

AUTHORIZED JUDGESHIPS 1789 TO PRESENT

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United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania¹

Below are tables showing authorized positions for U.S. district judges, U.S. bankruptcy judges, and U.S. magistrate judges. While district and bankruptcy judgeships are authorized by congressional statute, magistrate judgeships are authorized by the Judicial Conference of the United States. For more detail regarding the authorization of these judgeships, see the Legislative History and Succession Chart(s). . . .

Authorized District Judgeships					
	Pennsylvania District	Eastern District			
September 24, 1789 1 Stat. 73	1				
April 20, 1818 3 Stat. 462		1			
March 2, 1901 31 Stat. 880		1			
April 1, 1904 33 Stat. 155		2			
February 26, 1909 35 Stat. 656		2			
February 16, 1914 38 Stat. 283		3 (2 + 1 temporary)			
April 24, 1914 Temporary judgeship expired		2			

¹ Excerpted from the FEDERAL JUDICIAL CENTER, <https://www.fjc.gov/history/courts/us-district-courts-districts-pennsylvania-legislative-history> (last visited August 31, 2026).

September 14, 1922 42 Stat. 837		3 (2 + 1 temporary)			
March 23, 1925 Temporary judgeship expired		2			
March 3, 1927 44 Stat. 1347		3			
February 28, 1929 45 Stat. 1344		3			
August 19, 1935 49 Stat. 659 Temporary judgeship made permanent		3			
June 16, 1936 49 Stat. 1523		4 (3 + 1 temporary)			
June 20, 1938 52 Stat. 780 Temporary judgeship made permanent		4			
May 24, 1940 54 Stat. 219		5 (4 + 1 temporary)			
December 7, 1944 58 Stat. 796 Temporary judgeship made permanent		5			
July 24, 1946 60 Stat. 654 . . .		6 (5 + 1 temporary)			
August 3, 1949 63 Stat. 493		8 (7 + 1 temporary)			

August 29, 1950 64 Stat. 562 Temporary judgeship made permanent		8 (7 + 1 temporary)			
February 10, 1954 68 Stat. 8		9 (8 + 1 temporary)			
February 10, 1954 (effective May 31, 1955) 68 Stat. 8 (the 1954 statute provided that the 1946 judgeship would be assigned to the Middle District exclusively upon the first vacancy in that district)		8			
May 19, 1961 75 Stat. 80 Temporary judgeship made permanent		11			
March 18, 1966 80 Stat. 75		14 (11 + 3 temporary)			
June 27, 1967 Temporary judgeship expired		13 (11 + 2 temporary)			
September 23, 1967 81 Stat. 228 Temporary judgeship reauthorized		14 (11 + 3 temporary)			
March 1, 1969 Temporary judgeship expired		13 (11 + 2 temporary)			
June 2, 1970 84 Stat. 294 Temporary judgeships made permanent		19			
August 23, 1976 Temporary judgeship expired		19			

October 20, 1978 92 Stat. 1629		19			
December 1, 1990 104 Stat. 5089		23 (22 + 1 temporary)			
November 20, 1997 Temporary judgeship expired		22			

Authorized Bankruptcy Judgeships					
	Eastern District				
July 10, 1984 98 Stat. 336	3				
October 27, 1986 100 Stat. 3088	3				
August 26, 1992 106 Stat. 965	5				
April 20, 2005 119 Stat. 196	6 (5 + 1 temporary)				
October 2, 2017 Temporary judgeships expired	5				
February 7, 2019 Temporary judgeships expired	5				

Authorized Magistrate Judgeships (by location)			
Eastern District			
Location	Full-Time	Part-Time	
Allentown		1 (1971–1991)	

Allentown or Philadelphia	1 (1992–present)		
Philadelphia	3 (1971–1974) 4 (1975–1978) 5 (1979–1989) 7 (1990–1991) 8 (1992–2004) 9 (2005–2019) 8 (2020–present)		
Philadelphia or Reading	1 (2020–present)		
Reading		1 (1971–1983)	
Total	3 (1971–1974) 4 (1975–1978) 5 (1979–1989) 7 (1990–1991) 9 (1992–2004) 10 (2005–present)	2 (1971–1983) 1 (1984–1991) 0 (1992–present)	

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Authorized Magistrate Judgeships (by fiscal year)

Eastern District

Fiscal Year(s)	Full-Time	Total	Part-Time	Total	
1971–1974	Philadelphia (3)	3	Allentown, Reading	2	
1975–1978	Philadelphia (4)	4	Allentown, Reading	2	
1979–1983	Philadelphia (5)	5	Allentown, Reading	2	
1984–1989	Philadelphia (5)	5	Allentown	1	
1990–1991	Philadelphia (7)	7	Allentown	1	
1992–2004	Allentown or Philadelphia, Philadelphia (8)	9		0	

2005–2019	Allentown or Philadelphia, Philadelphia (9)	10		0	
2020–present	Allentown or Philadelphia, Philadelphia (8), Philadelphia or Reading	10			
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