

**General Order 21-03**

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

**GENERAL ORDER APPOINTING MAGISTRATE JUDGE MERIT SELECTION PANEL**

The current term of office for United States Magistrate Judge K. Nicole Mitchell is due to expire on August 15, 2021. The judges of this court have voted to consider reappointing Judge Mitchell. Accordingly, in conformance with 28 U.S.C. § 631, it is **ORDERED** that the following persons are hereby appointed to serve on a Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Panel:

Jennifer Parker Ainsworth (Chair)	One American Center 909 ESE Loop 323, Suite 400, Tyler, Texas 75701	<a href="mailto:jainsworth@wilsonlawfirm.com">jainsworth@wilsonlawfirm.com</a>
Trey Yarbrough	100 E. Ferguson St., Suite 1015, Tyler, Texas 75702	<a href="mailto:trey@yw-lawfirm.com">trey@yw-lawfirm.com</a>
David Iglesias	605 Chase Dr., Suite 8, Tyler, Texas 75701	<a href="mailto:david@iglesiaslawfirm.com">david@iglesiaslawfirm.com</a>
Glenn Thames	110 North College, 500 Plaza Tower, Tyler, Texas 75702	<a href="mailto:glennthames@potterminton.com">glennthames@potterminton.com</a>
Lucas Machicek	110 N College Ave, Suite 700, Tyler, Texas 75702	<a href="mailto:lucas.machicek@usdoj.gov">lucas.machicek@usdoj.gov</a>
Patrick Woods	305 S Broadway Ave, Suite 200 Tyler, Texas 75702	<a href="mailto:pwoods@pbfcm.com">pwoods@pbfcm.com</a>
Dr. Michael Tidwell*	3900 University Blvd. Tyler, Texas 75799	<a href="mailto:mtidwell@uttyler.edu">mtidwell@uttyler.edu</a>
Denise Hawk*	P.O. Box 7248 Tyler, TX 75711	

Jennifer Gaston\* 3805 Timms St., Suite #500,  
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\*: Public (non-lawyer) Members

The above-mentioned panel shall review the incumbent judge's current service as magistrate judge, the comments from members of the bar and public, and other evidence of the incumbent's good character, legal ability, temperament, and commitment to equal justice under the law. The panel shall report to the court within ninety (90) calendar days of the date of this order as to whether the incumbent is recommended for reappointment.

Additionally, the Clerk of Court is directed to cause to be published public notices regarding the reappointment of Magistrate Judge K. Nicole Mitchell. The notices shall be published in conformance with the procedures specified in Chapter 13 of *The Selection, Appointment and Reappointment of United States Magistrate Judges* (Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, October 2016).

Effective on September 13, 2016, the Judicial Conference of the United States adopted amendments to the regulations governing the selection, appointment, and reappointment of magistrate judges. One of the amendments creates an obligation on the part of the court to notify merit selection panel members in writing of the restriction in § 420.30.20(d) as it applies to them, which essentially restricts panel members from applying for any magistrate judge position within this district until one year has elapsed since the panel member has served on the panel. This provision is located in the regulations at § 420.30.10(c). The Clerk of Court is directed to immediately cause all panel members to be advised in writing of the restrictions set forth in § 420.30.20(d).

**FOR THE COURT:**

**So ORDERED and SIGNED this 27<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021.**

  
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RODNEY GILSTRAP  
Chief Judge