Office of the District Court Executive

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TEN SDNY JUDGES TO PARTICIPATE IN PATENT PILOT PROGRAM STARTING NOVEMBER 26*

The United States District Court for the Southern District of New York (SDNY) has announced that ten* of its judges will participate in a ten-year pilot program designed to enhance judicial expertise in patent cases. The ten* participating judges are: Hon. P. Kevin Castel; Hon. Denise Cote; Hon. Katherine B. Forrest*; Hon. Thomas P. Griesa; Hon. John G. Koeltl; Hon. Colleen McMahon; Hon. Jed S. Rakoff; Hon. Shira A. Scheindlin; Hon. Laura Taylor Swain; and Hon. Robert W. Sweet.

Starting November 26,* patent cases filed in the Southern District will initially be assigned in the same manner as other civil cases—by random assignment to a district judge, regardless of whether that judge has been designated as a patent pilot participant. A non-participating judge then has thirty days to decide whether to accept the case; if the non-participating judge declines the case, the case is then randomly assigned to one of the ten* judges participating in the pilot.

The Southern District of New York is one of fourteen federal courts across the nation selected to participate in the ten-year patent pilot program, which was established under Public Law 111-349 and is managed by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.

SDNY Chief Judge Loretta A. Preska said of the pilot program: "The Southern District has one of the largest patent caseloads in the nation; as a result, our judges are already very well-versed in patent law. However, this pilot will further refine the court's expertise, and it will ultimately help us better serve patent litigants. We look forward to working with the Administrative Office to implement this innovative program."

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