

Public Notice for Appointment of New Magistrate Judge

The Judicial Conference of the United States has authorized the appointment of two full-time United States magistrate judge positions for the Eastern District of Virginia at Norfolk.

The duties of the position include the following: (1) conduct most preliminary proceedings in criminal cases; (2) trial and disposition of misdemeanor cases; (3) conduct various pretrial matters and evidentiary proceedings on delegation from the judges of the district court; (4) trial and disposition of civil cases upon consent of the litigants; and (5) review of Social Security Administration disability determinations. The basic jurisdiction of the 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;
- (3) Be competent to perform all the duties of the office, of good moral character, emotionally stable and mature, committed to equal justice under the law, in good health, patient, courteous, and capable of deliberation and decisiveness;
- (4) Be less than 70 years old; and
- (5) 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 six persons it considers best qualified for two full-time positions. 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 current annual salary of the position is \$229,908. The term of office is eight years.

Application forms and/or information on the magistrate judge position may be obtained from Patrice Thompson, Operations Manager, United States District Court, 600 Granby St., Norfolk, VA 23510. Application forms are also available on the internet website at www.vaed.uscourts.gov.

Applications must be submitted in a clearly marked sealed envelope, addressed to the attention of the **Operations Manager, Patrice Thompson, USMJ Application Form**, and submitted only by applicants personally. **All applications must be received by May 8, 2026.**

All applications will be kept confidential, unless the applicant consents to disclosure, and all applications 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.