UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY

Eastern District of Kentucky

FILED

Jul - 02 2025

Robert R. Carr Clerk, U.S. District Court

In re:)			
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APPOINTMENT OF MERIT)	Gl	ENERAL ORD	ER
SELECTION PANEL)		No. 25-5	
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The Court having considered its obligation to appoint a Merit Selection Panel to review the qualifications of incumbent United States Magistrate Judges Candace Smith, Hanly Ingram and Matthew Stinnett, having discussed the composition of the Merit Selection Panel, and having unanimously approved the membership of the Merit Selection Panel, it is hereby

ORDERED as follows:

- 1. The Merit Selection Panel shall be comprised of the following members:
 - a. Sheryl Heeter, Attorney, Newport, Kentucky, Chairperson
 - b. Steve Smith, Attorney, Covington, Kentucky
 - c. Christy Love, Attorney, London, Kentucky
 - d. Noah Friend, Attorney, London, Kentucky
 - e. Carol Martin, Layperson, Lexington, Kentucky
 - f. Elizabeth Combs, Attorney, Lexington, Kentucky
 - g. Brandon Marshall, Attorney, Lexington, Kentucky
 - h. Laura Mays, Attorney, Lexington, Kentucky
 - i. Kim Thapar, Layperson, Edgewood, Kentucky.

- 2. The Merit Selection Panel is charged with reviewing the qualifications of the incumbent United States Magistrate Judges as well as any comments received from the public regarding the incumbent's performance.
- 3. Before a Merit Selection Panel member may be considered for a future position as United States Magistrate Judge, one year must have elapsed between the application deadline for the position and the earlier of: (A) the date when the panel on which the former member served submitted its report to the court, or (B) the date when the former member resigned from the panel. Written notice of this restriction has been provided to all members of the Merit Selection Panel.
 - 4. The effective date of the Merit Selection Panel's appointment is June 28, 2025.
- 5. The Merit Selection Panel shall present a report of its findings and recommendations to the Court in accordance with the Guide to Judiciary Policy. A separate report must be submitted for each reappointment.

This 2nd day of July, 2025.

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Signed By:

David L. Bunning

Chief United States District Judge