

**FILED**

**MAR 11 2016**

Clerk, U S District Court  
District Of Montana  
Missoula

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA

In Re: APPOINTMENT OF A  
MERIT SELECTION PANEL  
FOR UNITED STATES  
MAGISTRATE JUDGE

ORDER

Pursuant to Vol. 3, Ch.4, § 420.30 of the *Guide to Judiciary Policy* (the "*Guide*"), IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that a merit selection panel (the "panel") shall be convened to assist the Court in the selection of a candidate to fill the full-time United States magistrate judge position in the Billings Division. The following provisions shall apply to the work of the panel:

1. **Membership:** The following individuals are appointed to the panel:

Hon. Jim Regnier  
P.O. Box 636  
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Rep. Margaret MacDonald  
4111 June Dr.  
Billings, MT 59106-1565

Anthony R. Gallagher, Federal Defender  
104 2nd St. South, Suite 301  
P.O. Box 3547  
Great Falls, MT 59403-3547

Carey Matovich  
2812 First Avenue North  
P.O. Box 1098  
Billings, MT 59103-1098

Michael W. Cotter, United States Attorney  
901 Front Street, Suite 1100  
Helena, MT 59626

Kathleen L. DeSoto  
350 Ryman Street  
P.O. Box 7909  
Missoula, MT 59807

Domenic Cossi  
303 W. Mendenhall St., #1  
Bozeman, MT 59715

Anthony Johnstone  
32 Campus Dr #6552  
Missoula, MT 59812

Steve Corning  
2280 Grant Rd., #A  
Billings, MT 59102

Pat Smith  
1733 McClure Road  
Arlee, MT 59821

Hon. Jim Regnier shall serve as chair of the panel and shall schedule and preside over all meetings of the panel.

**2. Procedure:** Decisions of the panel must be by a majority vote of all the members. The panel shall review all applications and may, in its discretion, personally interview applicants. The panel must make an affirmative effort to identify and give due consideration to all qualified applicants without regard to race, color, age (40 and over), gender, religion, national origin, or disability. The panel shall determine, from among the applicants, the five individuals most qualified to serve as a United States magistrate judge. The panel shall submit to the court a report identifying the five most qualified applicants, and shall attach to the report all written information received or prepared by the panel concerning the recommended applicants. The court may accept a list containing fewer than five names for good cause shown by the panel in its report.

**3. Scheduling:** The panel is advised that a public notice advertising the vacancy and soliciting applications has been issued, and that applications must be received by the clerk of court no later than April 8, 2016. The clerk of court shall deliver to each panel member a full set of applications and any related materials on or before April 20, 2016. In accordance with Vol. 3, Ch. 4, § 420.30 of the *Guide*, the panel shall issue its report to the court no later than June 9, 2016, unless the chair requests and receives an extension from the chief judge of the court.

**4. Travel:** Federal law states that panel members who are required to travel for meetings are allowed travel or transportation expenses (mileage, accommodations, etc.) and subsistence while in travel status. The rates of reimbursement are the same as those provided to federal employees.

**5. Administrative Support:** The clerk of court shall assist the chair in the panel's business by performing such administrative tasks as are necessary, including but not limited to: compiling and disseminating materials to panel members; scheduling and making all necessary arrangements for telephonic conferences and/or meetings; scheduling applicant interviews, as needed; assisting in the preparation of the panel's report, as needed; requesting travel authorizations from the Administrative Office of the United States Courts for any travel by panel members; and processing reasonable claims for reimbursement.

**6. Confidentiality:** All information made available to the members of the panel in the performance of their duties, including the names of applicants and the identities of individuals recommended by the panel, must be kept in strict confidence by the panel and the court, provided, however, that applicants may, upon request, waive the confidentiality requirements to allow the court or the panel to publicize the applicants' names in order to solicit comments from the bar and the public. No colleagues or references for any applicant shall be contacted by the panel members for purposes of discussing an applicant's candidacy without a prior written release from the applicant in question. The chair shall direct the members of the panel concerning the disposal or retention of information subject to the confidentiality requirement.

The clerk of court shall deliver a copy of this Order to each panel member, and shall attach the following documents:

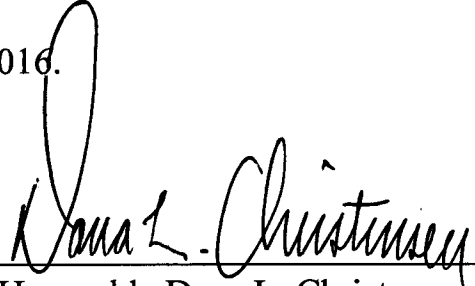
Public notice advertising the position;

Volume 3, Chapter 4 of the *Guide* on selection and appointment of magistrate judges; and

Chapters 7 through 10 of the Administrative Office publication *The Selection, Appointment, and Reappointment of United States Magistrate Judges* (March 2010).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the clerk of court shall distribute this order to all of the judicial officers of this district, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, and the office of the circuit executive of the Ninth Circuit, and publish this order on the court's public website.

Dated this 11th day of March, 2016.

  
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Honorable Dana L. Christensen  
Chief United States District Judge