

Court Information Release



United States District Court
Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division
219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604

Release Date:
March 6, 2012

Contact: Ted Newman
(312) 435-5359 (phone)
ted_newman@ilnd.uscourts.gov

U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE MERIT SELECTION PANEL NAMED

CHICAGO – Chief Judge James F. Holderman announced that the judges of the District Court unanimously appointed the members of the Court’s 2012 Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Panel to assist in identifying qualified candidates to replace two magistrate judges who are retiring this fall. By statute, the Panel must include at least two non-lawyers and cannot include any sitting judge. The Panel held its first meeting on March 2, 2012.

Earlier this year, Magistrate Judge Morton Denlow and Magistrate Judge Nan Nolan each announced that they plan to retire on October 1, 2012. The Judicial Conference of the United States and the Seventh Circuit Judicial Council have approved the replacement of the two retiring judges.

Ms. Aurora N. Abella-Austriaco is serving as Chairperson of the well-qualified and diverse Panel. The other members of the Panel are Deputy Chair Ms. Karen McNulty Enright, Mr. K. Stephen Anderson, Ms. Deane B. Brown, Mr. Ruben R. Chapa, Mr. James R. Figliulo, Ms. Halley B. Guren, Mr. Brent A. Hawkins, Ms. Patricia Brown Holmes, Ms. Ruhan Memishi, Mr. John F. Murphy, Mr. Jose Padilla, Mr. Samuel S. Park, Ms. Prabha Parameswaran, Ms. Susan Q. Sedler, and Mr. M. David Weisman. Under the law, the Panel must submit its report by June 4, 2012 and provide a list of at least eight candidates for appointment to the two positions. The final appointees will be chosen by the judges of the District Court.

“Past Merit Selection Panels have done an outstanding job vetting candidates to fill magistrate judge positions,” said Chief Judge Holderman. “Because of the dedicated work of past Panels, we have, in my opinion, the finest magistrate judges in the country.” Half of this year’s Panel members have served on past Panels. Half are new to the process. The Court looks forward to receiving the 2012 Panel’s report in early June, and hopes to select the new U.S. Magistrate Judges in time for them to take the bench on October 1, 2012.