

William I. Garfinkel

William I. Garfinkel has been serving as a United States Magistrate Judge in Bridgeport, Connecticut, since 1996. He is a native of Charleston, South Carolina, and received his B.A. degree from Yale College, *summa cum laude* and with departmental honors in History, in 1977. Judge Garfinkel pursued graduate studies in American and British History at Yale before attending Yale Law School. After graduation, he clerked for a federal judge and then served as an Assistant District Attorney in New York County. Before joining the federal bench, he taught law full-time for four years and then practiced civil litigation in Connecticut. Judge Garfinkel received an award from the Black Law Students Association of the University of Bridgeport School of Law for his encouragement and mentoring of minority law students; and since he has become a judge he has received awards from the American Board of Trial Advocates, the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association, and Community Mediation, Inc. He is a member of the editorial board of the Federal Courts Law Review and a frequent presenter at continuing legal education programs. Judge Garfinkel has created and taught college seminars at Yale entitled “Crime and Criminal Justice in America” and “Child, Family, and State.” Judge Garfinkel has been an active Yale alumnus. In addition to serving as an Associate Fellow of Berkeley College, he has been a member of the Executive Committee of the Yale Law School Alumni Association and has been serving for many years on the Alumni Schools Committee of the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. In 2006, Judge Garfinkel was appointed to the Connecticut Humanities Council. His main areas of interest include law and neuroscience, bioethics, evolutionary psychology, law and literature, children’s issues, criminal justice, constitutional history, and alternative dispute resolution. He is a member of the Society for the Evolutionary Analysis of Law. Judge Garfinkel holds a black belt in Tang Soo Do and is an avid fan of the New York Mets, New York Yankees, the University of Georgia football team, and the University of Connecticut women’s basketball team. He is married to a school social worker, and they have two sons.