



news

Colorado Judicial Branch
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Judges Kelly and Simmons to retire from the 4th Judicial District bench *Commission sets date to select nominees*

The Fourth Judicial District Nominating Commission will meet Friday, Aug. 13, 2010, at the El Paso County Judicial Building in Colorado Springs, to interview and select nominees for appointment by the governor for two judgeships to the office of district judge for the Fourth Judicial District (El Paso and Teller counties). The vacancies will be created by the retirements of the Honorable J. Patrick Kelly and the Honorable Timothy J. Simmons. The vacancy for Judge Kelly will occur on Oct. 31, 2010, and on Dec. 31, 2010 for Judge Simmons.

To be eligible for appointment to fill either vacancy, the applicant must be a qualified elector of the Fourth Judicial District and must have been admitted to the practice of law in Colorado for five years. The current annual salary for these positions is \$128,598. The initial term of office of a district judge is a provisional term of two years; thereafter, the incumbent district judge, if approved by the voters, has a term of six years.

Application forms are available from the office of the ex officio chair of the nominating commission, Justice Nancy E. Rice, 101 W. Colfax, Suite 800, Denver, CO 80202. Applications also are available on the court's home page: <http://www.courts.state.co.us/Careers/Judge.cfm>

The original and seven copies of the application must be filed with the ex officio chair no later than 12:00 p.m. (noon), Friday, Aug. 6, 2010. Late applications will not be considered.

Any person wishing to suggest a candidate to fill the vacancy may do so by letter to be submitted to any member of the nominating commission, with a copy to the ex officio chair, no later than 12:00 p.m. (noon), Friday, Aug. 6, 2010.

The members of the nominating commission for the Fourth Judicial District are: Marry Barrowman of Florissant, Julie Wolfe of Manitou Springs, and Mary Lou Makepeace, Lynn Olney, Trudy Strewler, David M. Johnson and Mike Edmonds all of Colorado Springs.

Editor's Note: Contact information for the nominating commission members.

- Mary Lou Makepeace, 1819 N. Tejon St., Colorado Springs, CO 80907
- Lynn Olney, 259 Chatham Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80906
- Julie Wolfe, 10 Boulder Crescent, Suite 201, Colorado Springs, CO 80903
- Mary Barrowman, 16222 W. Hwy 24, Suite 120, Woodland Park, CO 80863
- Trudy Strewler, 701 S. Cascade, Colorado Springs, CO 80903
- David M. Johnson, 24 S. Weber #300, Colorado Springs, CO 80903
- Mike Edmonds, 1005 N. Nevada Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Applicant Note: In addition to these upcoming vacancies on the District Court bench, there also is an opening on the County Court bench in El Paso County, as well as two additional new judgeships to be created under House Bill 07-1054. If you desire to apply for more than one judgeship, you must submit a separate application for each. In addition, a separate application is necessary if you wish to apply for the new District Court judgeships or the El Paso County Court vacancy, for which the Nominating Commission will meet in September.

**JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION
APPLICATION FOR COLORADO STATE COURT JUDGESHIP**

Instructions

1. The application form for a Colorado state court judgeship can be found on the Judicial Branch website at <http://www.courts.state.co.us/exec/media/vacancy.htm>. Please be complete and thorough in answering the questions; and, if an answer to any question requires more space than provided, attach a separate sheet of paper for each question.
2. Answers must be typed or printed in black ink.
3. Each completed original and all copies of the application should be stapled ONCE in the upper left-hand corner. They should NOT be bound in any way, should NOT be in notebooks, should NOT have covers attached, and should NOT have sections of the application tabbed in any way.
4. While it is preferred that you submit your application on this standard form, you may choose to reproduce this form on a computer. If you do so, however, please ensure that the top and left margins are 1" and that the size of type is no smaller than 11 pt.
5. Applicants for county court judgeships who are not attorneys may modify the form as needed by inserting the words "not applicable" where appropriate.
6. You must submit the names of not less than three nor more than five individuals from whom you are requesting a letter of reference. Such letters of reference shall be strictly confidential. **All such letters shall be sent directly to the Fourth Judicial District Nominating Commission, c/o Justice Nancy E. Rice, Ex Officio Chair, at the address listed below.** You are instructed to tell your references not to send the original or a copy to you. A request for reference form is attached and must be used for each reference requested. In order to assure consideration of the letters of reference, they must be received on or before the last date applications may be filed.

Please Note: Reference letters must be resubmitted every time you apply for a judicial vacancy. Reference letters from previous applications are not available for reuse.

6. You must file an original and seven (7) copies of your application.
7. Your application should be filed at the following address:

Fourth Judicial District Nominating Commission
Justice Nancy E. Rice, Ex Officio Chair
101 West Colfax Avenue, Suite 800
Denver, CO 80202-5315

8. Your application must be filed no later than: **12:00 p.m. (noon), Friday, Aug. 6, 2010**

Revised: 8/4/04

FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT NOMINATING COMMISSION

REQUESTED REFERENCE ON BEHALF OF _____.
(Name of Applicant)

The above individual is applying for an existing vacancy on the Fourth District Court bench. The applicant is requesting that you write a letter of reference. It is not inappropriate for you to decline to do so. In writing such a letter, the Judicial Nominating Commission requests that you specifically address both the strengths and weaknesses of the applicant under separate headings. If you believe the applicant has no weaknesses relative to his or her capabilities to be a District Court judge, you may so state. Finally, please rate the applicant, i.e., outstanding, excellent, above average, average, below average, or poor. All letters of reference are strictly confidential. **A copy may not be sent to the applicant. The original and seven (7) copies must be sent directly to:**

Justice Nancy E. Rice
Fourth Judicial District Nominating Commission
101 W. Colfax Ave., Suite 800
Denver, CO 80202

It is extremely important to the Commission that you be as objective as possible in assessing the applicant's qualifications. We rely very heavily on letters of reference and unless you are totally objective in your comments, the Commission cannot properly carry out its function. Do not feel compelled to endorse the applicant merely because you have been asked to write a letter of reference on his or her behalf.

Sincerely,

Fourth Judicial District Nominating Commission

Applicant should send a copy of this instruction to each of his or her requested references.