

United States District Court
Southern District of Florida

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PRESS RELEASE

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Chief United States District Judge Federico A. Moreno announced last week that William Matthewman has been selected by the Court's district judges to be appointed United States Magistrate Judge. He filled the magistrate judgeship position that was vacated upon the retirement of United States Magistrate Judge Ann E. Vitunac. His informal swearing in as a Magistrate Judge occurred on July 2nd, and he assumed his new duties in the West Palm Beach Division at that time.

Judge Matthewman earned his undergraduate degree from Florida International University and his law degree from the University of Florida School of Law. He has served with distinction as a trial attorney in South Florida, in both state and federal courts, for over 28 years.

The announcement of Judge Matthewman's selection culminates a broad search process that began in May 2011. During that search, 68 applicants submitted their qualifications to a selection panel appointed by the Court to fill two positions. 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 Matthewman'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 a number of months to complete. (The other position was filled by Magistrate Judge Dave Lee Brannon.)

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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