

CORRECTION: This version is revised to indicate Judge Walker is retiring, not resigning.



news

Colorado Judicial Department
Nancy E. Rice, Chief Justice
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Feb. 13, 2017

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Fourth Judicial District announces El Paso County Court vacancy *Commission sets date to select nominees*

The Fourth Judicial District Nominating Commission will meet March 14, 2017, at the El Paso County Judicial Building to interview and select nominees for appointment by the governor to the office of county judge for El Paso County. The vacancy will be created by the retirement of the Hon. Jonathan L. Walker, effective Feb. 15, 2017.

To be eligible, the applicant must be a qualified elector of El Paso County at the time of investiture and must have been admitted to the practice of law in Colorado. The current annual salary for this position is \$152,466. The initial term of office of a county judge is a provisional term of two years; thereafter, the incumbent county judge, if approved by the voters, has a term of four years.

Application forms are available from the office of the ex officio chair of the nominating commission, Justice William W. Hood III, 2 E. 14th Ave., Denver, CO 80203; and the office of the district administrator, Danny Davis, 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 as a PDF must be filed with the ex officio chair no later than Feb. 27, 2017. 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 Feb. 21, 2017.

The members of the nominating commission for the Fourth Judicial District are: Jack Donley, Larry Gaddis, Beth Lieberman, Juan Moreno, and Mary Linden, all of Colorado Springs; and Daniel Nicholson and Philip Mella, of Woodland Park.

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

- Jack Donley, 24 S. Weber St., Suite 300, Colorado Springs, CO 80903
- Larry Gaddis, 118 S. Wahsatch Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903
- Beth Lieberman, 2975 Broadmoor Valley Rd., Suite 101, Colorado Springs, CO 80906
- Mary Linden, 111 S. Tejon St., Suite 202., Colorado Springs, CO 80903-2246
- Philip Mella, 2018 Valley View Dr., Woodland Park, CO 80863
- Juan Moreno, 250 Vandenburg St., Peterson AFB, CO 80914
- Daniel Nicholson, 226 Illini Dr., 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). 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 **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 William H. Hood, 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 William W. Hood III, Ex Officio Chair
Colorado Supreme Court Clerk's Office
2 East 14th Avenue
Denver, CO 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.

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.

6. Your application must be filed no later than: **4 p.m. on February 27, 2017.**
7. Call Cheryl in the Colorado Supreme Court Clerk's office with questions: 720-625-5157.

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 (in paper) must be received on or before February 27, 2017 at 4:00 p.m., and addressed directly to:**

Justice William W. Hood III
Colorado Supreme Court
Fourth Judicial District Nominating Commission
2 East 14th Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

If you are hand-delivering your letter, please deliver it to the Clerk's Office. We do not accept emails of any materials.

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