

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA**

RE: APPOINTMENT OF U.S. MAGISTRATE
JUDGE MERIT SELECTION PANEL

AMENDED ORDER

The following individuals, having given their consent to serve, are hereby appointed as the Merit Selection Panel to advise the Court on the reappointment of U.S. Magistrate Judge Elizabeth Cowan Wright.

Ann Motl, Esq. (Chair)
Manny Atwal, Esq.
Jill A. Brisbois, Esq.
Martin S. Chester, Esq.
Patrick Ester

Evan Gilead, Esq.
Andrew Leiendecker, Esq.
Mary Ann Lundquist
Edward Magarian, Esq.

The appointment of the Panel is effective as of the date of this order. The Panel must review: (1) Magistrate Judge Cowan Wright's current service as magistrate judge and other experience; (2) comments from members of the bar and public; and (3) other evidence of the incumbent's good character, ability, and commitment to equal justice under the law. The Panel must provide its report to the Court no later than April 24, 2026.

The Clerk of Court is directed to provide each Panel member with pertinent information regarding the Panel's official purpose, duties, and procedures. The Clerk is also directed to provide written notice to the Panel members regarding the restriction on Merit Selection Panel Members to be considered for a magistrate judge position, under the *Guide to Judiciary Policy*, vol. 3, ch. 4, § 420.30.20(d).

Dated:

Jan. 21, 2026



Patrick J. Schiltz, Chief Judge
United States District Court