Richard B. Farrer was sworn in as a United States Magistrate Judge for the Western District of Texas on September 27, 2017.

Before becoming a magistrate judge, Judge Farrer served as an Assistant Solicitor General for the State of Texas between 2013 and 2015. In that capacity, he handled a number of notable cases in federal and state appellate courts, including cases involving: the death penalty; issues of sovereign and qualified immunity; issues of free speech and religious liberty; and various challenges to and disputes about a number of federal and state laws. Both before and after his tenure at the Texas Solicitor General’s Office, Judge Farrer worked in private practice at Yetter Coleman LLP in Houston, Texas. His practice at the firm focused on complex commercial litigation in state and federal court on behalf of major corporate, governmental, and individual clients. He handled complex litigation matters on a range of topics including contract and tort issues, federal and state antitrust laws, state and federal constitutional issues, contract and statutory interpretation, sovereign and qualified immunity, governmental regulation and oversight, writs of habeas corpus and mandamus, sanctions issues, the Texas Public Information Act, and forum-selection and arbitration clauses. He has argued cases in the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, the Texas Supreme Court, various intermediate Texas courts of appeals, and in state and federal district courts. Judge Farrer received his board certification in civil appellate law from the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in 2015.