

Four Named Magistrates

The four U.S. Commissioners for Connecticut's three U.S. District Courts will be promoted to become the state's first U.S. Magistrates.

In announcing the system change, Chief U.S. District Judge William H. Timbers said the new magistrates would still perform their old duties, but now would take on trials of misdemeanors, pre-trial conferences and such other duties which may be assigned to them by the federal judges.

The only full-time magistrate among the four former commissioners will be Arthur J. Latimer of New Haven who is appointed to an eight-year term.

The three part-time magistrates for four year terms are Thomas F. Parker at Hartford, George A. Saden at Bridgeport and Leo M. Gwiazdowski at New London.

In the past, the prime functions of the commissioners has been to arraign federal prisoners upon their arrest and to preside at pre-trial hearings on the probable cause that a defendant has committed a crime. They also approve or disapprove search and arrest warrants based on information supplied by federal investigation agencies.

The recent appointments, made by the four federal judges in the state, will be effective Jan. 25 at 12:01 a.m. The four magistrates will be sworn in at 10 a.m. Monday in the second floor courtroom of New Haven's federal courthouse.

The giving of new duties to magistrates corresponds with a recent campaign by Judge Timbers to reduce what he termed last August as "an extraordinary and unprecedented backlog of criminal and civil cases" in the federal court system.

In the fall, Judge Timbers called into the state two federal judges from New York and Vermont to help reduce the heavy case load.

In addition, U.S. Atty. Stewart H. Jones announced recently that the Justice Department has authorized four more assistant U.S. attorneys and five clerical workers for the state's federal district.

The new full-time magistrate, Latimer, has served in the New Haven U.S. Commissioner's post since April 1969. Latimer, 40, resides in Bethany.

Parker, 35, practices law in Hartford and has served as a commissioner here since 1965. Saden, 60, has been a commissioner in Bridgeport since 1960; while Gwiazdowski, 52, has served as a commissioner in Norwich since 1961.