

**FULL-TIME UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
FOR THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The current term of the full-time United States Magistrate Judge, G. R. Smith, whose duty station is Savannah, Georgia, will expire on or about February 7, 2012. The United States District Court is required by law to establish a panel of citizens to consider the reappointment of the magistrate judge to a new eight-year term. The position duties are demanding and wide-ranged and include: conducting preliminary proceedings in criminal cases, trial and disposition of misdemeanor and petty offense cases, conducting various pretrial matters and evidentiary proceedings on delegation from the judges of the district court, and trial and disposition of civil cases upon consent of the litigants.

The basic jurisdiction of the United States Magistrate Judge is specified in Title 28 U.S.C. §631. To qualify for appointment, an applicant must:

1. Be a member in good standing of the bar of the highest court in Georgia for at least five years;
2. Have engaged in the active practice of law for a period of at least five years;
3. Be less than 70 years of age; and
4. Not be related to a judge of the district court.

A Selection Panel composed of citizens of the community has been selected to review the incumbent's performance in office as a magistrate judge and will make recommendations to the judges of the district court concerning the reappointment to an additional term of office. Comments

from members of the bar and the public are invited as to whether the incumbent magistrate judge should be recommended by the Panel for reappointment to the court. These comments should be directed to Scott L. Poff., Clerk, United States District Court, Post Office Box 8286, Savannah, Georgia, 31412. Comments must be received no later than the 30th day of August, 2011.