

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

CLERKS OFFICE US DISTRICT COURT  
AT ROANOKE, VA  
FILED

March 02, 2026

LAURA A. AUSTIN, CLERK  
BY: /s/ Tallulah Costa  
DEPUTY CLERK

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF  
AN ADVISORY PANEL OF CITIZENS TO ASSIST  
THE COURT IN ITS DETERMINATION AS TO  
THE APPOINTMENT OF A MAGISTRATE JUDGE

The Judicial Conference of the United States has authorized the appointment of a full-time United States Magistrate Judge to fill the vacancy in the Western District of Virginia at Abingdon. The court, therefore, in accordance with the Federal Magistrates Act and the regulations of the Judicial Conference, hereby appoints the following advisory panel of citizens (“Merit Selection Panel”) to assist the judges in their determination as to the vacancy in the Western District.

Dwayne Anderson	Mayor, City of Abingdon
Charles L. Bledsoe	Attorney
Anthony Giorno	Retired, Assistant U.S. Attorney
Larry B. Kirksey	Retired Virginia Circuit Court Judge
Elizabeth A. McClanahan	Former Justice, Supreme Court of Virginia
Donald R. Pender	Assistant Federal Public Defender
Benjamin J. Rottenborn	Attorney
Lollie Shipp	Retired Federal Probation Officer
Alexis I. Tahinci	Attorney (resides in Tennessee, but substantial community contacts with Virginia and licensed to practice in Virginia)

The Chairperson of this panel is Benjamin J. Rottenborn, who shall perform such duties as the court may assign.

Merit Selection Panel members have been notified in writing that they are restricted from being considered for a magistrate judge position for one year following their service on the Merit Selection Panel.

ENTER this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2026.

*/s/ Elizabeth K. Dillon*  
Elizabeth K. Dillon  
Chief United States District Judge