



PRESS RELEASE
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MAGISTRATE JUDGE PASSES TORCH TO SUCCESSOR

United States Magistrate Judge Joan G. Margolis will retire on April 30, 2018, after serving in the Richard C. Lee Courthouse for 33 years. Although she will retire from her full-time position, she will assume the status of a recalled magistrate judge. As a recalled judge, she will assist the district judges by conducting settlement conferences in federal civil cases.

A native of New Haven, Judge Margolis was the first woman appointed U.S. Magistrate Judge for the District of Connecticut. She was appointed on February 4, 1985. Prior to her selection as a magistrate, Judge Margolis was an associate at Wiggin & Dana in New Haven for nearly five years. Before that, she served 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.

Robert M. Spector, who currently serves as an Assistant U.S. Attorney with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut, has been selected to fill the vacancy created by Judge Margolis' retirement. He will be sworn in on May 1, 2018, and his chambers will be located in the Richard C. Lee Courthouse in New Haven.

Chief United States Judge Janet C. Hall said, "The Court is grateful to Judge Margolis for her many years of dedicated service to the citizens of Connecticut, and we look forward to welcoming Attorney Spector to the ranks of judicial officers in our District."

Magistrate Judges are federal trial court judges who are appointed to the court for eight year terms. They 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.

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