



United States District Court  
Eastern District of California  
Fresno Division



CONSENTING TO  
MAGISTRATE JUDGE JURISDICTION

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
Eastern District of California**

**Sacramento**

501 I Street  
Sacramento, California 95814  
Phone: (916) 930-4000  
Fax: (916) 930-4015

**Fresno**

2500 Tulare Street  
Fresno, California 95501  
Phone: (559) 499-5600  
Fax: (559) 499-5992

**Redding**

2986 Bechelli Lane  
Redding, California 96002  
Phone: (530) 246-5416  
Fax: (530) 246-5419

**Bakersfield**

510 19th Street  
Bakersfield, California 93301  
Phone: (661) 326-6620  
Fax: (661) 327-4921

**Yosemite National Park**

9004 Castle Cliffs Court  
Yosemite, California 95389  
Phone: (209) 372-0320  
Fax: (209) 372-0324

Clerk of Court  
Marianne Matherly  
559-930-5600

## **MAGISTRATE JUDGES**

### **Sacramento**

Magistrate Judge Deborah Barnes  
Magistrate Judge Edmund F. Brennan  
Magistrate Judge Allison Claire  
Magistrate Judge Carolyn K. Delaney  
Magistrate Judge Gregory G. Hollows  
Magistrate Judge Kendall J. Newman

### **Fresno**

Magistrate Judge Gary S. Austin  
Magistrate Judge Stanley A. Boone  
Magistrate Judge Erica P. Grosjean  
Magistrate Judge Barbara A. McAuliffe  
Magistrate Judge Sheila K. Oberto  
Magistrate Judge Jennifer L. Thurston

### **Redding**

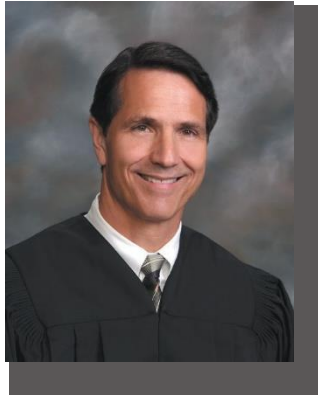
Magistrate Judge Dennis M. Cota

### **Bakersfield**

Magistrate Judge Jennifer L. Thurston

### **Yosemite National Park**

Magistrate Judge Jeremy D. Peterson



**MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
GARY S. AUSTIN**  
(Fresno)

Magistrate Judge Gary S. Austin was appointed in 2007. Before joining the Federal Court, he served over 21 years on the California State Court bench. He began his judicial career in 1986 when he was appointed to the Fresno County Municipal Court. Approximately two years later in 1988, he was elevated to the Fresno County Superior Court and remained there until his appointment to the Federal bench.

While on the State Court bench Magistrate Judge Austin presided over a wide range of civil and criminal trials, including death penalty cases. He also served in both the Family Law and Juvenile Court assignments. During his almost three year tenure with the Juvenile Court he was the presiding Judge of that division.

Magistrate Judge Austin began his legal career as a law clerk/crier to Federal District Court Judge Myron Donovan Crocker of the Eastern District of California. He then served as a staff attorney for the Federal Defender's Office in the Eastern District. Thereafter, he joined the District Attorney's Office and remained there until his appointment to the State Court bench. Prior to his appointment to Municipal Court, Magistrate Judge Austin was the Lead attorney on the Career Criminal Unit of the Fresno County District Attorney's Office and had attained the rank of senior prosecutor.

He is a 1972 graduate of California State University, Fresno and a 1976 graduate of San Joaquin College of Law where he served as Student Body President in his final year. He is currently serving as Chair of the 9th Circuit Magistrate Judge's Education Committee. While on the State Court bench he served a term as Chair of Continuing Judicial Studies (CJS), a California Judicial Education and Research program of the State Administrative Office of the Courts. The mission of CJS was to provide educational programs for experienced California State Court judges.



**MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
STANLEY A. BOONE**  
(Fresno)

Judge Boone was appointed to the federal bench as a United States magistrate judge on December 31, 2012. Prior to his appointment, he served for almost twenty-three years in a variety of capacities, both civil and criminal, with the United States Department of Justice. In June 2010, Judge Boone became the Chief of the White Collar Crime unit in the Fresno United States Attorney's office where he handled cases and supervised Assistant U.S. Attorneys in the areas of economic fraud, identity theft, intellectual property, money laundering, taxation, child pornography and immigration. From 2009 to 2010, Judge Boone was stationed in Washington, D.C. as the White Collar Crime Coordinator for the Executive Office for United States Attorneys, United States Department of Justice. In that role, he represented the United States Attorney's community in reviewing and formulating policy and legislation involving white collar crime. From 1996 to 2009, Judge Boone was an Assistant United States Attorney in the Criminal Division of the Fresno U.S. Attorney's office handling a wide variety of cases, including white collar, national security, intellectual property, public corruption, identity theft, health care fraud and other federal crime cases. During this time, Judge Boone held positions as misdemeanor unit supervisor, Elections Officer, Bankruptcy Fraud Coordinator and International Coordinator. Throughout his tenure, Judge Boone wrote and argued a number of appeals before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, including an en banc argument. From 1989 to 1995, Judge Boone was employed by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the United States Trustee, handling civil matters associated with financial audits and bankruptcy litigation. During a portion of that time, Judge Boone attended evening law school and, as a student certified attorney, handled civil law and motion, discovery litigation and civil bench trials.

Judge Boone is co-author of a chapter entitled "Disaster-Related Federal Crimes" for the Crisis Response and Related Litigation (2009 ed.) book, which is part of the U.S. Justice Department "Blue Book" series (practical "how to" books for prosecutors) and co-author on an article in the U.S. Attorney's Bulletin on financial fraud entitled "Mortgage Fraud Working Group."

Judge Boone has traveled to other countries, including Russia, Bulgaria and India, to help assess, train and lecture judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials in criminal prosecution. He

was a frequent lecturer at the Justice Department's training facilities in South Carolina, Washington, D.C. and elsewhere, teaching trial advocacy and a variety of white collar crime subject matters (mortgage, bankruptcy and bank fraud, money laundering and identity theft). He has spoken for a variety of federal agencies, including the Federal Reserve, HUD, Secret Service and FBI, and was also a frequent lecturer for other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies on topics involving Fourth and Fifth Amendment jurisprudence and substantive law. For his work, Judge Boone received commendations from FBI Directors Louis J. Freeh and Robert S. Mueller, III, Secret Service Directors W. Ralph Basham and Mark J. Sullivan and others.

Judge Boone received his undergraduate degree at the University of California, Berkeley, majoring in Legal Studies with an Asian Studies minor. His undergraduate studies also included a concentration in business administration and accounting. He received his law degree at the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento, California, where he received the Valedictorian Award for his evening class, Order of the Coif, the Roger J. Traynor Honor Society and American Jurisprudence awards in Constitutional Law and Criminal Procedure.

Judge Boone was a judicial law clerk to U.S. Magistrate Judge Peter A. Nowinski in Sacramento. He served as Federal Bar Association, San Joaquin Valley Chapter, President for part of 2009 and all of 2012.

Judge Boone is an adjunct professor at San Joaquin College of Law in Fresno, and has taught courses in appellate moot court, federal courts and evidence. He is presently chair of the Eastern District of California's Local Rules committee and serves as a member of the court's Technology User Group.

Judge Boone has extensive trial experience both as a litigator and a judge in both the civil and criminal arenas. To see more detailed information regarding his courtroom procedures, including trial, see the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California's website (<http://www.caed.uscourts.gov>) under Judges; United States Magistrate Judge Stanley A. Boone (SAB) in the area entitled "Case Management Procedures" with links to "Standard Information", "Courtroom Technology", "Pre-Trial and Trial Procedures/Deadlines", "Jury Selection" and "Trial Conduct and Decorum" as well as other areas.



**MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
ERICA P. GROSJEAN**  
(Fresno)

Erica P. Grosjean was appointed as a Magistrate Judge in the Fresno division in the Eastern District of California in October 2015. Judge Grosjean presides over a large variety of federal matters including cases involving employment discrimination, civil rights, ADA, social security, habeas corpus, and prisoner civil rights among others. She handles the scheduling and discovery matters for numerous cases assigned to District Judges, and also acts as presiding judge on numerous cases with the parties' consent. She regularly conducts settlement conferences in all types of cases. Judge Grosjean also handles the initial phases of federal criminal cases, including arraignments, detention hearings, and search warrants.

Prior to taking the bench, Judge Grosjean was a partner at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart and Sullivan LLP, a litigation-only law firm specializing in trial work. Judge Grosjean worked out of Quinn Emanuel's New York and Los Angeles offices. Her practice specialized in civil litigation across a wide range of areas of law, including structured finance, patent infringement, contract, antitrust, misappropriation, insurance, securities, unfair competition, constitutional law, and fraudulent transfer.

Judge Grosjean is a 2000 graduate of Harvard Law School, where she was an editor of the Harvard Law Review and graduated with honors, cum laude. After law school, she clerked for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, under the Honorable Herbert Y.C. Choy.

Judge Grosjean is also an adjunct faculty member at San Joaquin School of Law.



**MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
BARBARA A. MCAULIFFE**  
(Fresno)

Magistrate Judge Barbara A. McAuliffe was appointed in October 2011. Judge McAuliffe is a 1989 graduate of the University of San Diego School of Law, Magna Cum Laude, where she was the Executive Editor of the Law Review.

Judge McAuliffe presides over various types of civil cases randomly assigned to her with the parties' consent, including business litigation, employment, class actions, excessive force civil rights and other civil rights cases. She has also presided over numerous jury trials involving complex legal issues and factual disputes. Judge McAuliffe regularly speaks and participates in panels concerning ethics and professionalism and is a Member of the ABA Judicial Division Ethics and Professionalism Committee and is a former member of the California State Bar's Standing Committee on Professional Responsibility.

Over Judge McAuliffe's 24-year legal career, she has worked on both sides of the bar. She is an experienced litigation partner from a prominent local law firm. An eleven-year private practice, from 1989 to 2000, involved complex civil litigation in employment, construction and business litigation. She has extensive experience in law and motion, settlement conferences, trial, post-trial and judgment enforcement matters in both federal and state courts. After eleven years of successful practice, Judge McAuliffe joined the chambers of then-Magistrate Judge, now District Judge Lawrence J. O'Neill. As his law clerk for eleven years, she was responsible for managing the high volume case load in the Eastern District.

Judge McAuliffe is also an Adjunct Professor at local educational institutions teaching various legal courses, such as Legal Research and Writing, Business Law, Business Ethics, Administrative Law, and International Law.

Through her years of public service, coupled with private practice and teaching experience, Judge McAuliffe brings to the bench a distinguished academic record, practical litigation experience, and applicable federal court knowledge. Having been in private practice for many years, Judge McAuliffe understands the importance of, and is committed to, the disposition of all cases as speedily and economically as possible.





**MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
SHEILA K. OBERTO**  
(Fresno)

Magistrate Judge Sheila K. Oberto was appointed in 2010. Judge Oberto has extensive federal court litigation experience and has handled over 20 federal jury trials in civil and criminal cases. She has also briefed and argued numerous appeals before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Prior to her appointment, Judge Oberto served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Eastern District of California from 1990 until her appointment in 2010. From 1990 to 1999, she litigated a wide range of civil cases on behalf of the United States and federal parties, representing both plaintiffs and defendants. She has substantial experience handling personal injury and other tort cases, contract actions, employment discrimination and civil rights cases, ADA litigation, environmental and land use actions, tax cases, asset forfeiture matters, bankruptcy actions, and civil enforcement and civil fraud cases. In 1999, Judge Oberto joined the criminal division as a federal prosecutor where she prosecuted complex white collar cases and served as Deputy Chief of the Fresno Office and Chief of the White Collar Crime Unit.

Judge Oberto began her career as a law clerk for Justice Armand Arabian with the California Court of Appeals, Second Appellate District. She was in private practice at Irell & Manella in Los Angeles from 1985 to 1987 and at Baker, Manock & Jensen in Fresno from 1988 to 1989. Judge Oberto received her B.S. from the University of Southern California, her M.S. from UCLA, and graduated from the University of Southern California School of Law in 1985.

Through her twenty years of public service and her private practice experience, Judge Oberto brings to the bench a wealth of federal court litigation and trial experience, and is committed to the fair, efficient and economical resolution of all actions.



**MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
JEREMY D. PETERSON**  
(Yosemite/Fresno)

Jeremy D. Peterson was appointed to be the U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Yosemite Division of the Eastern District of California on April 27, 2018. Judge Peterson sits in the U.S. District Court in Yosemite Valley, though he also hears cases in Fresno. He presides over criminal matters arising on federal lands and civil matters arising in the Fresno Division of the Eastern District of California. He conducts settlement conferences in all types of cases.

Judge Peterson has served as both a federal prosecutor and as a private defense attorney. His career as a litigator began with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Washington, D.C., where he prosecuted domestic violence offenses. He later joined the Department of Justice's Environment and Natural Resources Division, on whose behalf he appeared in federal courts nationwide, including the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. After the Deepwater Horizon explosion and oil spill, Judge Peterson joined a team of prosecutors and federal agents investigating the incident. This investigation ultimately led to corporate guilty pleas and the imposition of billions of dollars in criminal fines and penalties, much of which was dedicated to restoring Gulf Coast ecosystems. Judge Peterson co-authored DOJ's "Blue Book" on criminal discovery.

When he was appointed to the bench, Judge Peterson was in private practice with Arnold & Porter, LLP, a national law firm, representing clients in a variety of civil and criminal matters. He managed litigation involving technical and scientific evidence and helped clients negotiate resolutions with private companies and federal and state regulators. His clients included manufacturers, auto companies, a railroad, and private individuals. Judge Peterson served as co-chair of a conference on trial strategy and as vice chair of an American Bar Association committee that reviewed federal and state enforcement actions.

Judge Peterson received his B.A., with honors, from Swarthmore College, and his J.D., cum laude, from Harvard Law School, where he was Managing Editor of the Harvard International Law Journal. After law school, he served as a law clerk for Judge Ruggero J. Aldisert of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.



**MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
JENNIFER L. THURSTON**  
(Bakersfield/Fresno)

Magistrate Judge Jennifer L. Thurston was appointed in 2009. Since this time, she has presided over numerous bench trials and jury trials. She has extensive experience with discovery matters and case-dispositive and non-dispositive law and motion practice. She has conducted hundreds of settlement conferences and has successfully settled cases involving complicated and highly technical issues.

Before appointment, Judge Thurston was an active litigator and handled a huge variety of cases including, for example, civil rights matters, personal injury claims, wrongful death actions, premises liability claims, elections law challenges, subrogation actions and employment disputes, among other topics. She became a Certified Appellate Specialist in 2005 and, before her appointment, had handled more than 100 appeals and writs in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Fifth District Court of Appeal and the California Supreme Court.

In addition to her role as the ADR Judge for the Fresno Division of the Eastern District of California and a member of the District's Technology User Group Committee, she is a member on the Ninth Circuit Conference's Magistrate Judge Education Committee. As a former Board Member, Treasurer and Vice President of the Kern County Bar Association, Judge Thurston remains an active member of the Editorial Board and columnist for the Kern County Bar Association's magazine.

Judge Thurston has significant experience and brings a unique, practical perspective to the cases brought before her. Judge Thurston sits in Bakersfield primarily but hears cases in Fresno as well.