

PUBLIC NOTICE

APPOINTMENT OF UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS WICHITA FALLS DIVISION

The United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas is seeking qualified applicants for a full-time magistrate judge position at Wichita Falls. This position serves both the Wichita Falls and Fort Worth divisions. The essential function of courts is to dispense justice. An important component of this function is the creation and maintenance of diversity in the court system. A community's belief that a court dispenses justice is heightened when the court reflects the community's racial, ethnic, and gender diversity.

The duties of the position are demanding and wide-ranging such as: (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; 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 or 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, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, or Virgin Islands of the United States and have 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 emotionally stable and mature; be committed to equal justice under the law; be in good health; be patient and courteous; and be capable of deliberation and decisiveness;
- (3) Be less than 70 years old;
- (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 applications and recommend to the judges of the district court, in confidence, the five applicants the panel considers best qualified. The court will make the appointment, following an FBI full-field investigation and an IRS tax check of the applicant selected 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, 90 Stat. 1824 (1978)(codified at 5 U.S.C. app. 4 §§ 101-111) as implemented by the Judicial Conference of the United States. An affirmative effort will be made to give due consideration to all qualified applicants without regard to race, color, age, gender, religion, national origin, or disability. The appointment is for an eight-year term at an annual salary of \$185,012.

To apply, complete the required application form. The form may be obtained from the district clerk's office or downloaded from the court's Internet website at www.txnd.uscourts.gov. Submit the original application form, along with 10 unbound copies, in an envelope marked "Confidential" to:

Karen Mitchell
Clerk of Court
United States District Court
Northern District of Texas
1100 Commerce St., Room 1452
Dallas, Texas 75242

Staple the original application and copies in the upper left-hand corner. Only submit the materials requested in the application form (e.g., do not submit a resume, furnish more than the names of six references, or submit reference letters or letters of commendation). Only applications that comply with all instructions will be considered. **Applications must be received by November 18, 2015.**

Applications will be kept confidential, unless an 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.

Notice Date: September 18, 2015