



news

Colorado Judicial Department
Nancy E. Rice, Chief Justice
Gerald Marroney, State Court Administrator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Feb. 25, 2016

Contact: Robert McCallum or Jon Sarché
720-625-5815
720-625-5811

robert.mccallum@judicial.state.co.us
jon.sarche@judicial.state.co.us

First Judicial District announces District Court vacancy *Commission sets date to select nominees*

The First Judicial District Nominating Commission will meet April 11, 2016, at the Jefferson County Courthouse (100 Jefferson County Parkway, Golden, CO 80401) to interview and select nominees for appointment by the governor to the office of district judge for the First Judicial District (Gilpin and Jefferson counties). The vacancy will be created by the retirement of the Honorable Christopher J. Munch. The vacancy will occur on June 1, 2016.

To be eligible for appointment to fill the vacancy, the applicant must be a qualified elector of the First Judicial District and must have been admitted to the practice of law in Colorado for five years. The annual salary for this position is \$159,320. 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 Nathan B. Coats, 2 E. 14th Ave., Denver, CO 80203; and the office of the district administrator, Caren Stanley, 100 Jefferson County Parkway, Golden, CO 80401.

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

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

The original, signed application and an identical copy stored as a PDF must be filed with the ex officio chair no later than 4 p.m. on March 25, 2016. 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. on March 18, 2016.

The members of the nominating commission for the First Judicial District are: Scott Hutchings, Heather Lipp and Thomas Overton of Golden; Dennis Brown of Wheat Ridge; David Bock of Littleton; and Marie Wheatley of Lakewood.

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

- Scott Hutchings, 245 S. Flora Way, Golden, CO 80401
- Heather Lipp, 12300 Liberty Blvd., Englewood, CO 80112
- Thomas Overton, 1080 Kalamath St., Denver, CO 80204
- Dennis Brown, 555 17th St., Suite 3200, Denver, CO 80202
- David Bock, 3940 S. Teller St., Lakewood, CO 80235
- Marie Wheatley, 14065 W. Virginia Dr., Lakewood, CO 80228

This commission currently has one vacancy.

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). The electronic application does not need to contain a signature. If your application materials include multiple documents (i.e., cover letter, personal statement, reference letters) these documents should be combined into one single PDF document with the reference letters attached last.
 4. You must submit the names of **not less than three and not 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 First Judicial District Nominating Commission, c/o Justice Coats, Ex-Officio Chair, at the address shown 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 March 25, 2016.
 5. Submit your original signed application along with the electronic copy to the following address:

First Judicial District Nominating Commission
c/o Justice Nathan B. Coats
Colorado Supreme Court
2 E. 14th Avenue, Clerk's Office
Denver, Colorado 80203
- If you are hand-delivering your application, please deliver it to the Clerk's Office.**
We do not accept emails of any application materials.
6. Your application must be filed no later than: **4:00 p.m., March 25, 2016.**
 7. If you use USPS Express Mail overnight service, please allow an extra day for delivery we there is a delay in receipt when this method is used.
 8. Call Valerie in the Colorado Supreme Court Clerk's office with questions: 720-625-5157.

FIRST 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 First Judicial 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 County 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 must be sent directly to (we do not need any additional copies):**

Justice Nathan B. Coats
Ex Officio Chair, First Judicial District Nominating Commission
Colorado Supreme Court
2 E. 14th Avenue, Clerk's Office
Denver, CO 80203

If you are hand-delivering your application, please deliver it to the Clerk's Office.

*****Please be sure the reference letters are received by March 25, 2016.*****

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,

First Judicial District Nominating Commission