Public Notice
Posted: October 9, 2026

Full-Time U.S. Magistrate Judge
United States District Court
Southern District of Texas
Houston, Texas

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas seeks to appoint a full-time magistrate judge to serve in its Houston Division, contingent upon the filling of an existing district judge vacancy. The essential function of courts is to dispense justice. An important component of this function is the creation and maintenance of diversity in the court system. A community's belief that a court dispenses justice is heightened when the court reflects the community's diversity.

The duties of the position are demanding and wide-ranging: (1) conduct most preliminary proceedings in criminal cases; (2) trial and disposition of misdemeanor cases; (3) conduct pretrial matters and evidentiary proceedings on delegation from district judges; and (4) trial and disposition of civil cases on consent of the litigants. The basic jurisdiction of a United States magistrate judge is specified in 28 U.S.C. § 636.

To be qualified for appointment a person must:

(a) Be, and have been for at least five years, a member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of a State, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Territory of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Virgin Islands of the United States.
(b) Have been engaged in the active practice of law for a period of at least five years. The court may consider as substitute experience for the active practice of law the following, including any combination thereof:
    (1) Judge of a state court of record or other state judicial officer.
    (2) United States magistrate judge, bankruptcy judge, or other federal judicial officer.
    (3) Attorney for federal or state agencies.
    (4) Law clerk to any judge or judicial officer (limited to two years).
    (5) Other legal experience which is suitable as a substitute in the opinion of the majority of the court.
(c) Be competent to perform the duties of the office, of good moral character, emotionally stable and mature, committed to equal justice under the law, in good health, patient, courteous, and capable of deliberation and decisiveness when required to act on his or her own reason and judgment.
(d) The duty station for this position is the Bob Casey United States Courthouse in Houston, Texas. The successful candidate must reside in, or relocate to, the geographical boundaries of the Houston Division.
(e) Not be related by blood or marriage to a judge of the appointing court, within the degrees specified in 28 U.S.C. § 458, at the time of the initial appointment.
(f) Not be seventy years of age or older.

A merit selection panel composed of attorneys and other members of the community will review all applicants and recommend to the judges of the district court in confidence the five persons it considers best qualified. The court will make the appointment following an FBI full-field investigation and IRS tax check of the applicant selected by the court for appointment. The individual selected must comply with the financial disclosure requirements pursuant to the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, Pub. L.No. 95-521 Stat. 1824 (1978) (codified at 5 U.S.C. 4 §§ 101-111) as implemented by the Judicial Conference of the United States. An affirmative effort will be made to give due consideration to all qualified applicants without regard to race, color, age (40 and over), gender, religion, national origin or disability. The annual salary is $229,908. The term of office is eight years.

The questionnaire and other information, including how to apply, may be obtained from the court's website at www.txs.uscourts.gov or at the District Clerk's Office in any division of this district.

Materials must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 11, 2026.

Applications will be kept confidential, unless the applicant consents to disclosure, and will be examined only by members of the merit selection panel and judges of the district court. The panel's deliberations are confidential.