



United States District Court
for the District of Puerto Rico

Public Notice

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 of Puerto Rico.

The duties of the position are demanding and wide-ranging, and include: (1) conduct of 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 and disposition of civil cases upon consent of the litigants. The basic authority 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, the Territory of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, 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 years, with some substitutes authorized; See Chapter 3, The Selection Appointment, and Reappointment of United States Magistrate Judges, March 2010 edition (available in the announcement posted in the District Court's web-site).
- (2) 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;
- (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 or other members of the community will review all applications and make a confidential recommendation to the judges of the District Court of the six applicants it considers best qualified. The Court will make the appointment, following an FBI full-field investigation and an IRS tax check of the applicant. An affirmative effort will be made to give due consideration to all qualified candidates, including women and members of minority groups and individuals with disabilities who can perform the essential functions of the position. The current annual salary of the position is \$160,080. The term of office is eight years.

Application forms and more information on the Magistrate Judge position may be obtained from the Clerk of the District Court: Frances Ríos de Morán, Room 150 Federico Degetau Federal Bldg., 150 Carlos Chardón Street, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-1767. A printable application form will be posted at the Employment Section of the District Court's internet web-site at: www.prd.uscourts.gov. Applications (original and seven copies) must be submitted by applicants personally and **must be received by February 22, 2011.**

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 deliberations will remain confidential.

Frances Ríos de Morán, Esq.
Clerk of Court