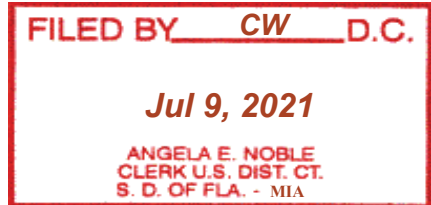


UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2021-67

**IN RE: APPOINTMENT OF FEDERAL  
MAGISTRATE JUDGE MERIT SELECTION PANEL  
REGARDING THE MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
VACANCY IN WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA**

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Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Magistrates Act, 28 U.S.C. section 631(b)(5); the regulations of the Judicial Conference of the United States Establishing Standards and Procedures for the Appointment of United States Magistrate Judges; and by action of the Judges of this Court, the residents of this District listed below are appointed as members of the Federal Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Panel for the vacancy created by the untimely passing of Magistrate Judge Dave Lee Brannon.

The duty of this Panel is to consider and recommend to the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida persons qualified to fill one (1) full-time United States Magistrate Judge position with the duty station in West Palm Beach, Florida.

The members of Federal Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Panel are as follows:

Chair: Scott Atherton, Esq.

Members: Sia Baker-Barnes, Esq.  
Mark Bideau, Esq.  
Rick Gonzalez (non-attorney)  
M. Derek Harris, Esq.  
Evelyn Torres Hopkins, Esq.  
Valentin Rodriguez, Jr., Esq.  
Grasford Smith, Jr., Esq.  
William Shepherd, Esq.  
Mark Tunick (non-attorney)

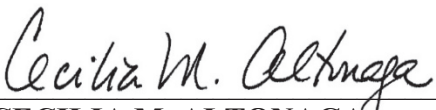
The Panel will receive and examine applications in order to recommend to the Court the names of five (5) applicants whose character, experience, ability, and commitment to equal justice under law fully qualify them to serve as United States Magistrate Judge. Comments in connection with applicants may also be sent to the Panel in care of the Court Administrator at 400 North Miami Avenue, Room 8N09, Miami, Florida 33128, and should be marked "Confidential" or sent via email to [FLSD\\_MagistrateJudgeRecruitment@flsd.uscourts.gov](mailto:FLSD_MagistrateJudgeRecruitment@flsd.uscourts.gov). The Panel will meet in person as necessary, interview applicants, and will make its recommendation of five (5) applicants to the Court by September 27, 2021.

All Panel members have been advised in writing of the restriction set forth in section 420.30.20(d) of the Regulations of the Judicial Conference of the United States Establishing Standards and Procedures for the Appointment and Reappointment of United States Magistrate Judges.

Angela E. Noble, Court Administrator · Clerk of Court, is hereby appointed as staff assistant to render such service as may be required by the Panel in performing its functions.

This Federal Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Panel and the term of each member shall expire on October 31, 2021, unless otherwise extended or modified by order of this Court.

**DONE AND ORDERED** in Chambers at Miami, Florida, this 9th day of July, 2021.

  
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**CECILIA M. ALTONAGA**  
**CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE**

c: The Honorable William H. Pryor, Jr., Chief Judge, Eleventh Circuit  
All Southern District of Florida District Judges, Bankruptcy Judges and Magistrate  
Judges  
Members of the Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Panel  
Mr. William Barto, Chief, Judicial Services Office, Administrative Office of  
the United States Courts  
Ms. Angela E. Noble, Court Administrator · Clerk of Court  
Library