

April 27 2022

Clerk, U.S. District Court  
District of Montana  
Missoula Division

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA

In Re: APPOINTMENT OF A  
MERIT SELECTION PANEL FOR  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE  
JUDGE

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 22-8

Pursuant to Vol. 3, Ch. 4, §§ 420.30 and 420.60.30(b) of the *Guide to Judiciary Policy* (the “*Guide*”), IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that a merit selection panel (the “panel”) shall be convened to consider the reappointment of United States Magistrate Judge John T. Johnston to another eight-year term upon expiration of his current term on January 5, 2023. The following provisions shall apply to the work of the panel:

**1. Membership:** The following individuals are appointed to the panel:

Jordan Y. Crosby  
Ugrin Alexander Zadick, P.C.  
Attorney Member  
Great Falls, MT

Hank Branom  
Federal Defenders of Montana  
Attorney Member  
Great Falls, MT

Jessica Betley  
United States Attorney’s Office  
Attorney Member  
Great Falls, MT

Roland Durocher  
Durocher & Winter, PC  
Attorney Member  
Great Falls, MT

Domenic Cossi  
Western Justice Associates PLLC  
Attorney Member  
Bozeman, MT

Hon. Mistee Rides At The Door  
Blackfeet Tribal Court  
Community Member  
Browning, MT

Jon Sesso  
Community Member  
Butte, MT

Jordan Y. Crosby shall serve as chair of the panel and shall schedule and preside over all meetings of the panel.

**2. Notice:** All merit selection panel members have been advised in writing of the one-year prohibition on merit selection panel members applying to serve as a United States magistrate judge, as set forth in Vol. 3, Ch. 4, § 420.30.20(d) of the *Guide to Judiciary Policy*.

**3. Procedure:** The chair of the panel shall issue a public notice announcing the court's consideration of Judge Johnston's reappointment and soliciting comments from members of the Bar and the public as to his good character, judgment, legal ability, temperament, and commitment to equal justice under the law. The chair shall determine the process by which the panel appraises Judge Johnston's performance.

After consideration of information before it, the panel shall report to the court whether it recommends Judge Johnston for reappointment to an additional term of office. Such report and recommendation shall be delivered to the Court by July 22, 2022.

**4. Meetings and Travel:** The panel may hold any necessary meetings remotely or in-person, at the discretion of the panel chair. Federal law states that panel members who are required to travel for meetings are allowed travel or transportation expenses (mileage, accommodations, etc.) and subsistence while in travel status. The rates of reimbursement are the same as those provided to federal employees.

**5. Administrative Support:** The clerk of court shall assist the chair in the panel's review by performing such administrative tasks as are necessary, including but not limited to arranging for the publication of notices, disseminating materials to panel members, making arrangements for telephonic conferences and/or meetings, requesting travel authorizations from the Administrative Office of the United States Courts for any travel by panel members, and processing reasonable claims for reimbursement.

**6. Confidentiality:** All information made available to the members of the panel in the performance of their duties must be kept in strict confidence by the panel and the Court. The chair shall direct the members of the panel concerning the disposal or retention of information subject to the confidentiality requirement.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the clerk of court shall distribute this order to the judicial officers of this district and the Administrative Office of the United States Courts and publish this order on the court's public website.

Dated this 27th day of April, 2022.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Morris". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

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Brian Morris, Chief Judge  
United States District Court