

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT

Paul Mannes, *Chief Judge*Duncan W. Keir, *Associate Judge*

U.S. Courthouse, Room 300

6500 Cherrywood Lane

Greenbelt, MD 20770

(301) 344-8047

E. Stephen Derby, *Associate Judge*James F. Schneider, *Associate Judge*Frank L. Monge, *Clerk*

Garmatz Federal Courthouse, Room 919

101 West Lombard St.

Baltimore, MD 21201

(410) 962-2688

The United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maryland is part of the United States District Court for the District of Maryland. With separate clerks' offices and court dockets, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court administers debtors' estates and decides controversies between debtors and creditors.

Although Congress enacted emergency bankruptcy laws in 1800, 1841, and 1867, the National Bankruptcy Act of 1898 was the first comprehensive statute and governed bankruptcy cases for almost 80 years. Under the act, the U.S. District Court appointed "referees in bankruptcy" to handle these cases. The federal Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1978 established independent bankruptcy courts and judges, a move declared unconstitutional in 1982 by the U.S. Supreme Court. The Bankruptcy Amendments and Federal Judgeship Act of 1984 (P. L. 98-353) remedied the jurisdictional problems of the 1978 act by designating bankruptcy courts as units of the federal district courts.

For Maryland, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit appoints four bankruptcy judges to fourteen-year terms. The bankruptcy judges appoint the bankruptcy clerk.

UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGES

Clarence E. Goetz, *Chief Magistrate Judge*, 2002

Associate Magistrate Judges: Paul M. Rosenberg, 1997; James E. Kenkel, 2001; Daniel E. Klein, Jr., 2002; Jillyn K. Schulze, 2002; William Conelly, 2003; Susan K. Gauvey, 2004; two vacancies.

Part-time Associate Magistrate Judges: Donald E. Beachley, 1998; Victor H. Laws, 2000.

Garmatz Federal Courthouse

101 West Lombard St.

Baltimore, MD 21201

(410) 962-4560

400 Presidential Building

6565 Bellcrest Road

Hyattsville, MD 20782

(301) 436-8175

United States Magistrate Judges for the District of Maryland may conduct initial proceedings in criminal cases, that is, issue search warrants, arrest warrants, and summonses; review bail; and set initial appearances.

Upon written consent of the defendant, they may try and dispose of federal criminal misdemeanor cases, with or without a jury. With consent of the litigants, they also may try any civil case pending in their U.S. District Court. The U.S. Magistrate Judges oversee pretrial matters and procedures such as motions, pretrial conferences, prisoner cases, Social Security cases, and evidentiary hearings.

U.S. Magistrate Judges trace their origins to the federal Judiciary Act of 1789 which authorized magistrates to set bail in federal criminal cases. In 1812, federal circuit courts were authorized to appoint such persons to take affidavits, set bail, and receive fees for those services. As their duties expanded, these court officials became known as commissioners by 1817. Commissioners could try petty offenses committed in certain national parks in 1894, and, in 1896, a system of U.S. Commissioners was formally established. Appointed to four-year terms by the U.S. District Courts, commissioners exercised the same powers and duties of their predecessors but were compensated according to a uniform fee schedule. After 1940, commissioners could try all petty offenses committed on federal property if so designated by the appointing U.S. District Court and with written consent of the defendant.

The Federal Magistrates Act of 1968 replaced the commissioner system with federal magistrates overseen by the Judicial Conference of the United States. The act required magistrates to be attorneys. Magistrates retained all the powers and duties of commissioners, could try and dispose of minor criminal offenses, and could be assigned additional duties to expedite the work of U.S. District Court judges. Since 1968, the pretrial, civil and criminal jurisdiction of federal magistrates expanded. On December 1, 1990, magistrates were designated U.S. Magistrate Judges.

For Maryland, the U.S. Magistrate Judges are appointed to eight-year terms by the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland. Six serve full-time and three serve part-time.

UNITED STATES MARSHAL

George K. McKinney, *U.S. Marshal**for the District of Maryland*, 1999Donald Donovan, *Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal*

Garmatz Federal Courthouse, Room 605

101 West Lombard St.

Baltimore, MD 21201

(410) 962-2220

Under the U.S. Department of Justice, the United States Marshals Service is the nation's oldest federal law enforcement agency. It is responsible for the custody, care, and transportation of federal offenders; apprehension of federal criminals who jump bail, violate parole, or escape from prison; and protection of federal courts, judges, attorneys, and witnesses. The Service enforces court orders and manages assets seized or forfeited as a result of their having been acquired from the profits of certain crimes.