UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC NOTICE FOR THE
APPOINTMENT OF MAGISTRATE JUDGE
Rapid City, South Dakota

The Judicial Conference of the United States has authorized the appointment of a full-time United States Magistrate Judge for the District of South Dakota at **Rapid City, South Dakota**. The essential function of courts is to dispense justice. 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.

The duties of the position are demanding and wide-ranging and will include: (1) presiding over most preliminary proceedings in criminal cases; (2) trial and disposition of misdemeanor and petty offense cases; (3) presiding over various civil and criminal 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 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, of good moral character, emotionally stable and mature, committed to equal justice under the law, in good health, patient, courteous, and be capable of deliberation and decisiveness;

(4) Be less than seventy years old; and

(5) 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 applicants and recommend to the district judges in confidence the five persons it considers best qualified. The Court will make the appointment following an FBI full-field investigation and an IRS tax check of the applicant selected by the court 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. §§ 101111) 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. The current annual salary of the position is **$229,908.** The term of office is eight years.

Application forms are available on the District of South Dakota's website at **www.sdd.uscourts.gov**. Applications can also be obtained from the Clerk of the District Court at our staffed offices in Rapid City, Pierre, and Sioux Falls. **Applications and a recent in-depth writing sample must be submitted electronically to mjapplications@sdd.uscourts.gov by 5:000 p.m. (MST) on Friday, December 11, 2026.**

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.

THE DISTRICT COURT IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Application form

U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE – RAPID CITY, SD

Please answer all questions. If a question is not applicable, indicate this by marking "N/A." Attach additional pages if necessary. Return completed form and a writing sample to the Clerk of Court as indicated at the end of this application.

General

1. Full name: _____

2. All other names by which you have been known: _____

3. Office address: _____
   City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
   Telephone: _____

4. Residential address: _____
   City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
   Telephone: _____

5. Place of birth: _____ Date of birth: _____

6. Length of residence in state: _____

7. If you are a naturalized citizen, state the date and place of naturalization: _____

8. Military service:
   Branch: _____ Dates: _____
   Rank or Rate at Discharge: _____ Type of Discharge: _____
   If still a Reserve or National Guard member, give service, branch, unit, and present rank: _____

9. Are you related by blood or marriage to any judges of this court? ☐ Yes ☐ No
   If yes, give name(s) and relationship:
   _____

Health

10. What is the present state of your health?

11. Do you have any mental or physical impairment that would affect your ability to perform the duties of a magistrate judge with or without reasonable accommodation?

Education

12. Colleges and universities attended, dates, and degrees:

13. Continuing legal education courses completed within the last 5 years:

Honors

14. Were you a member of law review or any other law school publication? ☐ Yes ☐ No
If yes, describe your role:

15. If you have published any legal books or articles, list them, giving citations and dates.

16. List any honors, prizes, or awards you have received.

PROFESSIONAL ADMISSIONS

17. List all courts (including state bar admissions) and administrative bodies having special admission requirements in which you are presently admitted to practice, giving the dates of admission in each case:

Court or Administrative Body	Date of Admission

LAW PRACTICE

18. State the names, addresses, and dates of employment for all law firms with which you have been associated in practice, all government agencies, and all private business organizations in which you have been employed. Also provide all dates during which you have practiced as a sole practitioner.

Organization	Address	Position	Dates

19. Describe the general nature of your current practice including any legal specialties and character of your typical clients. Also, if your practice is substantially different now than previously, give details of prior practice.

20. a) Do you appear regularly in court? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b) What percentage of your appearances in the last five years were in:

Federal courts	_____%
State or local courts of record	_____%
Administrative bodies	_____%
Other:	_____%
	_____%
	_____%
	_____%

21. During the past five years, what percentage of your practice has been trial practice? _____%

22. How frequently have you appeared in court? _____times per month.

23. How frequently have you appeared at administrative hearings? _____times per month.

24. What percentage of your practice involving litigation has been:

Civil	_____%
Criminal	_____%
Other:	_____%
	_____%
	_____%
	_____%

25. State the number of cases you have tried to conclusion in courts of record during the past five years, indicating whether you were sole, associate, or chief counsel. Give citations of any reported cases.

26. Summarize your courtroom experience for the past five years (civil or criminal title and judge assigned; subject matter; particular matter litigated; your role).

27. State the names, phone numbers and addresses of adversary counsel against whom you have litigated your primary cases over the past five years.

28. Summarize any experience you have conducting settlement conferences and/or serving as an arbitrator or mediator.

PUBLIC OFFICE

29. Have you ever run for, or held, public office? ☐ Yes ☐ No
If yes, give details.

PRIOR JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE

30. a) Have you ever held judicial office or been a candidate for judicial office? ☐ Yes ☐ No
If so, state the courts involved and the dates of service or dates of candidacy.

b) If you have held judicial office, state the names, email addresses, phone numbers and addresses of counsel who have appeared before you who would be knowledgeable of your work, temperament, and abilities.

c) Prior quasi-judicial service:

Name of agency: _____

Position held: _____

Hearings on what types of issues: _____

Number of cases adjudicated: _____

Dates of service: _____

BUSINESS INVOLVEMENT

31. a) If you are now an officer, director, or otherwise engaged in the management of any business enterprise, state the name of such enterprise, the nature of the business, the nature of your duties, and whether you intend to resign such position immediately upon your appointment to judicial office.

b) Since being admitted to the bar, have you ever engaged in any occupation, business, or profession other than the practice of law?
☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, give the details, including dates.

c) During the past five years have you received any fees or compensation of any kind, other than for legal services rendered, from any business enterprise, institution, organization, or association of any kind? ☐Yes ☐No

If yes, identify the source of such compensation, the nature of the business enterprise, institution, organization or association involved, and the dates such compensation was paid.

32. a) Have you ever been arrested, charged, or convicted for violation of any federal law, state law, county or municipal law, regulation, or ordinance? ☐Yes ☐ No

If yes, give details. (Do not include traffic violations for which a fine of $200 or less was imposed unless it also included a jail sentence.)

b) Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, give particulars.

33. a) Have you ever been sued? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, give particulars.

b) Have you or your professional liability insurance carrier ever settled a claim against you for professional malpractice?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, give particulars, including the amounts involved.

34. Have you ever been charged in any civil or criminal proceedings with conduct alleged to involve moral turpitude, dishonesty, or unethical conduct? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, give particulars.

35. Have you ever been investigated, disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by any court, administrative agency, bar association, or other professional group? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, give particulars.

36. Have you ever been the subject of a contempt proceeding? ☐ Yes ☐ No
If yes, explain.

37. Have you filed appropriate tax returns as required by federal, state, local, and other government authorities? ☐ Yes ☐ No
If no, explain.

38. Have any liens or claims ever been instituted against you by the federal, state, or local authorities? ☐ Yes ☐ No
If yes, explain.

PROFESSIONAL AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

39. a) List all bar associations and legal professional societies of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any office you have held in such groups, and committees to which you belonged.

b) List all organizations and clubs, other than bar associations and professional societies identified in response to Question No. 39.a), of which you have been a member during the past five years, including the titles and dates of any offices you have held in each such organization.

c) Have you ever served on a merit selection panel to consider the appointment or reappointment of a United States magistrate judge in this district? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please provide date(s) or appointment(s).

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

40. State any achievements or actions you have accomplished, demonstrating your commitment to equal justice under the law.

41. State any additional education or other experiences you believe would assist you in holding judicial office.

42. State any other pertinent information reflecting positively or adversely on you, which you believe should be disclosed to the district court and the selection panel in connection with your possible selection as United States magistrate judge.

43. List three individuals as references who are familiar with your abilities.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

b) List three individuals as references who are familiar with your personal character.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT

This form will be kept confidential and will be examined only by members of the merit selection panel and the judges of the district court. The individuals whom you have listed as references and adversaries above may be contacted by the panel unless you specifically request in the application that we not contact them. No other employers, colleagues, or other individuals will be contacted without your prior approval.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

_____ _____

Signature of Applicant Date

Submit applications and a writing sample to

Applications and a recent in-depth writing sample must be submitted electronically to mjapplications@sdd.uscourts.gov by 5:000 p.m. (MST) on Friday, December 11, 2026 .