

PRESS RELEASE



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA

To: Bluefield Daily Telegraph
The Register-Herald (Beckley)
The Charleston Daily Mail
The Charleston Gazette
The Herald Dispatch (Huntington)
The Logan Banner
Parkersburg News and Sentinel
Point Pleasant Register
The State Journal
The West Virginia Record

From: Teresa L. Deppner, Clerk

Date: June 26, 2015

Content: Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Panel Named

A Merit Selection Panel has been established by unanimous vote of the district judges of the Southern District of West Virginia to consider the appointment of a new federal Magistrate Judge at Bluefield. The panel's objective will be to determine collectively which individuals among the applicants meet the standards and appear qualified for appointment. The report of the panel, due to Chief Judge Robert C. Chambers by August 31, 2015, will recommend the five individuals most qualified and suited to the particular needs of the Southern District of West Virginia court. The court will make the appointment following an FBI full-field investigation and an IRS tax check of the applicant selected by the court for appointment.

The members of the panel include: Thomas E. McHugh, Chair; William B. Flanigan, Esquire; James J. Palmer, III, Esquire; Deborah K. Garton, Esquire; William R. Wooton, Esquire; William D. Turner, Esquire; and non-attorney members, Susan Landis of the Beckley Area Foundation, and Craig Hammond of the Bluefield Union Mission.

Interested applicants may obtain application forms on the magistrate judge position from Teresa L. Deppner, Clerk of the United States District Court, at Charleston, West Virginia, or access the court's Internet website at www.wvsd.uscourts.gov. Applications must be received by July 22, 2015. **Applicants are advised not to contact Merit Selection Panel members.**