

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA

HUNTINGTON DIVISION



IN RE: **STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES FOR THE APPOINTMENT
OF A FULL-TIME MAGISTRATE JUDGE AT HUNTINGTON**

GENERAL ORDER

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 631 and the Regulations of the Judicial Conference of the United States Establishing Standards and Procedures for the Appointment and Reappointment of United States Magistrate Judges, it is hereby **ORDERED** that a Merit Selection Panel be established to consider the appointment of a new Magistrate Judge for the Southern District of West Virginia, at Huntington, West Virginia, to a full eight-year term. Upon a vote of the district judges of this court, it is further **ORDERED** that the following seven persons shall constitute the Merit Selection Panel of this court:

Sharon Frazier, Esq., Chairman
Huntington, WV

Mark H. Hayes, Esq.
Charleston, WV

Rich Weston, Esq.
Huntington, WV

Michelle Roman Fox, Esq.
Hurricane, WV

Robert H. "Bo" Sweeney, Jr., Esq.
Huntington, WV

Scott Anderson (Non-Attorney Member)
Huntington, WV

Kevin Craig (Non-Attorney Member)
Huntington, WV

It is further **ORDERED** that Sharon Frazier be designated as Chair of the Panel. The Chair shall set the time, place, and manner of meetings, preside at all meetings, and propose the rules and procedures to be adopted for its review of the incumbent. Members of the Panel have been notified in writing that Judicial Conference regulations preclude any member of the Panel from applying for a magistrate judge position within one year of serving on the Panel.

Members of the Panel are hereby notified to review each of the applications received for the office of Magistrate Judge to ensure that all applicants are qualified. Failure to meet the statutory and regulatory requirements will result in an automatic rejection of an applicant. Following the initial screening of applications, the Merit Selection Panel, in its discretion, may choose to conduct personal interviews of some or all of the qualified applicants. When evaluating the applicants, the Merit Selection Panel shall consider each applicant's academic record and related achievements in law school, how long the applicant has practiced law and the type of legal practice, the applicant's familiarity with the federal court system, and any other pertinent evidence as to the applicant's good character, judgment, legal ability, temperament, and commitment to equal justice under the law.

After all written information has been obtained, all interviews have been completed, and all follow-up information has been gathered, members of the Merit Selection Panel shall determine collectively which individuals among the applicants meet all the standards and appear qualified for appointment as a United States Magistrate Judge. Following these discussions, the Merit Selection Panel shall designate the names of five applicants that it finds most qualified to serve as a United States Magistrate Judge. Decisions by the Panel shall be by a majority vote of all the members.

The Merit Selection Panel must submit its report to Chief Judge Thomas E. Johnston on or before February 23, 2024. The report of the Panel shall specify the total number of individuals who applied for the position and the names of the five persons it has determined to be the most qualified. All written information received or prepared by the Panel concerning the recommended applicants must accompany the Panel's report to the Court. Panel members shall keep confidential all information, written and oral, obtained while performing their duties.

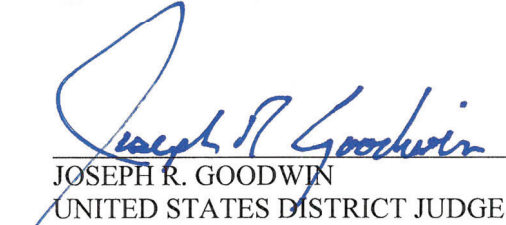
The court will make the appointment following an FBI full-field investigation and an IRS tax check of the applicant selected by the court for appointment. An affirmative effort will be made to give due consideration to all qualified applicants without regard to race, color, age (40 and over), gender, religion, national origin, or disability.

In compliance with the Judicial Conference Regulations, the court hereby **ORDERS** that the required public notice of this appointment may include, but not be limited to, general local newspapers at Huntington and Charleston, postings on the court's website or The West Virginia State Bar's website, notices in The West Virginia State Bar weekly Bar Blast, notices from the Cabell County, Putnam County, Mason


County, and Wayne County Bar Associations, and notices from The Mountain State Bar Association.

ENTERED this 10th day of January, 2024.



THOMAS E. JOHNSTON, CHIEF JUDGE

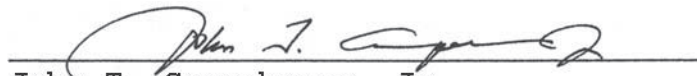

JOSEPH R. GOODWIN
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

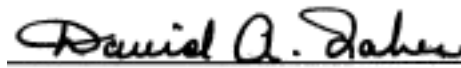

ROBERT C. CHAMBERS
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE


IRENE C. BERGER
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA




Frank W. Volk
United States District Judge


John T. Copenhaver, Jr.
Senior United States District Judge


David A. Faber
Senior United States District Judge