Judge Wes Reber Porter began his career as a Trial Counsel for the Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps in the United States Navy stationed at Pearl Harbor. He then worked as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Hawaii handling civil matters filed against the United States. Judge Porter next served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Hawaii, a Senior Trial Attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice's Criminal Division, Fraud Section, in Washington D.C., and an enforcement attorney at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in its San Francisco Regional Office.

Before his appointment, Judge Porter also served in academia, as a tenured law professor and the Director of the Litigation Center, at Golden Gate University School of Law in San Francisco and as a visiting professor at the Richardson School of Law. He remains active in education and the community. Judge Porter was selected as a Magistrate Judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii in May 2019.