

28 U.S.C. § 636. Jurisdiction, powers, and temporary assignment

....

(b)

(1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary--

....

(B) a judge may also designate a magistrate judge to conduct hearings, including evidentiary hearings, and to submit to a judge of the court proposed findings of fact and recommendations for the disposition, by a judge of the court, of any motion excepted in subparagraph (A), of applications for posttrial relief made by individuals convicted of criminal offenses and of prisoner petitions challenging conditions of confinement.

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