

Hon. James M. Hopkins
United States Magistrate Judge
Southern District of Florida

United States Magistrate Judge James M. Hopkins was appointed to the bench in the Southern District of Florida in 2003. He has lectured internationally to judges' associations, academia, and bar associations on various topics, including conflicts of interest, social media for judges and lawyers, international comparative law, intellectual property, judicial independence, judicial efficiency, pre-trial discovery, the First Amendment, and federal practice pointers. Prior to assuming the bench Judge Hopkins was an Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of Florida and a Special Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of New York. He specialized in fraud and public corruption cases. He convicted a Palm Beach County jeweler and his lawyer/money launderer in a \$90 million scheme to defraud Jack Nicklaus, Greg Norman and others and launder the proceeds through the Isle of Man, England, Luxembourg, France, the Bahamas and South America. He was responsible for the freezing of \$20 million in Paris, the first time the French authorities froze and repatriated fraud proceeds at the request of the United States. He also successfully prosecuted a long-time Broward County Democratic Chairman and Presidential appointee to the Fannie Mae board, as well as the lawyer that served as the middle man for his bribes.

Earlier in his career Judge Hopkins was Inspector General of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, an Assistant Commissioner in charge of twelve Inspector General Offices, and a New York State Special Assistant Attorney General prosecuting police and judicial corruption. Judge Hopkins has a bachelor's degree in Mathematics from Fordham University, where he was a computer programmer in the early 1970s.