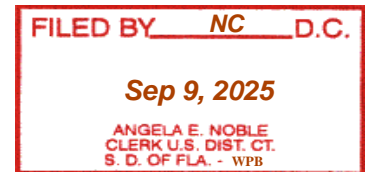


**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2025-66**

**IN RE: APPOINTMENT OF FEDERAL  
MAGISTRATE JUDGE MERIT SELECTION PANEL  
REGARDING THE UPCOMING MAGISTRATE  
JUDGE VACANCY IN MIAMI, 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 upcoming vacancy due to the retirement of Magistrate Judge Alicia O. Valle on January 31, 2026.

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 a duty station in Miami, Florida.

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

Chair: Ryan Ulloa, Esq.

Members: Jodi Avila, Esq.  
Sowmya Bharathi, Esq.  
Fabiana Cohen, Esq.  
Melanie Damian, Esq.  
Samuel Danon, Esq.  
Matthew Dates, Esq.  
Hector Dopico, FPD  
Wifredo Ferrer, Esq.  
Lindsey Lazopoulos Friedman, AUSA  
Sofia Gomez (non-attorney)  
Jonathan Osborne, Esq.  
Mark Pinkert, Esq.  
Laura Rodriguez (non-attorney)  
Evelyn Sheehan, Esq.

The Panel will receive and examine applications 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 a United States Magistrate Judge. Comments in connection

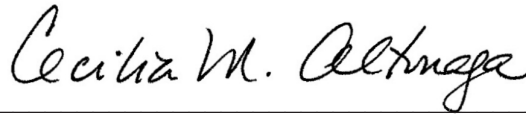
with applicants may also be sent to the Panel in care of the Court Administrator at 400 North Miami Avenue, Room 8N09, Miami, Florida 33128, and should be marked “Confidential” or sent via email to [FLSD\\_MagistrateJudgeRecruitment@flsd.uscourts.gov](mailto:FLSD_MagistrateJudgeRecruitment@flsd.uscourts.gov). The Panel will meet in person as necessary, interview applicants, and make its recommendation of five (5) applicants to the Court by January 5, 2026.

All Panel members have been advised in writing of the restriction set forth in § 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 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 March 27, 2026, unless otherwise extended or modified by court order.

**DONE AND ORDERED** in Miami, Florida, this 9th day of September 2025.



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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  
Mr. Joseph T. Phillips, Chief, Judicial Services Office, Administrative Office of the  
United States Courts  
Angela E. Noble, Court Administrator • Clerk of Court  
Members of the Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Panel  
Library