

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

GENERAL ORDER APPOINTING MAGISTRATE JUDGE MERIT SELECTION PANEL

United States Magistrate Judge Caroline M. Craven has given notice of her intent to retire from active service as of May 25, 2022. Accordingly, this General Order is entered to establish a Merit Selection Panel to assist the district judges of this Court in the selection and appointment of a new United States Magistrate Judge to replace Judge Craven upon her retirement, and any other matter the judges may assign to the panel. This General Order is rendered pursuant to the Federal Magistrate Judges Act of 1979, as amended at 28 U.S.C. § 631-639.

Therefore, it is **ORDERED** that the following persons are hereby appointed to serve as members of said Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Panel:

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(Members designated by * are public/non-lawyer members)

The Panel shall report to the Court the result of its activities and specify the five (5) applicants, as finalists, which the Panel has determined to be the best qualified not later than seventy-five (75) days after the date of this General Order, unless otherwise directed by the Court.

Additionally, the Clerk of Court has published public notices regarding the appointment of a new magistrate judge. The notices were published in conformance with the procedures specified in conformance with the procedures specified in Chapter 4 of *The Selection, Appointment and Reappointment of United States Magistrate Judges* (Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, October 2016).

It should be noted that effective September 13, 2016, the Judicial Conference of the U.S. Courts adopted amendments to the regulations governing the selection, appointment, and reappointment of magistrate judges. One of the amendments creates a new 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 magistrate judge positions until one year has elapsed since the panel member served on the panel. This provision is found at § 420.30.10(c). Pursuant to notice from the Clerk of Court and this order, all panel members have been advised in writing of the restriction set forth in § 420.30.20(d).

FOR THE COURT:

So ORDERED and SIGNED this 8th day of October, 2021.



RODNEY GILSTRAP
Chief Judge