

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR APPOINTMENT OF NEW MAGISTRATE JUDGE

The Judicial Conference of the United States has authorized the appointment of a full-time United States magistrate judge for the District Court of the Virgin Islands, Division of St. Croix. The current United States magistrate judge is retiring on March 5, 2004. The United States District Court is required by law to establish a panel of citizens to consider the appointment of a new Magistrate Judge to an eight (8) years term.

The duties of a Magistrate Judge position includes the following: (1) conduct most preliminary proceedings in criminal cases; (2) trial and disposition of misdemeanor cases; (3) conduct of various pretrial matters and evidentiary proceedings on delegation from the judges of the District Court; and (4) trial disposition of civil cases upon consent of litigants. The basic jurisdiction of the United States magistrate judge is specified in 28 U.S.C. § 636.

To be qualified for appointment an applicant must:

1. 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, or the Virgin Islands of the United States, and have been engaged in the active practice of law for a period of at least five (5) years (with some substitutes authorized);
2. Be competent to perform all duties of the office; be of good moral character; be emotionally stable and mature; be committed to equal justice under the law; be in good health; be patient and courteous; and be capable of deliberation and decisiveness;
3. Be less than seventy years old; and
4. Not be related to a judge of the District Court.

A Merit Selection Panel composed of attorneys and other members of the community will review all new applicants and recommend to the judges of the District Court in confidence the five persons it considers the best qualified. The court will make appointment, following an FBI full-field investigation and an IRS tax check of the appointee. An affirmative effort will be made to give due consideration to all qualified candidates, including women and members of minority groups. The current annual salary of the position is \$142,324.00. The term of office is eight (8) years.

Interested persons may contact the clerk of the District Court of the Virgin Islands, Almeric L. Christian Federal Building and Courthouse, 3013 Golden Rock, Christiansted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands 00820-4355 for copy of the application form or visit our website at www.vid.uscourts.gov to download copy of the application form.

Applications must be submitted only by potential nominees personally in a sealed envelope to the attention of: Clerk of Court / re: Magistrate Position, and **must be received by the close of business of October 31, 2003.**

All applications will be kept confidential, unless the applicant consents to disclosure, and all applications will be examined only by members of the Merit Selection Panel and the judges of the District Court. The panel's deliberation will remain confidential.