



Sarah Allison Thornton
CLERK OF COURT

PRESS RELEASE

January 31, 2012

On February 1, 2012, Magistrate Judge Leo T. Sorokin will succeed Magistrate Judge Judith Gail Dein as Chief Magistrate Judge of the Court. He will serve a term of three years and becomes the eighth Chief Magistrate Judge of the District of Massachusetts since the Judicial Conference Committee on the Administration of the Magistrate Judges System endorsed the practice of district courts designating a chief or presiding magistrate judge in 1988. Former Chief Magistrate Judge Dein served in that capacity from February 1, 2009 through January 31, 2012.

Judge Sorokin was appointed United States Magistrate Judge by the United States District Court on April 11, 2005. Magistrate Judge Sorokin presides over the District of Massachusetts's Court Assisted Recovery Effort promoting the development and maintenance of sober, employed and law abiding lives by felons under the supervision of the Court. The District of Massachusetts was one of the first federal courts to create such a program and the program has been a model for other districts. He has served as a faculty member on numerous educational programs sponsored by the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts, the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, the Federal Judicial Center, the Federal Bar Association and the Boston Bar Association. In 2009 the Boston Bar Association awarded Magistrate Judge Sorokin its Citation of Judicial Excellence.

Judge Sorokin graduated from Yale College, *cum laude* in 1983, and Columbia Law School, in 1991, where he was a Kent and Stone Scholar as well as the Articles Editor of the *Journal of Law and Social Problems*. After his graduation from law school, he served as a law clerk to the Rya W. Zobel, a Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts (1991-1992). He then joined Mintz Levin as an associate (1992-1994). He then became an Assistant Attorney General under Scott Harshbarger at the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office (1994-1997). During his tenure at the Office of the Attorney General he served in the Administrative Law Division of the Government Bureau representing the Commonwealth in a range of civil matters in the trial and appellate courts. During his last year in the Office, he became the Opinions Coordinator for the Attorney General (1996-1997). Thereafter, he then became an Assistant Federal Defender in the Federal Public Defender's Office for the District of Massachusetts (1997-2005), where he represented indigent defendants in federal criminal prosecutions at trial and on appeal. He remained in this position until his appointment to the bench.

Chief Judge Mark L. Wolf said that he thanks Magistrate Judge Dein for her distinguished service and is confident that Magistrate Judge Sorokin will extend that fine tradition.

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