

PRESS RELEASE

February 27, 2012

Chief United States District Judge Federico A. Moreno announced on Friday that Dave Lee Brannon has been selected by the Court's district judges to be appointed United States Magistrate Judge. He will fill the magistrate judgeship position vacated upon the retirement of United States Magistrate Judge Linnea R. Johnson. His informal swearing in as a Magistrate Judge occurred on February 24th, and he will be assuming his new duties in the West Palm Beach Division as of today.

Judge Brannon earned his undergraduate degree from the United States Coast Guard Academy and his law degree from the University of Miami School of Law. He has served with distinction as an assistant federal public defender for the past twenty-five years and as a supervisory assistant federal public defender since 2005. Prior to that service, he was an assistant legal officer and intelligence officer with the United States Coast Guard.

The announcement of Judge Brannon's selection culminates a broad search process that began last May. During that search, 68 applicants submitted their qualifications to a selection panel appointed by the Court. The selection panel reviewed those submissions and elected to interview 19 candidates in person over a two-day period. Those interviews resulted in the Panel's recommendation of 10 finalists to the Court. Finalists were interviewed by the Court's district judges in November 2011, at which time a preliminary selection was made. Judge Brannon's selection, however, was not announced publicly pending completion of an FBI and IRS background investigation report. This report is standard to the appointment process and usually takes about four months to complete.

The procedures followed by the Court in this process are consistent with those approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States and documented in the Administrative Office of the United States Courts' publication entitled The Selection, Appointment, and Reappointment of United States Magistrate Judges, *Judges Information Series No. 2*.

Please contact Steven M. Larimore, Court Administrator • Clerk of Court, at (305) 523-5001 if you have any questions.

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