

United States District Court District of Kansas

Magistrate Judge Position (September 21, 2018)



Overview

1. Magistrate Judge Duties
2. Salary and Benefits
3. Selection/Reappointment Process
4. Additional Information



Magistrate Judge Duties

- Felony Preliminary & Pretrial Proceedings
- Civil Pretrial
 - Motions
 - Scheduling, Status and Pretrial Conferences
 - Settlement/Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Civil Consent Cases
- Misdemeanor/Petty Offense Cases
- Prisoner Litigation (limited pretrial management)
- Social Security Appeals
- Court Governance



Magistrate Judge Duties

- Any Questions?

Salary & Benefits

Salary

- Salary set by statute (28 U.S.C. § 634) and Judicial Conference Policy
- Current Salary is \$191,360
- Cost of Living Adjustments
- Outside earned income limitations governed by Title V of the Ethics Reform Act of 1989:
 - 28 U.S.C. App. §§ 501-505



Salary & Benefits

Benefits

- Federal Employee Health Benefits Program (FEHB)
- Federal Employee Vision and Dental Program (FEDVIP)
- Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Program (FEGLI)
- Judicial Survivors' Annuities System (JSAS)
- Thrift Savings Plan (TSP)
 - tax deferred retirement savings plan
- Disability Insurance
- Flexible Benefits Program



Salary & Benefits

Retirement Benefits

- Magistrate Judges are covered by one or more of the following retirement plans:
 1. Federal Employees' Retirement System (FERS)
 2. Judicial Retirement System (JRS)



Salary & Benefits

FERS

- FERS employees contribute 4.4% of base pay
- At least 5 years of civilian service to receive retirement benefits
- May contribute to the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP)
- Most magistrate judges elect to switch to JRS at least 30 days prior to leaving office due to increased benefits

Salary & Benefits

Judicial Retirement System (JRS)

- Minimum age to receive annuity is age 65
- Must elect JRS at least 30 days prior to leaving office
- Cost to participate is 1% of salary
- Participation voids all rights to annuities under CSRS or FERS (contributions made to CSRS & FERS are refunded)
- TSP matching funds must be repaid to the government
- Example #1
 - Full-time MJ who retires at age 65 with at least 14 years of service will receive an annuity equal to the salary of a full-time MJ (\$191,360).
- Example #2
 - Full-time MJ who retires with 8 years of service at age 65 will receive an annual annuity of approximately \$109,349.



Salary & Benefits

- Any Questions?



Selection/Reappointment Process

Selection

- Vacancy Announcement
- Merit Selection Panel
 - Minimum of five (5) attorneys and two (2) non-attorneys
 - Review applications and conduct interviews
 - Recommend five (5) most qualified applicants to the Court
- District Court
 - Selects final applicant
 - FBI & IRS background check takes 10-12 weeks



Selection/Reappointment Process

Minimum Qualifications

1. Five (5) years as a member in good standing of a bar
2. Active practice of law for at least five (5) years (with some substitutions authorized).
3. Be competent to perform all the duties of the office.
4. Must be under the age of 70 at the time of initial appointment.
5. Must not be related by blood or marriage to a judge of the appointing district court “within the degree of first cousin.”



Selection/Reappointment Process

Reappointment Process

- Eight (8) year terms
- Majority Vote of the District Court to Pursue Reappointment
- Public Notice of Reappointment and Invitation for Public Comment
- Merit Selection Panel
 - Reviews Public Comments
 - Makes Report and Recommendation to the Court
- After consideration of the Panel's report, the Court decides whether to reappoint the incumbent by majority vote



Selection/Reappointment Process

- Any Questions?



Additional Information

- The District of Kansas court website contains:
 - Current Vacancy Announcement
 - Application Forms
 - Code of Conduct for United States Judges
 - Handbook called Selection, Appointment & Reappointment of United States Magistrate Judges.
- www.ksd.uscourts.gov/magistrate