

Position Description – United States Magistrate Judge – Tacoma, Washington

The United States District Court, Western District of Washington announces the retirement of the Honorable J. Kelley Arnold from his position as full-time United States Magistrate Judge in **Tacoma, Washington**, effective March 3, 2009. Applications are now being accepted for the position being vacated.

The duties of the position are demanding and wide-ranging and will include: (1) the trial and disposition of civil cases upon consent of the litigants; (2) conduct of preliminary proceedings in felony cases; (3) trial and disposition at the Federal Courthouse in Tacoma of petty and misdemeanor cases arising from outlying government facilities such as Fort Lewis, Bangor Naval Submarine Base, Mt. Rainier National park, Olympic National Park, and Bremerton Naval Shipyard; (4) trial and disposition of other federal misdemeanor cases; (5) assisting District Judges in disposition of prisoner petitions and Social Security appeals; (6) conducting various pretrial matters and evidentiary proceedings on reference from the Judges of the District Court; (7) conducting settlement conferences. The basis of 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, or the Virgin Islands of the United States, and have been engaged in the active practice of law for a period of at least 5 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 seventy years old; and
- (4) Not be related to an active 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 Judges of the District Court in confidence the five persons whom it considers best qualified. The court will make the appointment, following an FBI full-field investigation and IRS tax check of the appointee. An affirmative effort will be made to give due consideration to all qualified candidates, including women and members of minority groups. The salary of the position is \$155,756 per annum. The term of office is eight years.

Application forms and further information on the Magistrate Judge position may be obtained from the Clerk of the District Court (or via the court's web site at www.wawd.uscourts.gov).

Bruce Rifkin, District Court Executive
United States District Court
700 Stewart Street
Seattle, Washington 98101

Joe Whiteley, Deputy in Charge
United States Court House – Union Station
1717 Pacific Avenue
Tacoma, Washington 98402

Applications must be submitted only by potential nominees and must be received no later than October 31, 2008.

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.