

Table 1.60

Duties performed by magistrates in U.S. District Courts

1987, 1993-97

Activity	1987	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Total	466,078	510,057	517,397	512,741	554,041	579,450
Trial jurisdiction cases	95,988	81,833	87,519	72,868	74,806	85,257
Misdemeanors	12,896	10,908	10,908	9,875	10,356	10,177
Petty offenses	83,092	70,925	75,381	62,993	64,450	75,080
Preliminary proceedings	134,091	203,592	196,990	206,612	224,647	240,338
Search warrants	11,744	24,631	26,250	25,966	27,811	29,563
Arrest warrants/summonses	14,983	21,618	20,513	21,202	21,119	23,116
Initial appearances	45,571	52,651	50,645	52,654	55,206	60,419
Detention hearings	9,708	21,772	21,711	24,060	26,800	28,996
Bail reviews	7,140	8,089	7,394	8,558	9,456	9,628
Preliminary examinations	6,104	8,427	8,406	8,969	10,303	13,049
Grand jury returns	4,110	5,408	5,208	5,411	6,057	6,172
Arraignments	28,827	37,541	35,061	37,198	40,715	41,559
Attorney appointment hearings	NA	6,325	6,116	6,488	8,219	8,055
Seizure warrants	NA	3,854	2,529	1,782	1,798	2,254
Fee applications	NA	8,167	8,655	9,389	11,048	11,278
Other ^a	5,904	5,109	4,502	4,935	6,115	6,249
Additional duties	231,029	217,892	225,053	224,294	244,640	243,774
Criminal	41,515	47,015	47,780	48,366	55,594	55,421
Motions	31,250	29,107	28,240	26,282	28,444	27,329
Evidentiary hearings	1,452	1,963	2,154	2,031	1,990	1,788
Pretrial conferences	3,622	4,793	4,555	5,090	5,837	5,737
Calendar calls	1,666	1,518	2,183	1,955	2,577	2,869
Motion hearings/arguments	NA	3,465	3,752	5,124	8,113	8,955
Other ^b	3,525	6,169	6,896	7,884	8,633	8,743
Civil	162,512	143,156	146,814	144,949	155,830	158,929
Pretrial conferences ^c	45,167	53,235	54,703	56,286	62,130	64,548
Motions	102,499	64,400	65,639	63,203	66,230	66,535
Evidentiary hearings	1,532	879	774	523	602	660
Social Security	6,714	4,319	5,623	5,384	4,603	4,553
Special masterships	1,509	895	825	682	1,080	963
Calendar calls	2,173	1,366	1,792	1,658	2,576	2,867
Motion hearings/arguments	NA	14,189	13,535	14,458	15,577	15,851
Other ^d	2,918	3,873	3,923	2,755	3,032	2,952
Prisoner litigation	27,002	27,721	30,459	30,979	33,216	29,424
Evidentiary hearings ^e	X	1,718	1,795	1,638	1,599	1,120
State habeas corpus	7,184	6,069	6,443	6,759	7,576	8,046
Federal habeas corpus	2,589	2,898	2,795	2,695	3,562	3,778
Civil rights	17,229	17,036	19,426	19,887	20,479	16,480
Civil consent	4,970	6,740	7,835	8,967	9,948	10,081
Without trial	4,008	5,240	6,092	7,371	8,029	8,318
Jury trial	459	673	912	813	955	964
Non-jury trial	503	827	831	783	964	799

Note: The Federal Magistrates Act (28 U.S.C. 636(b)) provides the authority under which magistrates 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 1987, 1993, and 1994 are reported for the 12-month period ending June 30. Beginning in 1995, data are reported for the Federal fiscal year, which is the 12-month period ending September 30.

^aBeginning in 1993, category includes contempt proceedings and other hearings.

^bBeginning in 1993, category includes hearings for mental competency.

^cIncludes settlement conferences.

^dBeginning in 1993, category includes fee applications and summary jury trials.

^ePrior to 1993, evidentiary hearings were included in the totals for State habeas corpus, Federal habeas corpus, and civil rights.

Source: Administrative Office of the United States Courts, *Annual Report of the Director, 1997* (Washington, DC: USGPO, 1998), pp. 64, 65.