

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO**

Announcement of the Reappointment of Magistrate Judge Michael J. Watanabe

The Judges of the United States District Court for the District of Colorado take great pleasure in announcing the reappointment of United States Magistrate Judge Michael J. Watanabe to a third term of eight years effective February 11, 2015. A Merit Selection Panel comprised of Colorado attorneys and lay persons recently solicited comments from the public relative to Judge Watanabe's job performance. The Panel returned a unanimous recommendation to the Court for his reappointment.

Magistrate Judge Watanabe has served the District of Colorado as a magistrate judge since 1999. The duties of a magistrate judge in this court include the following: (1) conduct preliminary proceedings in criminal cases; (2) trial and disposition of misdemeanor cases; (3) conduct various pretrial matters and evidentiary proceedings on delegation from a district judge; and (4) trial and disposition of civil cases upon consent of the litigants. Effective February 3, 2014, the court began a Pilot Program that includes all full time magistrate judges in the assignment of civil cases by random draw. The Pilot Program requires the parties in cases assigned directly to a magistrate judge to indicate, through the filing of a consent form by a date certain, whether they accept or decline consent.

Magistrate Judge Watanabe has been of great service to the District Court Colorado. He is well-respected by attorneys throughout the District and his services as a magistrate judge are invaluable to accomplishing the mission of our court and the administration of justice.

BY THE COURT:



Marcia S. Krieger
Chief United States District Judge