

**APPOINTMENTS TO U.S. DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND, 1991—1994**

BENSON EVERETT LEGG. Appointed Sept. 17, 1991. Sworn in Sept. 18, 1991, to replace Paul V. Niemeyer, who was appointed to U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, Aug. 7, 1990.

DEBORAH K. CHASANOW. Appointed Oct. 20, 1993. Sworn in Nov. 1, 1993, to replace Alexander Harvey II, who elected to take senior status March 8, 1991.

PETER J. MESSITTE. Appointed Oct. 20, 1993. Sworn in Nov. 15, 1993, to replace Joseph C. Howard, who elected to take senior status Nov. 15, 1991.

No appointment yet made to replace Norman P. Ramsey, who elected to take senior status Nov. 1, 1991, retired Sept. 30, 1992, and died June 15, 1993.

No appointment yet made to replace John Raymond Hargrove, Sr., who elected to take senior status Feb. 21, 1994.

**UNITED STATES
BANKRUPTCY COURT**

Paul Mannes, *Chief Judge*

Associate Judges: E. Stephen Derby; Duncan W. Keir; James F. Schneider.

Frank L. Monge, *Clerk*

Garmatz Federal Courthouse, Room 919
101 West Lombard St.
Baltimore, MD 21201 (410) 962-2688

451 Hungerford Drive
Rockville, MD 20850 (301) 344-8047

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 judges administer debtors' estates and decide 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.

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

**UNITED STATES
MAGISTRATE JUDGES**

Clarence E. Goetz, *Chief Magistrate Judge*

Associate Magistrate Judges: Catherine C. Blake; James E. Kenkel; Daniel E. Klein, Jr.; Paul M. Rosenberg; one vacancy.

Part-time Associate Magistrate Judges: Donald E. Beachley; Victor H. Laws; James J. Lombardi.

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