

Table 1.84

## Duties performed by magistrate judges in U.S. District Courts

1990, 1997-2003								
Activity	1990	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total	448,107	579,771	612,688	648,097	807,401	873,948	880,129	948,570
Trial jurisdiction cases	100,930	85,257	96,832	109,101	88,449	84,067	72,109	83,247
Class A misdemeanors	13,248	10,177	10,633	10,773	8,990	8,687	8,816	9,616
Petty offenses	87,682	75,080	86,199	98,328	79,459	75,380	63,293	73,631
Preliminary proceedings	157,987	217,616	241,031	259,153	264,997	286,299	293,002	315,455
Search warrants	20,672	29,563	30,371	32,607	29,824	31,571	29,929	32,539
Arrest warrants/summons	18,972	23,116	26,252	28,749	26,880	29,891	30,541	31,291
Initial appearances	49,624	60,419	68,982	74,875	77,752	83,582	86,324	93,991
Preliminary examinations	7,145	13,049	14,436	16,059	16,589	18,067	19,279	20,062
Arraignments	34,311	41,559	45,524	48,132	49,740	54,687	54,339	57,977
Detention hearings	17,191	28,996	32,948	36,381	37,490	39,468	43,198	47,860
Bail reviews	7,858	10,018	10,250	10,833	10,741	11,557	11,052	11,397
Other <sup>a</sup>	2,214	10,896	12,268	11,517	15,981	17,476	18,340	20,338
Additional duties	171,127	236,964	234,974	235,803	405,661	450,639	461,848	490,617
Criminal	35,576	52,382	49,587	51,182	108,823	126,813	138,504	156,115
Motions <sup>b</sup>	26,509	27,329	24,071	24,623	67,099	78,450	85,693	98,299
Evidentiary hearings	2,256	1,788	1,998	2,302	1,990	1,985	1,899	2,041
Pretrial conferences <sup>c</sup>	3,488	5,737	5,763	5,793	10,965	12,024	13,532	14,620
Probation/supervised release	529	2,600	2,960	3,007	3,109	3,570	3,948	4,570
Guilty pleas	NA	NA	NA	NA	10,614	13,150	15,275	17,018
Other <sup>d</sup>	2,794	14,928	14,795	15,457	15,046	17,634	18,157	19,567
Civil	114,968	155,158	158,003	158,830	271,025	296,921	298,109	309,720
Settlement conferences	12,656	23,549	23,113	24,666	24,255	24,997	24,420	26,506
Other pretrial conferences <sup>c</sup>	32,545	40,999	40,107	39,265	49,724	50,776	55,371	55,632
Motions <sup>b</sup>	61,594	66,535	69,517	68,043	171,659	194,918	192,075	200,068
Evidentiary hearings	1,964	981	988	771	650	639	851	646
Social Security	5,112	4,553	5,261	6,132	5,516	5,514	6,654	6,472
Special masterships	1,097	963	886	753	734	677	504	550
Other <sup>e</sup>	NA	17,578	18,131	19,200	18,487	19,400	18,234	19,846
Prisoner litigation	20,583	29,424	27,384	25,791	25,813	26,905	25,235	24,782
State habeas corpus	6,078	8,046	9,261	9,692	10,125	10,180	9,503	9,482
Federal habeas corpus	2,339	3,778	4,024	3,406	3,469	4,256	4,441	3,837
Civil rights	12,166	16,480	13,151	11,922	11,419	11,403	10,531	10,766
Evidentiary hearings	NA	1,120	948	771	800	1,066	760	697
Civil consent	4,958	10,081	10,339	11,320	11,481	12,024	12,710	13,811
Without trial	3,950	8,318	8,791	9,822	10,181	10,945	11,751	13,044
Jury trial	495	964	892	850	750	590	472	479
Non-jury trial	513	799	656	648	550	489	487	288
Miscellaneous matters <sup>f</sup>	13,105	29,853	29,512	32,720	36,813	40,919	40,460	45,440

Note: The Federal Magistrates Act (28 U.S.C. 636(b)) provides the authority under which magistrate judges assist courts in the performance of "additional duties." This authority was both broadened and clarified by Public Law 94-577, Oct. 21, 1976, and by new procedural rules governing most habeas corpus proceedings in the district courts, effective Feb. 1, 1977. The changes make clear the ability of the parties of a civil case to consent to have the case referred to a magistrate for trial as a special matter; the changes also empower magistrates to conduct evidentiary hearings in prisoner petition cases. Additionally, the role of magistrates in providing pretrial assistance to district judges in both dispositive and non-dispositive matters has been clarified. A magistrate's authority to conduct arraignments following indictment in a criminal case is provided under Rule 10 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure in 86 Districts. Data for 1990 are reported for the 12-month period ending June 30. Beginning in 1997, data are reported for the Federal fiscal year, which is the 12-month period ending September 30. Some data have been revised by the Source and will differ from previous editions of SOURCEBOOK.

<sup>a</sup>Data for 1990 include material witness hearings only; data for 1997-2003 include material witness hearings and attorney appointment hearings.

<sup>b</sup>Prior to 2000, data include contested motions only; beginning in 2000, data include both contested and uncontested motions.

<sup>c</sup>Prior to 2000, data do not include status conferences; beginning in 2000, data include status conferences.

<sup>d</sup>Data for 1990 include writs only; data for 1997-2003 include writs, mental competency hearings, and motion hearings.

<sup>e</sup>Beginning in 1997, data include fee applications, summary jury trials, and motion hearings.

<sup>f</sup>Prior to 2000, this category included seizure/inspection warrants and orders of entry, judgment debtor exams, extradition hearings, contempt proceedings, Criminal Justice Act fee applications, naturalization proceedings, grand jury returns, civil and criminal IRS enforcement proceedings, calendar calls, and voir dire. Beginning in 2000, civil and criminal other jury matters, and international prisoner transfer proceedings were added.

Source: Administrative Office of the United States Courts, *Judicial Business of the United States Courts: 2000 Annual Report of the Director*, pp. 66, 67; *2001 Annual Report of the Director*, pp. 62, 63; *2002 Annual Report of the Director*, pp. 61, 62; *2003 Annual Report of the Director*, pp. 58, 59 (Washington, DC: USGPO). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.