



PUBLIC NOTICE FOR APPOINTMENT OF NEW MAGISTRATE JUDGE

The Judicial Conference of the United States has authorized the appointment of a full-time United States magistrate judge sitting in the Great Falls Division of the District of Montana. It is expected that the appointment will take effect on January 6, 2027.

The duties of the position are demanding and wide-ranging and include (1) conduct of most preliminary proceedings in criminal cases; (2) trial and disposition of misdemeanor cases; (3) conduct of various pretrial matters and evidentiary proceedings on delegation from a district judge, including settlement conferences; and (4) trial and disposition of civil cases upon consent of the litigants. The basic authority of a United States magistrate judge is specified in 28 U.S.C. § 636.

To be qualified for appointment an applicant must

- (1) be, and have been for at least five years, a member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of a state, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Territory of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Virgin Islands of the United States and have been engaged in the active practice of law for a period of at least five years (with some substitutes authorized);
- (2) be competent to perform all the duties of the office; be of good moral character; be committed to equal justice under the law; be patient and courteous; and be capable of deliberation and decisiveness;
- (3) be less than 70 years old; and
- (4) not be related to a judge of the district court.

A merit selection panel composed of attorneys and other members of the community will review all applicants and recommend to the district judges in confidence the five persons it considers best qualified. The court will make the appointment following an FBI full-field investigation and an IRS tax compliance check of the applicant selected by the court for appointment. The individual selected must comply with the financial disclosure requirements pursuant to the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, Pub. L. No. 95-521, 92 Stat. 1824 (1978) (as amended) (codified at 5 U.S.C. §§ 13101-13111) as implemented by the Judicial Conference of the United States.

The courts provide fair and impartial justice within the jurisdiction conferred by the Constitution and Congress. Public trust and confidence are enhanced when the judiciary's workforce is highly competent and dedicated to the cause of justice. The judiciary can and should strive to recruit and retain the best and the brightest from all backgrounds and life experiences.

The current annual salary of the position is \$229,908. The term of office is eight years.

For more information on the magistrate judge position, contact Clerk of Court Tyler P. Gilman at (406) 542-7261, tyler_gilman@mtd.uscourts.gov, or at the address listed below.

Application forms are available online at www.mtd.uscourts.gov. Applications must be submitted by the applicant (not by another person on the applicant's behalf) and **must be received by April 6, 2026**. Applicants shall submit an original and ten copies of the application. Completed applications must be submitted to the panel at the following address:

Merit Selection Panel
c/o Tyler P. Gilman, Clerk
United States District Court
Russell Smith Courthouse
201 East Broadway
Missoula, MT 59801

All applications will be kept confidential, unless the applicant consents to disclosure, and will be examined only by members of the merit selection panel and the judges of the district court. The panel's deliberations will remain confidential.