

MEDIA RELEASE

The Judges of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama have selected Gray M. Borden to fill the United States Magistrate Judge vacancy created in the Middle District of Alabama due to the retirement of Hon. Charles S. Coody. A Merit Selection Panel composed of attorneys and other members of the community reviewed all applicants for the position and submitted to the District Court the persons it considered best qualified for the vacancy. Gray Borden was the person chosen from the list of five names submitted by the Merit Selection Panel. After a full-field background report by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service, Mr. Borden will be appointed by the court to fill the vacancy.

Borden currently is an Assistant United States Attorney with the Middle District of Alabama. A native of Montgomery, he graduated with a B.S. degree from Washington and Lee University. He received his juris doctorate degree magna cum laude in 2005 from the University of Alabama School of Law, where he was Editor in Chief of the Alabama Law Review and qualified scholastically for Order of the Coif. After law school he clerked for United States District Judge William M. Acker, Jr., and was associated for several years with the Birmingham

civil litigation firm of Lightfoot, Franklin and White before joining the U. S. Attorney's office in Montgomery.

“The court received a number of outstanding applicants for the position,” said W. Keith Watkins, Chief U. S. District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama. “Gray Borden is exceptionally well qualified to serve as Magistrate Judge. He has a wide range of legal experience, an excellent temperament, and a tremendous work ethic.”

A Magistrate Judge presides over pre-trial criminal proceedings in federal court, including preliminary hearings, bond hearings, and arraignments. They handle all non-dispositive matters in civil and criminal cases. They issue recommendations in prisoner petitions and Social Security cases. When there is consent of the parties, Magistrate Judges also handle civil cases.

Borden will serve an 8 year term but can be reappointed.