

ANNOUNCEMENT—Retirement of United States Magistrate Judge Thomas J. Rueter
September 8, 2020

Chief Judge Juan R. Sánchez announced today that **Thomas J. Rueter, United States Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania**, is retiring on Friday, September 11, 2020 after 26 years of service on the court. On September 14, 2020, Judge Rueter will join the Philadelphia office of JAMS, a provider of dispute resolution services.

Judge Rueter was appointed to the court as a Magistrate Judge in 1994, serving as Chief Magistrate Judge from 2007 to 2011. He is well known to members of the Bar for his effectiveness in the mediation of cases. In his 26 years as a Magistrate Judge, Judge Rueter conducted more than 4,000 settlement conferences, ranging from complex antitrust and class action cases to personal injury and employment discrimination cases. The vast majority of these mediation conferences resulted in settlement of the disputes. Judge Rueter also served as the District Court's Employment Dispute Resolution coordinator and, in that role, mediated numerous judicial employee disputes. In 1995, Judge Rueter was selected by the court as the initial jurist in a pilot program, wherein Judge Rueter sat once a month at the State Correctional Institution at Graterford, conducting settlement conferences in civil rights cases filed by inmates. At the time, it was the first program of this type in the country. He has also served as a faculty member in many CLE programs, advising on effective settlement methods.

During his time with the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Judge Rueter served on many Judicial Committees, including the District Court's Alternative Dispute, Criminal Business, Public Interest Law, Magistrate Judge Utilization, and Information and Technology committees, as well as the Third Circuit's Education Committee. Judge Rueter was appointed in 2004 and 2007 by Chief Justices William H. Rehnquist and John G. Roberts, Jr., respectively, to serve two three-year terms on the United States Judicial Conference Committee on Criminal Law. In 2019, Judge Rueter was appointed by the Third Circuit Court of Appeals as a Special Master to hear a contempt of court proceeding in a NLRB case.

Prior to ascending to the Court, Judge Rueter served for nine years as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, serving as Chief of the Narcotics Section from 1990 to 1994. Prior to his stint with the Justice Department, Judge Rueter was an associate in the Philadelphia office of White and Williams LLP. He also served as a law clerk for United States District Judge, Joseph L. McGlynn, Jr. Judge Rueter is a *summa cum laude* graduate of the University of Scranton and Penn State's Dickinson School of Law.