

**THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA**

**NOTICE FOR APPOINTMENT OF
NEW UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

The Judicial Conference of the United States has authorized the appointment of a full-time United States magistrate judge for the Northern District of Alabama in Birmingham, Alabama. 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 dispense 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. The basic authority of a United States magistrate judge is specified in 28 U.S.C. § 636. The duties of a magistrate judge in the Northern District of Alabama include the following:

- (1) the trial and disposition of virtually all categories of civil actions with consent of the parties in accord with 28 U.S.C. § 636(c);
- (2) the trial and disposition of misdemeanor cases;
- (3) pursuant to the court's General Orders of Reference, presiding over all aspects of civil cases, through the entry of a recommendation for final disposition under 28 U.S.C. § 636(b);
- (4) ruling on various pretrial matters and holding evidentiary proceedings on references from the district court judges made in addition to the general orders, including discovery issues and other non-dispositive motions;
- (5) conducting settlement conference or mediation in civil actions by reference;
- (6) perform such other duties as set out in LR 72.1 through 73.2, Rules of the Northern District of Alabama and the court's General Orders of Reference;
- (7) conducting preliminary proceedings in felony criminal cases, including initial appearances, bond/detention hearings, and arraignments;
- (8) issuing warrants of arrest, search warrants and warrants in administrative actions;
- (9) ruling on all non-dispositive motions in felony criminal cases or entering findings and recommendations with respect to dispositive criminal motions such as motions to dismiss or to suppress evidence; and
- (10) conducting preliminary reviews and making recommendations regarding the disposition of prisoner civil rights complaints and habeas corpus petitions. Conducting such evidentiary proceedings as may be required in prisoner and habeas corpus actions.

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 seventy years old; and
- (4) Not be related to a judge of the district court.
- (5) Be available to travel regularly to all divisional offices within the Northern District of Alabama.

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 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) (codified at 5 U.S.C. app. §§ 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 (40 and over), gender, religion, national origin, or disability. The current annual salary of the position is \$201,112. The term of office is eight years.

The application form is available on the court's website at <http://www.alnd.uscourts.gov>. The applications should be mailed to:

Sharon Harris
Clerk of Court
Northern District of Alabama
1729 Fifth Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35203.

Applications must be submitted only by applicants personally and **must be received by March 19, 2021**.

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.