



news

Colorado Judicial Branch
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Gerald Marroney, State Court Administrator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Fourth Judicial District announces District Court vacancy *Commission sets date to select nominees*

The Fourth Judicial District Nominating Commission will meet Monday, Oct. 22, 2012, at the El Paso County Courthouse to interview and select nominees for appointment by the governor to the office of district judge for the Fourth Judicial District (El Paso and Teller counties). The vacancy will be created by the resignation of the Hon. Kirk Samelson. The vacancy will occur on Oct. 8, 2012.

To be eligible for appointment to fill the 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 this position 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 Rice, 101 W. Colfax, Suite 800, Denver, CO 80202; and the office of the district administrator, Mary Perry, 270 S. Tejon St., Colorado Springs, CO 80903.

Applications also are available on the court's home page at

<http://www.courts.state.co.us/Careers/Judge.cfm>

The original, signed application and an identical copy stored electronically as a PDF (please see attached instructions for further details) must be filed with the ex officio chair no later than 4 p.m. Monday, Oct. 1, 2012. 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 4 p.m. Monday, Sept. 24, 2012.

The members of the nominating commission for the Fourth Judicial District are: Mary Lou Makepeace, Lynn Olney, Trudy Strewler, Kenneth Valdez and Joe Dirscherl, Colorado Springs; Mary Barrowman, Florissant; and Julie Wolfe, Manitou Springs.

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

- Kenneth Valdez, 6755 Earl Dr., #103, Colorado Springs, CO 80921
- Joe Dirscherl, 405 S. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903
- Julie A. Wolfe, 10 Boulder Crescent, Suite 201, Colorado Springs, CO 80903
- Mary Lou Makepeace, 1819 North Tejon St., Colorado Springs, CO 80907
- Lynn Olney, 259 Chatham Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80906
- Trudy Strewler, 701 S. Cascade, Colorado Springs, CO 80903
- Mary Barrowman, 16222 W. Hwy 24, Suite 120, Woodland Park, CO 80863

JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION
APPLICATION FOR COLORADO STATE COURT JUDGESHIP
PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

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/Careers/Judge.cfm>. You should only use the application that says it was updated 04/09. Do not use a prior version of the application. 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. Do not change the margins or font size on the application.
3. You must submit one original signed application along with an identical copy of your application electronically as a PDF file (preferably in text searchable format) on a CD or flash drive (these will not be returned). If your application materials include any other items (i.e., cover letter or any other attachments), they should be combined into one single PDF document.
4. You must submit letters of reference from **not less than three and no more than five** individuals who are in a position to comment upon your qualifications for a judicial position. 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 should be used to request your reference letters. In order to assure consideration of the letters of reference, they must be received on or before the last date applications may be filed.
5. Submit your original signed application along with the electronic copy to the following address:

Fourth Judicial District Nominating Commission
c/o Justice Nancy E. Rice, Ex Officio Chair
Colorado Supreme Court
101 W. Colfax Ave., Suite 800
Denver, Colorado 80202

Please note - we do not accept emails of any application materials.

6. Your application must be received no later than: **4 p.m. on October 1, 2012.**
7. If you use USPS Express Mail overnight service, please allow an extra day for delivery, as there is a delay in receipt when this method is used.
8. Call Cheryl in the Colorado Supreme Court Clerk's office with questions: 303-837-3753.

FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT NOMINATING COMMISSION

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

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 letter (on paper) must be received on or before October 1, 2012, and addressed directly to:**

Justice Nancy E. Rice
Colorado Supreme Court
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