

**FILED  
CHARLOTTE, NC**

FEB 12 2018

**US District Court  
Western District of NC****United States District Court  
Western District of North Carolina****3:18- MC - 020**

IN RE: Appointment of a :  
Merit Selection Panel to :  
Fill the position of :  
U.S Magistrate Judge : **ORDER**  
In the Asheville :  
Division :

This matter is before the court on its own motion to designate individuals to serve as a Merit Selection Panel for the purpose of considering applicants for the position of full time United States Magistrate Judge for the United States District Court, Western District of North Carolina.

Pursuant to Title 28, Section 631(b) (5) a Magistrate Judge is appointed pursuant to standards and procedures promulgated by the Judicial Council of the United States. These Judicial Conference standards and procedures, and the mandatory rules governing the appointment process are contained in the booklet "*Selection, Appointment, and Reappointment of United States Magistrate Judges*" published by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, revised October of 2016. These standards and procedures provide for the establishment by the district court of a Merit Selection Panel (Panel) to assist the district judges in their selection of a magistrate judge. The Panel is composed of 18 members, including four lay persons.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the following persons are appointed to the Merit Selection Panel for the United States District Court, Western District of North Carolina to assist this court with selecting a United States Magistrate Judge for the United States District Court of the Western District of North Carolina.


Merit Selection Panel members are hereby advised that to be considered for a future magistrate judge position with this court, one year must have elapsed between the application deadline for the announced position and the date the Panel submits its report to the court regarding the present position. This provision of this Order satisfies the requirement that Panel members be advised in writing of this restriction on future vacancies.

The Merit Selection Panel shall be chaired by Sean P. Devereux who shall work with the other members of the Panel to establish rules of procedure for the panel to follow in accordance with Judicial Conference guidelines and to assure that all confidentiality requirements are met.


IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Panel shall conclude its work and submit to the Honorable Frank D. Whitney, Chief U.S. District Court Judge the names of five applicants that it finds most qualified to serve as a United States magistrate judge. THE PANEL SHALL RANK THE CANDIDATES and shall submit said five names to the Chief Judge no later than ***Friday, May 25, 2018***.


The Clerk of Court is directed to send to each member of the Panel a copy of this Order and a copy of the booklet "*The Selection, Appointment, and Reappointment of United States Magistrate Judges*" as revised October 2016, and other materials which may be of assistance to the Panel. The Clerk shall also send a copy of this Order to the Magistrates Division of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts and the Circuit Executive of the Fourth Circuit.

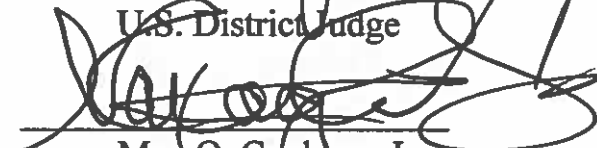
SO ORDERED THIS 12<sup>th</sup> DAY February, 2018.

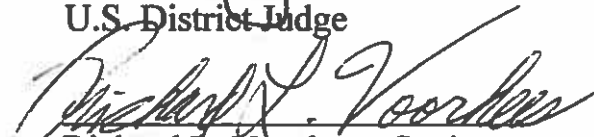
  
Frank D. Whitney, Chief  
U.S. District Judge

  
Martin Reidinger  
U.S. District Judge

  
Graham C. Mullen, Senior  
U.S. District Judge

  
Robert J. Conrad, Jr.,  
U.S. District Judge

  
Max O. Cogburn, Jr.  
U.S. District Judge

  
Richard L. Voorhees, Senior  
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**Members of Merit Selection Panel  
For the Consideration of the Appointment of  
A U.S. Magistrate Judge in the Asheville Division**

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