



PRESS RELEASE
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**UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE TO RETIRE
AFTER MORE THAN 35 YEARS OF SERVICE**

Chief U.S. District Judge Janet C. Hall has announced the retirement of U.S. Magistrate Judge Thomas P. Smith, who sits in Hartford, effective June 30, 2015. Judge Smith, 68, is the longest sitting U.S. Magistrate Judge in the Second Circuit, which includes New York, Connecticut, and Vermont. Judge Smith was appointed to the bench in 1979, and he has served over 35 years on the court. Judge Smith graduated first in his class from the University of Connecticut School of Law in 1972, and he is the first University of Connecticut Law School graduate to be appointed a U.S. Magistrate Judge.

Magistrate Judges are federal trial court judges who are appointed to the court for eight year terms. Judge Smith is in his fifth eight year term. Before his appointment, Judge Smith was a federal prosecutor for the U.S. Department of Justice and a professor of contract law. He also taught an undergraduate law course at Trinity College in Hartford for 23 years. After his retirement from active duty as a judge, Judge Smith will be eligible for recall as needed by the court.

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