

PUBLIC NOTICE

REGARDING VACANCY OF POSITION OF PART-TIME UNITED STATES
MAGISTRATE JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT
BELLINGHAM

August 7, 2015

The United States District Court, Western District of Washington, announces the vacancy of the position of Part-Time Magistrate Judge for the Western District of Washington at Bellingham. The person selected will replace the incumbent, who is retiring. The new Magistrate Judge will enter duty on May 1, 2016, or as soon thereafter as possible. Applications are now being accepted for the position.

Duties

The jurisdiction of the Part-Time Magistrate Judge is specified in 28 U.S.C. § 636(a). The specific duties of this part-time Magistrate Judge position include the following:

1. Trial and disposition of petty and misdemeanor cases, as well as traffic offenses and violations of national park regulations, arising from Whidbey Island Naval Air Station, the North Cascades National Park, as well as other federal lands and enclaves in Northwest Washington. The calendar is currently conducted in Bellingham, Washington on a monthly basis.
2. Being available to federal law enforcement officers for exigent matters such as reviewing and issuing search warrants and arrest warrants, as needed.
3. Serving as back-up to the District's full-time Magistrate Judges for reasonable lengths of time on request, usually one or two days per month to cover the District's criminal calendar in Seattle and during seminars and conferences.

Qualifications

To be qualified for appointment, an applicant must:

1. Be a member in good standing for at least five years of the bar of a 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 (some substitute experience is authorized by regulation);

2. Be competent to perform all the duties of a United States Magistrate Judge, be of good moral character, be emotionally stable and mature, be committed to equal justice under law, be in good health, be patient and courteous, and be capable of deliberation and decisiveness;
3. Be less than seventy years old at the time of initial appointment;
4. Not be related to an active judge of the District Court;
5. Possess such other qualifications for the position as may be established by the District Court.

General Expectations

The part-time Magistrate Judge is expected to be available to the Court and to law enforcement officers on a reasonable basis, notwithstanding that such availability may interrupt other activities. The part-time Magistrate Judge is expected to stay abreast of legal, procedural, and administrative developments related to the performance of judicial duties.

The person serving in this position may practice law, and may appear as counsel in any case in state court, and in any civil case in this Court other than a case in which the person has been involved in connection with his or her official duties. However, he or she may not appear in any criminal case in any court of the United States.

Selection Procedure

A Merit Selection Panel will review all applications and recommend to the Judges of the District Court, in confidence, a list of the applicants the Panel finds to be 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 term of office is four years. The salary is for a Level 5 (approximately one-sixth time) position, current set at \$26,881.

Application forms and further information may be obtained from the District Court Executive/Clerk of the Court, William McCool, via the Court's website at www.wawd.uscourts.gov. Applications must be received no later than 5 pm on September 23, 2015.

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.