

Public Notice

The current terms of the office of United States Magistrate Judges ROBERT B. COLLINGS and MARIANNE B. BOWLER will expire on March 14, 2006 and May 6, 2006, respectively. As required by law, the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts has appointed a panel of citizens to advise the court concerning the reappointment of the magistrate judges to a new eight-year term.

The duties of a magistrate judge include, in criminal cases, the conduct of most preliminary proceedings, as well as trials and dispositions of misdemeanor offenses. In civil cases, the duties encompass managing various pretrial matters, presiding over evidentiary proceedings on delegation from the district judges, and conducting trials upon the consent of the litigants.

In aid of its review and evaluation of the incumbent's performance in office, the panel will consider comments from members of the bar and the public and any other evidence of their character, ability, fairness, and commitment to equal justice. It will report its recommendations to the court.

Comments from members of the bar and the public concerning the incumbent's qualifications for reappointment are invited and must be received by January 6, 2006. They should be marked "confidential" and directed to:

Sarah Allison Thornton
Clerk of Court
Att: USMJ
United States District Court
1 Courthouse Way
Boston, MA 02210