

**28 USC § 631. Appointment and tenure**

....

**(b)** No individual may be appointed or reappointed to serve as a magistrate judge under this chapter unless:

....

**(5)** He is selected pursuant to standards and procedures promulgated by the Judicial Conference of the United States. Such standards and procedures shall contain provision for public notice of all vacancies in magistrate judge positions and for the establishment by the district courts of merit selection panels, composed of residents of the individual judicial districts, to assist the courts in identifying and recommending persons who are best qualified to fill such positions.

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