

July 29, 2021

Nathan Ochsner, Clerk of Court

By Deputy Clerk 

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
BROWNSVILLE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF  
APPOINTMENT OF  
MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
MERIT SELECTION PANEL

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§

SPECIAL ORDER NO. B-2021-5

ORDER

In connection with the proposed reappointment of United States Magistrate Judge Ignacio Torteya, III for the Southern District of Texas serving in the Brownsville Division, the court hereby appoints a Merit Selection Panel required by § 6.03(b) of the Regulations of the Judicial Conference of the United States establishing procedures for such reappointments.

The Merit Selection Panel will be guided by the standards described in the pamphlet, “The Selection, Appointment, and Reappointment of United States Magistrate Judges,” published in October 2016 by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts. The Clerk of Court will make a copy available to each Panel member.

The Merit Selection Panel consists of the following persons:

Benigno “Trey” Martinez, III, Chair

Rigoberto Flores, Jr.

Korina Barraza

Annette Saenz (non-attorney)

René De Coss

Robert Tyler (non-attorney)

Jaime Diez

The Clerk of Court has made a public announcement that the current term of the office of United States Magistrate Judge Ignacio Torteya, III is due to expire on January 23, 2022. The public was invited to comment on his proposed reappointment by July 23, 2021. The Merit Selection Panel will thereafter submit to this court its recommendation as to whether or not Judge

Torteya should be reappointed to another term as United States Magistrate Judge in the Brownsville Division of the Southern District of Texas. The recommendation shall be filed no later than October 27, 2021. The Merit Selection Panel shall review the incumbent's performance in office as a magistrate judge. It should consider comments received from members of the bar and the public, and any other pertinent evidence as to Judge Torteya's character, judgment, legal ability, temperament, and commitment to equal justice under the law. An interview with Judge Torteya is also generally considered to be useful to the Panel.

All Panel members are advised that the Regulations of the Judicial Conference of the United States Establishing Standards and Procedures for the Appointment and Reappointment of United States Magistrate Judges restrict former merit selection panel members from being considered for a magistrate judge position one year from the application deadline for the position and the earlier of either (1) the date when the panel on which the former member served submitted its report to the court, or (2) the date when the former member resigned from the panel, unless there is a waiver to the restriction by the Judicial Conference Committee on the Administration of the Magistrate Judges System granted on an individual case basis.

Signed July 29, 2021.



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LEE H. ROSENTHAL  
CHIEF JUDGE