



PRESS RELEASE
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PORTRAITS OF FOUR RETIRED U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGES TO BE UNVEILED

The Judges of the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut today announced a ceremonial session of the Court on the occasion of the unveiling of portraits of retired Magistrate Judges Arthur H. Latimer, F. Owen Eagan, Thomas P. Smith, and Holly B. Fitzsimmons. The ceremony will be held on June 3, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. at the Richard C. Lee Courthouse in New Haven.

“The four magistrate judges we will honor on June 3rd have served our court for a combined period of over 100 years. Our district and our nation will be forever grateful for their commitment to fairness and justice to the thousands of litigants that have appeared before them. This special ceremony is a fitting occasion to pay tribute to each one of these fine magistrate judges and the significant contributions each of them have made to our legal system,” said Chief Judge Janet C. Hall.

The first national appointment of a United States magistrate judge occurred on May 1, 1969. About 20 months later, on January 25, 1971, Arthur H. Latimer was appointed as Connecticut’s first, full-time United States magistrate judge. He maintained chambers in the Richard C. Lee Courthouse in New Haven and served the court for over 21 years, until his retirement on October 31, 1993. Judge Latimer was later instrumental in working with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe to reach Indian tribal agreements with the State of Connecticut, and he served as a judge of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Court from 1994 until 2000. After retirement, Judge Latimer attended Yale Divinity School and received a degree in theology. He also holds two law degrees, one from Harvard Law School and the other from the University of Oxford. He currently resides in California and continues to be active in his community.

F. Owen Eagan, whose chambers were located in the Abraham Ribicoff Federal Building in Hartford, served as a United States magistrate judge for more than two

decades, from December 1, 1975 to June 6, 1996. Prior to being appointed as Connecticut's second, full-time magistrate judge, Judge Eagan served as senior partner at Eagan, Jackson, O'Keefe and Murray in West Hartford. In 1964, he was appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson as the United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, having formerly served as an Assistant United States Attorney in Connecticut since 1962. Following his retirement from the bench, Judge Eagan founded the Canterbury Resolution Center, a mediation firm located in West Hartford. A private mediator for more than 17 years, now at age 85, Judge Eagan still serves as a judge on the Mohegan Gaming Disputes Court for the Mohegan Tribe, a court system that he helped to create. Judge Eagan received his law degree from Georgetown University in 1956. He taught trial practice at the Western New England School of Law for 15 years, from 1978 to 1995.

Thomas P. Smith was appointed to the bench on November 2, 1979, and he served as a United States magistrate judge for over 37 years, until June 30, 2015. At the time of his retirement, he was the longest-sitting United States magistrate judge in the Second Circuit, which includes New York, Connecticut, and Vermont, and the fifth longest-sitting magistrate judge in the country. His chambers were located in the Abraham Ribicoff Federal Building in Hartford. 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 United States magistrate judge. Before his appointment, Judge Smith was an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, from 1974 to 1979, and a professor of contract law at the University of Connecticut School of Law. He also taught an undergraduate law course at Trinity College in Hartford for 23 years. Judge Smith is currently serving as a recalled magistrate judge for the Connecticut district court.

Holly B. Fitzsimmons was appointed on June 4, 1993, serving as a United States magistrate judge in the Brien McMahon Federal Building in Bridgeport for nearly 22 years. On April 2, 2015, she retired from her full-time position and assumed the status of a recalled magistrate judge. Prior to being appointed to the bench, Judge Fitzsimmons served in the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut,

where she was an Assistant United States Attorney from 1978 to 1993. Prior to that, she was an associate at the law firm of Robinson & Cole in Hartford. Judge Fitzsimmons is a 1971, *magna cum laude* graduate of Smith College, where she majored in history and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. In 1976, she received her Juris Doctor and a Master of Arts in Legal History from the University of Virginia. Before becoming a lawyer, she was a newspaper reporter. Judge Fitzsimmons has taught trial practice at Yale Law School since 1992. She is a member of the Federal Magistrate Judges Association and the Raymond Baldwin Inn of Court, and she was a founding member of the Hartford Association of Women Attorneys.

A United States magistrate judge is a judicial officer of the United States district court, appointed to the court for a term of eight years. Magistrate judges play a vital role in the work of the federal courts by assisting the district judges, also called Article III judges, in a variety of pretrial and preliminary matters. The authority exercised by a magistrate judge is delegated to the magistrate judge by the court's district judges under governing statutory authority and local rules of court.

There are currently five magistrate judges on the Connecticut bench.

Following the portrait unveiling ceremony, a reception will be held for all guests.

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