

## **NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY**

### **PART-TIME UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE POSITION FARMINGTON, NEW MEXICO**

#### **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO**

The Judicial Conference of the United States has authorized the appointment of a Part-time United States Magistrate Judge for the District of New Mexico at Farmington, New Mexico. The essential function of a federal district court is to timely and appropriately adjudicate cases or controversies properly before the court. 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 racial, ethnic, and gender diversity. To that end, this notice is being disseminated to the widest audience possible, and all qualified candidates are encouraged to apply.

The duties of the position of magistrate judge are demanding and wide-ranging: (1) presiding over preliminary proceedings in criminal cases such as initial presentments, detention and bail hearings, preliminary proceedings, receiving reports of grand juries and arraignments; (2) trial and disposition of misdemeanor cases; (3) presiding over various pretrial matters and evidentiary proceedings on delegation from a district judge; (4) taking of felony pleas; and (5) trial and disposition of civil cases upon consent of the litigants. The basic authority of a 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, the Territory of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Virgin Islands of the United States;
2. Have been engaged in the active practice of law for a period of at least five years (with some substitutes authorized);
3. Be competent to perform all the 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;
4. Be less than 70 years old; and
5. Not be related to a judge of the district court.

In addition, civil mediation is an important requirement of the job so prior mediation experience is preferred. Part-time magistrate judges may practice law, but they may not serve as counsel in any criminal action in any federal court. The successful applicant must comply with the conflict of interest rules for part-time magistrate judges.

A merit selection panel composed of attorneys and other members of the public from across New Mexico will review all applications and recommend to the district judges in confidence the five persons the merit selection panel considers the most qualified. The district judges will interview the five finalists and make the appointment following an FBI full-field investigation and an IRS tax check of the applicant selected 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, 92 Stat. 1824 (1978) (as amended) (codified at 5 U.S.C. app. §§ 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.

### **Compensation and Benefits**

- The current annual salary is \$45,522, commensurate with the annual caseload for this part-time position (20% of a full-time magistrate judge). The term of office is four years.
- Part-time magistrate judges are entitled to federal employee health benefits and are eligible for retirement benefits under the Federal Employees' Retirement System after five years of service.
- Part-time magistrate judges may also be reimbursed, at rates not exceeding those prescribed by regulations, for expenses incurred for clerical or secretarial assistance, telephone, and other expenses necessary for the proper performance of the duties of a part-time magistrate judge.

The U.S. Magistrate Judge Application form is available on the court's website at [www.nmd.uscourts.gov/employment](http://www.nmd.uscourts.gov/employment) or by calling (575) 528-1439. Application materials must be submitted by email **in one PDF** to [usmjnewmexico@nmd.uscourts.gov](mailto:usmjnewmexico@nmd.uscourts.gov) no later than **July 7, 2025**. PDF size is limited to 10 MB. ZIP files, paper copies and faxes will not be accepted. Applications may only be submitted by applicants on their own behalf (i.e., the nomination of another person will not be accepted).

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 district judges of the United States District Court. The panel's deliberations will remain confidential.