bench in March 2007. Litigants before him benefit from the breadth of his previous legal experience which includes practice as a law clerk, a public defender, a county prosecutor, Solicitor for Lehigh County and Solicitor for the City of Allentown, as well as many years of private practice handling a variety of commercial and land use litigation and transactional matters.

Judge Perkin is a graduate of Duquesne University (1969) and the Duquesne University School of Law (1972) where he was comment editor of the law review. Judge Perkin served as President of the Bar Association of Lehigh County, as a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association House of Delegates, and as President of the Donald E. Wieand Inn of Court.

In 1999, Judge Perkin was appointed chair of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Committee on Racial and Gender Bias in the Justice System Subcommittee to Study the Death Penalty. Judge Perkin has very ably represented all the magistrate judges of the Third Circuit in the national Federal Magistrate Judges Association.

**HONORABLE  
ELIZABETH T. HEY**

U.S. Magistrate Judge Elizabeth Hey was appointed to the bench in April 2007. Judge Hey began her legal career as a law clerk to the Honorable Collins J. Seitz of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Thereafter, Judge Hey was an associate at Deckert LLP in Philadelphia for several years, before joining the Federal Community Defender Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in 1995 where she served in both the trial and appeals units.

Judge Hey graduated from Vassar College in 1983, and Villanova School of Law in 1989. Then, in 1991, Judge Hey earned a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Hahnemann University. In addition to her regular court work, Judge Hey presides over the EDPA Mental Health Protocol.

**HONORABLE  
LYNNE A. SITARSKI**

U.S. Magistrate Judge Lynne Sitarski was sworn in as a United States Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in October 2007.

Prior to joining the bench, Judge Sitarski was a civil litigator in Philadelphia for nearly 20 years. Judge Sitarski was an associate at major Philadelphia law firms from 1989 until 2000, then joined the public sector by accepting a position in the City of Philadelphia Law Department's Civil Rights Unit representing the City and its employees against allegations of constitutional violation. In 2006, Judge Sitarski was elevated to Chief Deputy City Solicitor of the Civil Rights Units where she managed all civil rights litigation involving the City.

Judge Sitarski graduated with honors from the University of Scranton in 1986 with a B.S. in Economics and Finance, and from the Temple University School of Law in 1989 where she served on the editorial board of the law review.

**HONORABLE  
MARILYN HEFFLEY**

U.S. Magistrate Judge Marilyn Heffley graduated summa cum laude from the University of Pittsburgh in 1981 where she was honored as a Marshall Scholar and Chancellor's Scholar, and elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Judge Heffley received her J.D. from Temple University Beasley School of Law in 1984.

Judge Heffley was a litigator at the Philadelphia firm of Reed Smith LLP for 23 years where she represented clients in varied civil litigation. Judge Heffley then served as Sunoco, Inc.'s Assistant General Counsel and Head of Litigation for six years. At Sunoco, Judge Heffley founded the litigation group within the company legal department and managed all company litigation and records management nationwide.

Judge Heffley is a frequent presenter for American Bar Association, Pennsylvania Bar Association, and Philadelphia Bar Association legal programs. Judge Heffley was sworn in as a magistrate judge in April 2014.

**HONORABLE  
RICHARD A. LLORET**

U.S. Magistrate Judge Richard Lloret graduated with honors from both Rutgers University in 1979, and Rutgers-Camden School of Law in 1982. Judge Lloret was in general practice as a civil litigator in New Jersey until 1991 when he joined the U.S. Attorney's office in Roanoke, Virginia as an AUSA.

In 1998, he relocated to the Philadelphia office of the U.S. Attorney where he served variously as Senior Litigation Counsel, Assistant Director of the Department of Justice's National Advocacy Center, Deputy Chief of the Violent Crime and Firearms Section, and Chief of the Health Care and Government Fraud Section. Judge Lloret has been recognized by the Department of Justice and the ATF for outstanding service and performance.

Judge Lloret was appointed as a magistrate judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in May 2014.

**HONORABLE  
JACOB P. HART**

U.S. Magistrate Judge Jacob Hart earned his J.D. in 1967 from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where he was research editor of the law review. From 1967 to 1968, Judge Hart clerked for Justice Samuel J. Roberts of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. Thereafter, in 1968, Judge Hart joined Schnader, Harrison, Segal & Lewis, where he served as Chairman of the firm's Labor and Employment Practice, and as a member of the firm's Executive Committee. Judge Hart left the private practice of law in 1995 to become the first full-time Third Circuit Mediator.

In 1997, Judge Hart brought his mediation experience and skill to the court of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania when he was sworn in as a magistrate judge. Judge Hart currently continues to serve full-time as a senior judge.

Judge Hart is also well known as a current presenter and announcer for the annual New Year's Day Mummers Parade in Philadelphia, for which he is uniquely qualified having marched for many years in the same parade as a string band member.

**UNITED STATES  
MAGISTRATE JUDGES  
OF THE  
EASTERN DISTRICT  
OF  
PENNSYLVANIA**



**FEBRUARY 2020**