

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
HOUSTON DIVISION  
PUBLIC NOTICE

REAPPOINTMENT OF INCUMBENT MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
STEPHEN W. SMITH

The current term of the office of United States Magistrate Judge Stephen W. Smith at Houston, Texas, is due to expire July 21, 2012. The United States District Court is required by law to establish a panel of citizens to consider the reappointment of Magistrate Judge Stephen W. Smith to a new 8 year term.

The duties of a Magistrate Judge position include the following:

1. Conducting most preliminary proceedings in criminal cases;
2. Trial and disposition of misdemeanor cases;
3. Conducting 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.

The court invites comments from members of the bar and the public as to whether the panel should recommend the reappointment of Magistrate Judge Stephen W. Smith to the court. Direct comments to: Stephen W. Smith Reappointment Panel; Attention: David J. Bradley, U. S. District Clerk, (under confidential cover), P.O. Box 61010, Houston, Texas 77208.

Comments must be received no later than **January 20, 2012**, 5:00 p.m.