

JAN 13 2025

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS

Ronald E. Dowling, Clerk of Court  
By  Deputy Clerk

IN RE: APPOINTMENT OF MERIT SELECTION PANEL

GENERAL ORDER NO. 2025-01

The Judicial Conference Committee on the administration of the Magistrate Judges System has approved the filling of the magistrate judge position that will become vacant upon the retirement of Judge Barry A. Bryant effective September 30, 2025. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 631(b)(5) and Volume 3 § 420.30.10 of the Guide to Judiciary Policy, the following individuals, all residents of the Western District of Arkansas, are hereby appointed as members of the Merit Selection Panel to assist the court in identifying and recommending persons who are best qualified to fill the position:

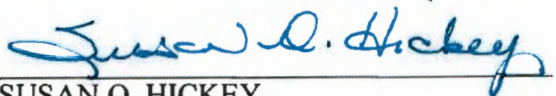
Brian Ratcliff (Chairperson)	John Pickett
Travis Morrissey	John Moore
Katie Dow	Ricky Roberts (non-lawyer)
Carol Nesbit (non-lawyer)	

In accordance with Judiciary Policy, each member of the panel has received written notification of the restrictions imposed by Volume 3 § 420.30.20(d) on being considered for a magistrate judge position.

The chairperson shall call meetings of the panel as necessary to review all applications. At its discretion, the panel may personally interview applicants. The panel must determine those individuals who meet the standards for appointment as a U.S. magistrate judge, and must designate those individuals whom the panel considers best qualified.

Within ninety (90) days of this order, the panel must report to the court the results of its activities and specify the five (5) applicants it has determined are best qualified. The report should have attached to it all written information received and prepared by the panel concerning the recommended applicants. The report must also indicate whether any of the recommended applicants were former merit selection panel members who have been granted a waiver under Volume 3 § 420.30.20(d).

**IT IS SO ORDERED**, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2025.

  
SUSAN O. HICKEY  
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE