



# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

## District of Minnesota

Patrick J. Schiltz, Chief Judge  
Kate M. Fogarty, Clerk

Warren E. Burger Federal  
Building and U.S. Courthouse  
316 North Robert Street  
Suite 100  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
(651) 848-1100

U.S. Courthouse  
300 South Fourth Street  
Suite 202  
Minneapolis, MN 55415  
(612) 664-5000

Gerald W. Heaney Federal Building  
and U.S. Courthouse and Customhouse  
515 West First Street  
Suite 417  
Duluth, MN 55802  
(218) 529-3500

Edward J. Devitt U.S. Courthouse  
and Federal Building  
118 South Mill Street  
Suite 212  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537  
(218) 739-5758

## Notice of Comment Period on the Reappointment of U.S. Magistrate Judge Elizabeth Cowan Wright

**Date:** December 8, 2025  
**Contact:** Deborah Morse, (612) 664-5440

United States Magistrate Judge Elizabeth Cowan Wright's current term of office is set to expire on September 3, 2026. The United States District Court, District of Minnesota invites comments from members of the bar and public as to whether full-time incumbent Magistrate Judge Elizabeth Cowan Wright should be recommended for reappointment. Comments should be received by **5:00 p.m. (CST) on Friday, January 9, 2026**, and may be directed to:

U.S. District Court Clerk's Office  
ATTN: Deborah Morse, Human Resources Manager  
300 South Fourth Street, Room 200  
Minneapolis, MN 55415  
[meritselectionpanel@mnd.uscourts.gov](mailto:meritselectionpanel@mnd.uscourts.gov)

As required by law, the United States District Court, District of Minnesota will establish a Merit Selection Panel of citizens to consider the reappointment of Magistrate Judge Elizabeth Cowan Wright to a new eight-year term. The Court will publicly announce the Merit Selection Panel members at a later date.

The duties of the position include presiding over initial proceedings in criminal cases; trials of misdemeanor cases, including petty offenses; pretrial matters and other proceedings in civil and criminal cases; conducting civil settlement conferences; and disposition of civil cases with the consent of the parties. The basic authority of a United States Magistrate Judge is specified in 28 U.S.C. § 636 and Local Rule 72.1. Full-time Magistrate Judges are appointed by the United States District Court for eight-year terms and may be reappointed to successive terms.