

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT AND BANKRUPTCY COURTS
FOR THE DISTRICT OF IDAHO**

**IN RE: MERIT SELECTION PANEL TO
SELECT NEW MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

GENERAL ORDER NO. 480

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 631 *et seq.*, the District Court shall appoint magistrate judges as the Judicial Conference may determine. The Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit and the Judicial Conference of the United States have notified the District of Idaho that they approved the request to create a new magistrate judge position in Pocatello, Idaho effective April 1, 2027.

The Court is required to employ a Merit Selection Panel to assist it in the selection of a new magistrate judge. Therefore, the following persons are appointed, by unanimous vote of the active district judges of the U.S. District Court of Idaho as the Merit Selection Panel:

Mikel Williams - Chair

Russ Heller

Robert Long

Christine England

Matt Kinghorn

Howard Burnett

Gary Cooper

Elisa Massoth

Howard Belodoff

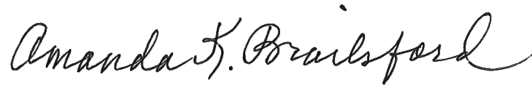
Colleen Smith

Brian Kane

The panel shall commence on September 1, 2026, and members shall review

applications and conduct interviews and make other necessary inquiries until they are satisfied with five candidates that they can recommend to the Court for consideration for a full-time United States Magistrate Judge. IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED THIS 1st Day of September 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Amanda K. Brailsford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amanda" and last name "Brailsford" clearly legible.

Amanda K. Brailsford
Chief United States District Judge

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David C. Nye". The signature is more stylized and cursive than the one on the left, with a large, sweeping "D" and "N".

David C. Nye
United States District Judge