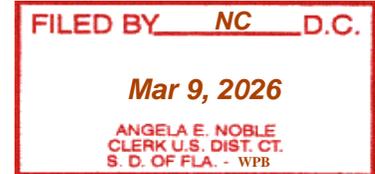


UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2026-17

**IN RE: APPOINTMENT OF FEDERAL
MAGISTRATE JUDGE MERIT SELECTION PANEL
REGARDING THE UPCOMING MAGISTRATE
JUDGE VACANCY IN FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA**



Under 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 William Matthewman on July 31, 2026.

The duty of the 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 Fort Pierce, Florida.

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

Chair: Andrew Loewenstein, Esq.

Members: Peter Birch, AFD
Emily Chase, Esq.
Elizabeth Coke, Esq.
Aurora Fagan, AUSA
Linnes Finney, Esq.
Mariano Garcia, Esq.
George Knox, Esq.
Joanne O'Connor, Esq.
Eric Palmer, Esq.
Valentin Rodriguez, Esq.
Adam Schwartz, Esq.
Derek Simpson (non-attorney)
Elizabeth Stice (non-attorney)
Joseph Van de Bogart, Esq.

The Panel will receive and examine applications to recommend to the Court 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. The Panel will meet in person as necessary, interview applicants, and make its recommendation of five (5) applicants to the Court by April 24, 2026.

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 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 June 5, 2026, unless otherwise extended or modified by order of this Court.

DONE AND ORDERED in Miami, Florida, this 9th day of March, 2026.



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