



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Georgia is accepting applications for a full-time United States Magistrate Judge. The United States Courthouse in Augusta, Georgia, shall be the judge's duty station.

United States Magistrate Judges are esteemed federal jurists who are indispensable to the administration of justice in the District Court. The duties of a United States Magistrate Judge are demanding and wide-ranging. The jurisdiction and powers of a United States Magistrate Judge are set forth at 28 U.S.C. § 636, and the Court entrusts Magistrate Judges with a broad array of responsibilities in criminal and civil cases. The judge's duties will include conducting preliminary and pretrial proceedings in felony criminal cases; the trial and disposition of misdemeanor criminal cases; the trial and disposition of civil cases upon consent of the litigants; and presiding over pretrial matters in complex civil cases including motions, settlement conferences, and discovery disputes.

The minimal requirements for appointment as a United States Magistrate Judge are set forth at 28 U.S.C. § 636. The Magistrate Judge must have the experience, intellect, and temperament to handle the varied tasks incumbent with the position. The judge shall possess the highest integrity and a commitment to administering justice in accordance with the law while treating everyone with courtesy, dignity, and respect.

A Merit Selection Panel, composed of attorneys and other members of the community, will review each application. After interviewing selected applicants, the panel will recommend to the District Judges of the Court, in confidence, applicants whom the panel considers most qualified. The District Judges will review the Merit Selection Panel's recommendations and then interview those applicants whom the District Judges consider most qualified. The District Judges will then select the applicant they determine is best qualified for the position. The Court will consider all qualified applicants without regard to race, color, age, gender, religion, national origin, or disability. The judge's appointment shall be subject to a satisfactory FBI full-field investigation and IRS tax check. The appointee must comply with the financial disclosure requirements of the Ethics in Government Act.

The present annual salary for a United States Magistrate Judge is \$229,908. The term of office is eight years. At the end of the term and any successive terms, the judge may seek reappointment for another term. A United States Magistrate Judge who retires after attaining the age of 65 years and serving at least 14 years, shall receive, during the rest of the judge's lifetime, an annuity equal to the judge's salary at the time the judge left office. Additional information regarding the retirement benefits of a United States Magistrate Judge is available at 28 U.S.C. § 377.

The application form is available in a fillable PDF format on the Court's website at: [SDGA Magistrate Judge Application](#). An applicant must submit a completed application and a recent writing sample to applications@gasd.uscourts.gov by 5:00 p.m. on September 21, 2026. Any letters of recommendation—which are not required—must be submitted along with the application. All application materials must be combined and submitted as a single PDF. All applications will be kept confidential, unless necessary for the Merit Selection Panel and the Court to perform their duties, and all applications will be examined only by the District Judges, the Merit Selection Panel, and necessary members of the Court's staff. The deliberations of the District Judges and the Merit Section Panel will remain confidential.