



Federal Magistrate Judge Charles F. Eick

Charles F. Eick was appointed as a Magistrate Judge for U.S. District Court for the Central District of California in 1988. He previously practiced civil and criminal law with Mitchell, Silberberg & Knupp LLP in Los Angeles. He also served as a judge pro tem for the Los Angeles Municipal Court. Judge Eick received his undergraduate degree from Tulane University and his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law.¹⁾

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What's a Magistrate Judge?

Magistrate judges are appointed to assist federal district court judges in the performance of their duties. While district judges are nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate for lifetime tenure, magistrate judges are appointed by a majority vote of the federal district judges of a particular district and serve terms of eight years if full-time, or four years if part-time, and may be reappointed.²⁾

Duties



LAWSUIT PRIMER Get an overview of the copyright



lawsuit, including a timeline of the case, as well as downloadable pleadings made by the plaintiffs, CBS and Paramount, and defendants Alec Peters and Axanar Productions Inc. » [Lawsuit Primer](#)

Magistrate judges generally oversee first appearances of criminal defendants, set bail, and conduct other administrative duties referred by district court judges. In civil cases, they will hear pre-trial motions, conduct settlement and pre-trial conferences, and may, on assignment, handle dispositive motions and, with the consent of the parties, may conduct the trial.³⁾

Referrals by District Court Judges

Civil cases are commonly referred to magistrate judges in two ways, called “A” and “B” referrals.⁴⁾ Under an A referral, a magistrate judge may issue orders on all non-dispositive motions, but under a B referral, the magistrate judge conducts all proceedings, issuing orders on all non-dispositive matters and giving the district judge a report and recommendation as to final disposition. The district judge may accept, reject, or modify the report and recommendation, and may send the case back to the magistrate judge for further action. The statute treats the following motions as “dispositive”:

For injunctive relief, for judgment on the pleadings, for summary judgment, to dismiss or quash an indictment or information made by the defendant, to suppress evidence in a criminal case, to dismiss or to permit maintenance of a class action, to dismiss for failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted, and to involuntarily dismiss an action.⁵⁾

Judicial Profile

Here are some of the opinions and ratings expressed by attorneys about Eick on the website, [The Robing Room](#), “where judges are judged”:

How Attorneys Rate Magistrate Judge Eick

Apart from the aggregate rating, each paragraph below is from a different commenter.

Rating: 6.2/10

Magistrate Eick can be a little “rough” in his handling of attorneys to the point of bordering on being rude. However, he is very bright and seems to grasp the issues easily and to have done all the homework necessary to handle complex issues. Make sure you have your “t”s crossed and “i”s dotted however.

Very wrong on numerous areas of law, particularly [Federal Rules of Civil Procedure]. Biased and thinks it doesn’t even matter when dealing with those he disagrees with.

Judge Eick is what a federal judge should be: extremely bright, thoughtful and hard-working. A true credit to the bench.

I had a settlement conference with him in late 2011. It was a painful 4 hours. He seemed

very old and tired, and crotchety. He spent hours questioning the parties about the case, getting the facts straight. Then, did nothing with all those facts he gathered. I don't think he is capable of getting out of judge-mode and into settlement officer mode.

He is rude as part of a right-wing approach to litigation which holds that the king (corporations and the government, as against the little guy and gal) can do no wrong in his courtroom. He is quick to sanction ...' attorneys.

He is a very bright, fair, compassionate jurist.⁶⁾

The Axanar Case

Though federal district court [Judge R. Gary Klausner](#) oversees the [Axanar copyright infringement case](#), Eick was the magistrate to which the court assigned these pre-trial duties:

- [Oversight of formal settlement](#) proceedings between the defendants, Axanar and producer [Alec Peters](#), and the plaintiffs, CBS and [Paramount Pictures](#).
- The [protective order](#) Eick granted regarding the treatment of confidential information requested by all parties during [discovery](#).
- The hearing on the defense [motion to compel](#) CBS and Paramount to produce documents Axanar's attorney stated were essential to proving their [fair use](#) case. The studios' attorneys maintain the records are either privileged, non-existent or irrelevant. Eick will recommend to Klausner whether to grant the motion.

Other Copyright Cases

Eick has considered other copyright cases, most recently a 2014 case involving a James Bond knockoff, a 2013 case in which the frontman for the rock band Lights Over Paris was charged with fraud, and threw out a lawsuit brought by a former production assistant for director Oliver Stone who alleged the Walt Disney Co. and ABC had stolen ideas from her screenplay for the show *Ugly Betty*.⁷⁾

Keywords

[lawsuit, defense, defendants, plaintiffs, players, plaintiffs](#)

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[Judge Charles F. Eick, U.S. District Court, Central District of California](#), retrieved 10/3/16.

²⁾ ⁵⁾

[United States magistrate judge](#), retrieved 10/3/16.

³⁾

[Questions and Answers about Magistrate Judges, U.S. District Court, Utah](#), retrieved 10/3/16.

⁴⁾

[28 U.S.C. § 636 \(b\)\(1\)\(A\) and \(B\)](#)

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[Rating: Hon. Charles F. Eick, The Robing Room](#), retrieved 10/3/16.

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[Law 360 summary of Magistrate Judge Charles F. Eick](#), retrieved 5/3/16.

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