

**REAPPOINTMENT OF
INCUMBENT U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI**

The current term of office of United States Magistrate Judge **Lajuana M. Counts.**, at Kansas City, Missouri, is due to expire **August 31, 2026.** The United States District Court is required by law to establish a panel of citizens to consider the reappointment of the magistrate judge to a new eight-year term.

The duties of a magistrate judge include the following: (1) conduct of most preliminary proceedings in criminal cases; (2) trial and disposition of misdemeanor cases; (3) conduct of various pretrial matters and evidentiary proceedings on delegation from the judges of the district court; and (4) trial and disposition of civil cases upon consent of the litigants.

Comments from members of the bar and public are invited as to whether the incumbent magistrate judge should be recommended by the panel for reappointment. You may provide general remarks or comment on specific attributes of the incumbent, such as character, judgment, legal ability, judicial demeanor or temperament, courtesy to litigants, judicial efficiency and timeliness, and commitment to equal justice under the law.

Letters or email comments may be submitted to:

Merit Selection Panel
c/o Paige Wymore-Wynn, Court Executive
U.S. District Court
Charles Evans Whittaker United States Courthouse
400 E. 9th Street, Room 2710
Kansas City, Missouri 64106
(or)
mow_judge_magistrate@mow.uscourts.gov

**Comments must be received by April 17, 2026.
Questions may be directed to 816-512-5010.**