

PUBLIC NOTICE

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

The United States District Court will receive applications for the position of full-time United States Magistrate Judge for the District of South Carolina at Columbia, South Carolina, until **Friday, April 17, 2026**. The duty station for this position will be in Columbia, and the selected applicant will be required to reside in the Columbia division. The annual salary of a United States Magistrate Judge is \$229,908. The term of office is eight (8) years.

The duties of the position are demanding and wide-ranging and will include the following:

- (1) Conducting most preliminary proceedings in criminal cases;
- (2) Trying and disposing of misdemeanor cases;
- (3) Conducting various pretrial matters and evidentiary proceedings on delegation from the judges of the district court; and
- (4) Trying and disposing of civil cases upon consent of the litigants.

This position requires extensive research and writing. 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 (5) 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 (5) years (with some substitutes authorized);
- (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 (70) years old; and
- (4) Not be related by blood or marriage 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 compliance 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. §§ 13101-13111) as implemented by the Judicial Conference of the United States. Every 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 application form ([link](#)) and further information on the magistrate judge's position may be obtained from the court's website at www.scd.uscourts.gov or from the Clerk of the District Court at 803.765.5789. Applications must be submitted only by the applicant. Application packets must include a cover letter and signed application form submitted as a **single PDF file** via email to the Clerk of Court at mj_application@scd.uscourts.gov and reference **Columbia Magistrate Judge** in the subject line. Application packets must be received **by 4:30 p.m. Friday, April 17, 2026**.

All applications will be kept confidential, unless the applicant consents to disclosure, and 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.

Robin L. Blume, Clerk of Court
United States District Court
District of South Carolina

March 17, 2026