

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA
3100 U.S. COURTHOUSE
700 GRANT STREET
PITTSBURGH, PA 15219
www.pawd.uscourts.gov

ROBERT V. BARTH, JR.
CLERK OF COURT
412-208-7500

IN REPLYING, GIVE NUMBER
OF CASE AND NAMES OF PARTIES

June 8, 2011

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Chief Judge Gary L. Lancaster is pleased to announce that the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts has selected the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania to participate in the Patent Pilot Program. This ten-year Program is designed to enhance expertise in patent cases and to study the differences in reversal rates and disposition times between patent and non-patent judges. Thirteen other District Courts throughout the country will participate in the Program.

The statute establishing the Patent Pilot Program was enacted on January 4, 2011, as Public Law 111-349. Under the statute, District Court Judges on each participating court who have requested to preside over patent cases will be so designated by the Chief Judge. It is intended that these designated patent judges will hear the majority of the patent cases filed in those District Courts that are participating in the Program. The Chief Judge of each participating court, in cooperation with the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts and the Director of the Federal Judicial Center, will report to Congress on a periodic basis during the ten-year Program with respect to whether the Program has succeeded in developing expertise and improved efficiencies in patent cases, and whether a court's inclusion in the Program has affected the number of patent cases filed in that court.

The Program will commence this summer. The Western District has had its Local Patent Rules in place since April 1, 2005, which made the court eligible to participate in the Program.

This is a prestigious appointment that will enhance the Western District's reputation throughout the country and will solidify Western Pennsylvania as a burgeoning hub for the technology and medical industries. The Court's participation is expected to be a boon to the local economy generally, and to the local bar in particular.