

Judith Gail Dein
United States Magistrate Judge
United States District Court for the
District of Massachusetts

The Honorable Judith Dein has been the designated Magistrate Judge on all the PROMESA cases since June 2017. She was appointed a Magistrate Judge of the United States District Court, District of Massachusetts, on July 31, 2000, and served as Chief Magistrate Judge from February 2009 until February 2012. As a Magistrate Judge, Judge Dein presides over pretrial matters in all types of civil cases filed in Federal Court and, with the consent of the parties, presides over jury and jury-waived civil cases through judgment. Judge Dein also presides over pretrial matters in criminal felony cases, and adjudicates petty offense matters, misdemeanors and extradition cases through trial and sentencing.

The Magistrate Judges in Massachusetts are the principal mediators in the District Court's pretrial mediation program, which is available to all civil litigants free of charge. Judge Dein has served as the mediator in hundreds of cases over the years, including, without limitation, employment matters, intellectual property cases, environmental litigation, civil rights disputes, insurance cases, prisoner litigation, contract disputes, ERISA and Social Security cases, and personal injury matters. Judge Dein was instrumental in creating the District of Massachusetts Mediation Advocates Panel ("MAP") with the Federal Bar Association. This program provides pro bono representation to pro se civil litigants, including prisoners, in mediations. She was honored by the Community Dispute Settlement Center in Cambridge, Massachusetts with a Community Peacemaker Award for her work on the MAP.

Judge Dein is a Fellow of the Massachusetts Bar Foundation and of the American Bar Association. She has served as a Member of the Advisory Group of Magistrate Judges for the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, and as the First Circuit Representative to the Federal Magistrate Judges Association. She is presently the Magistrate Judge Representative to the First Circuit Judicial Council.

Judge Dein had over 20 years of civil litigation experience before being appointed to the Bench. She is a 1976 graduate of Union College in Schenectady, New York, and has been a member of the College's Board of Trustees since 2012. Judge Dein graduated from Boston College Law School in 1979, where she was editor-in-chief of the Environmental Affairs Law Review. Judge Dein clerked for the Justices of the Massachusetts Superior Court and the late Justice Robert Braucher of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court before entering private practice. While in private practice, her work focused on commercial litigation and employment law.