

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR APPOINTMENT OF NEW MAGISTRATE JUDGE

The Judicial Conference of the United States has authorized the appointment of a full-time United States Magistrate Judge for the District of Massachusetts, serving in the Central Division, with a duty station in the United States Courthouse in Worcester, MA, commencing upon the retirement of Magistrate Judge David H. Hennessy in 2027.

The duties of the position are demanding and wide-ranging, including, but not limited to: (1) conduct of most preliminary proceedings in criminal cases; (2) trial and disposition of misdemeanor cases; (3) conduct of various pretrial matters and evidentiary proceedings on delegation from a District Judge; (4) trial and disposition of civil cases upon consent of the litigants; and (5) conduct mediation proceedings under the Court's alternative dispute resolution plan. The basic authority of a United States Magistrate Judge is specified in 28 U.S.C. § 636. A summary of [Magistrate Judge duties](#) are maintained on www.uscourts.gov.

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 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 a 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 district judges in confidence the five persons it considers best qualified. A list of the members of the panel constituted by the Court is set forth in the attached Order.

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 (CY2025) of the position is \$227,608. The term of office is eight years.

Application forms and more information on the magistrate judge position in this Court may be obtained from the court's website at:

www.mad.uscourts.gov/human-resources/emp-home.htm

All application documents must be uploaded as separate PDF files to the [U.S. Magistrate Judge Application site](#) by 5:00 pm on December 1, 2026 to be considered.

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 Court. The panel's deliberations will remain confidential.

September 10, 2026

Robert M. Farrell
Clerk of Court

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS**

Order

After consideration by this court of Section 3.02 of the “Regulations of the Judicial Conference of the United States Establishing Standards and Procedures for the Appointment and Reappointment of United States Magistrate Judges,” it is hereby ORDERED that the following persons are appointed members of the Merit Selection Panel, effective September 9, 2026.

Joan Vorster, Esq., Chair
Benjamin Rudolf, Esq.
Elizabeth Morse, Esq.
Geoff Spofford, Esq.
Ken Pickering, Esq.
Maura Tansley, Esq.
Oscar Cruz, Esq.
Dustin Chao, Esq.
Jared Fiore, Esq.
Rachelle Lee
Robert Alba

The Panel will, in accordance with the above regulations, report to the court by **February 2, 2027**, its recommendations regarding the appointment of a new Magistrate Judge.

Dated: September 10, 2026

/s/ Patti B. Saris

For the Court, Patti B. Saris
United States District Judge