

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS**

**INCREASED UTILIZATION OF UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGES  
TWO-YEAR PILOT PROGRAM**

The United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts has established a two-year pilot program, beginning on January 1, 2008, to have a limited number of civil cases initially randomly assigned to a magistrate judge, rather than a district judge. If all parties subsequently consent, those cases will remain with the magistrate judge for all purposes, including trial. If all parties do not consent, the cases will be randomly reassigned to a district judge. In this program, one out of every twelve civil cases in the Boston (Eastern) Division will be initially assigned to one of the five magistrate judges in Boston. A similar program has worked well in the Springfield (Western) Division of the District Court, and will be emulated in the Worcester (Central) Division of the District Court as well. More than twenty other districts have comparable programs.

For more information, please click on the documents below:

- 1) [General Order \(12/4/07\);](#)
- 2) [Press Release \(12/21/07\);](#)
- 3) [Procedures.](#)

Thank you.