

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION

United States District Court
Southern District of Texas
ENTERED

December 2, 2026

Nathan Ochsner, Clerk of Court
By Deputy Clerk 

IN THE MATTER OF
APPOINTMENT OF
MAGISTRATE JUDGE
MERIT SELECTION PANEL

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SPECIAL ORDER NO. H-2025-5

ORDER

In connection with the proposed reappointment of United States Magistrate Judge Peter Bray for the Southern District of Texas serving in the Houston Division, the Court appoints a Merit Selection Panel as 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 will make a copy available to each Panel member.

The Merit Selection Panel consists of the following persons:

Brian Pidcock, Chair	Sam J. Lewis
Catherine Bratic	Annise Parker (non-attorney)
Ryan Hackney	Fred Raschke
Jeffrey S. Howard (non-attorney)	Sergio Sanchez
Jeffrey C. Kubin	Anthony Troiani

Unsolicited contact with the panel members regarding this reappointment is discouraged by the Court.

The Clerk of Court has made a public announcement that Judge Bray's current term of office is due to expire on August 2, 2026. The public was invited to comment on his proposed reappointment by December 1, 2025. The Merit Selection Panel will thereafter submit to this Court its recommendation as to whether Judge Bray should be reappointed to another term as United States Magistrate Judge in the Houston Division of the Southern District of Texas. The recommendation shall be filed no later than February 2, 2026. 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 Bray's character, judgment, legal ability, temperament, and commitment to equal justice under the law. An interview with the Southern District of Texas Magistrate Judge Committee and Judge Bray 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 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 December 2, 2025.



RANDY CRANE
CHIEF JUDGE