

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

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED LOCAL RULE CHANGE
AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT**

Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 1.1(b) and Local Criminal Rule 1.1, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia is publishing for comment a proposed change to one Local Rule.

The proposed rule change, which is set forth below, will be adopted and become effective unless modified or withdrawn by the Court after receiving comments from organized bar associations, members of the bar and public. Such comments must be made in writing with 45 days of the publication of this Notice and should be address to Kevin M. Hodges, Esq., Chairman, Advisory Committee on Local Rules, Williams & Connolly LLP, 725 Twelfth St., N.W. Washington, DC 20005.

Angela D. Caesar, Clerk

[New language is underlined, old language stricken]

LCvR 73.1

REFERRAL OF CIVIL CASES TO MAGISTRATE JUDGES FOR ALL PURPOSES

(a) CONSENT TO ASSIGNMENT.

By consent of all parties, a magistrate judge may conduct any and all proceedings in a civil case, including trials (with or without a jury), and may thereafter order entry of judgment, in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 636(c).

(b) PROCEDURE FOR CONSENT.

The Clerk shall notify the parties in writing of their voluntary right to consent to assignment of a civil case to a magistrate judge as soon as practicable after the action is filed. If all the parties consent to such an assignment, a notice of consent signed by the parties or their attorneys shall be filed with the Clerk and docketed. The assigned district judge may then issue an order directing reassignment of the case to a magistrate judge.

A The notice of consent should be filed prior to entry of a pretrial order under LCvR 16.5 of these Rules. Thereafter, either the district judge or the magistrate judge may again advise the parties of the availability of the magistrate judge, but in so doing, shall also advise the parties that they are free to withhold consent without adverse substantive consequences.

(c) **APPEAL TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS.**

An appeal from a judgment of a magistrate judge, entered in proceedings under this Rule, shall be taken to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, in the same manner as an appeal from any other judgment of the district court in a civil case.

~~COMMENT TO LCvR 73.1: The Rule has been amended to make clear that if all parties consent to the assignment to a magistrate judge, then the district judge need not formally approve that decision.~~