



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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### **PORTRAITS OF THREE RETIRED U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGES TO BE UNVEILED**

The Judges of the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut today announced the unveiling of portraits of retired United States Magistrate Judges Joan G. Margolis, Donna F. Martinez, and William I. Garfinkel. The celebration will be held on June 15, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at the Pine Orchard Yacht & Country Club in Branford, and is being sponsored by the Federal Practice Section of the Connecticut Bar Association.

Appointed on February 4, 1985, Magistrate Judge Joan Glazer Margolis was the district's first female magistrate judge. After 33 years of service, she retired on April 30, 2018, and immediately began her service as a recalled magistrate judge in the New Haven seat of court. As a recalled magistrate judge, Judge Margolis assists the district judges by conducting settlement conferences in civil cases.

Prior to her selection as a magistrate judge, Judge Margolis was an associate at Wiggin & Dana in New Haven for nearly five years. She began her legal career as one of the first law clerks for the Honorable Ellen Bree Burns, who was the first female U.S. District Judge for the District of Connecticut. A native of New Haven, Judge Margolis graduated as the valedictorian of Richard C. Lee High School in 1971. She was a *summa cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Brandeis University in 1975. In 1978, she graduated from the University of Connecticut School of Law *cum laude*, where she served as Notes & Comments Editor of the Connecticut Law Review.

Magistrate Judge Donna F. Martinez was appointed United States Magistrate Judge on February 8, 1994. After 25 years on the bench, and nearly 40 years of government service, Judge Martinez retired on October 4, 2019, and immediately began her service as a recalled magistrate judge in the Hartford seat of court. Currently, she handles both criminal matters and settlement conferences in civil cases.

Judge Martinez earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Connecticut in 1973, a master's degree from the University of Connecticut School of Social Work in 1975, and a Juris Doctor from the University of Connecticut School of Law in 1978.

Judge Martinez started her legal career as an Assistant Corporation Counsel at City Hall in Hartford. She joined the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut in 1980, representing the government in all types of civil and criminal litigation for almost 15 years. When she left in 1994, Judge Martinez was serving as the United States Attorney's Chief of the Organized Crime/Drug Enforcement Task Force.

Judge Martinez has taught at the United States Department of Justice Advocacy Institute and at Yale Law School. She has been a member of the Connecticut Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association and the Federal Magistrate Judges' Association, and she is a past President and Vice-President of the Oliver Ellsworth Chapter of the American Inns of Court.

Magistrate Judge William I. Garfinkel was appointed United States Magistrate Judge on November 22, 1996. He retired on February 26, 2021, after more than 24 years of service, and resumed his service as a recalled magistrate judge on June 1, 2022.

Judge Garfinkel graduated from Yale College *summa cum laude* in 1977, and thereafter pursued graduate studies in history before attending Yale Law School. Upon earning his Juris Doctor in 1981, he served as a law clerk to former United States District Judge Frederick B. Lacey in Newark, New Jersey.

Prior to his selection to the bench, Judge Garfinkel practiced civil litigation as a partner at the Waterbury office of Carmody & Torrance. Before joining the law firm in 1987, he worked as an associate at Wiggin & Dana and taught for four years at the University of Bridgeport School of Law (now Quinnipiac Law School). Judge Garfinkel started his legal career as an Assistant District Attorney in New York County.

Judge Garfinkel is a past recipient of the Judicial Award of the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association, the Distinguished Service Award of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates, and the Honorable Robert C. Zampano Award for Excellence in Mediation awarded by Community Mediation, Inc. He has created and taught courses at Yale College, including Crime and Criminal Justice in America and Child, Family and State.

"Judges Margolis, Martinez and Garfinkel all served our court with distinction, and continue to do so as recalled magistrate judges. Over the last several decades they have been invaluable in their role as magistrate judges and our district is pleased to collaborate with the Federal Practice Section to honor them with this special celebration. Their abiding commitment to the administration of justice has provided thousands of litigants with fair and equitable access to the courts," said Chief U.S. District Judge Stefan R. Underhill.

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 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 active magistrate judges on the Connecticut bench and four recalled magistrate judges.

The portraits were funded in part by the Federal Practice Section of the Connecticut Bar Association.

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