

Craig M. Straw Appointed as United States Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania announces the appointment of Craig M. Straw as a United States Magistrate Judge. Judge Straw was sworn in on October 18, 2022 and is sitting primarily in Philadelphia with a satellite office in Reading. Judge Straw succeeds former Magistrate Judge Timothy R. Rice.

Judge Straw has devoted the majority of his law career to public service. Before his appointment as a Magistrate Judge, Judge Straw served for over 16 years in the City of Philadelphia Law Department. During his time there, Judge Straw held several titles, including First Deputy City Solicitor, as well as Chief Deputy, Divisional Deputy, and Deputy City Solicitor of the Civil Rights Unit. As First Deputy City Solicitor, Judge Straw was the lead negotiator for high exposure and high-profile matters, and he acted as a liaison between the Law Department and the Mayor's Office, City Departments, and other governmental agencies on a wide range of matters impacting the residents of the City of Philadelphia. As Chief Deputy of the Civil Rights Unit, Judge Straw used his extensive trial experience to appear in court on behalf of the City of Philadelphia on significant matters that impacted the operations of the City and its departments.

During his tenure with the City of Philadelphia, Judge Straw was responsible for the professional guidance, hiring, and training of the Law Department personnel, including more than 220 attorneys. One of his major roles was to oversee the implementation the Law Department's Mansfield Certification process for all new hires and promotions.

In addition to his work for the City of Philadelphia Law Department, Judge Straw has been an adjunct professor for almost a decade for the Integrated Trial Advocacy Program at Temple University Beasley School of Law. Judge Straw is a frequent presenter at continuing legal education classes on civil rights issues, sits as a judge for law school moot court competitions and trial advocacy programs, and is a faculty member for the National Institute of Trial Advocacy.

Judge Straw received his undergraduate and law degrees from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He earned his law degree while working as a legislative assistant for the Pittsburgh City Council President. After graduating from law school, Judge Straw worked as an Assistant City Solicitor for the City of Pittsburgh until moving to Philadelphia in 2003.