



Colorado Justice: Celebrating 40 years of fair
and impartial courts through merit selection

news

Colorado Office of Judicial Performance Evaluation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Judge Evaluations Available on Internet August 5

The State Commission on Judicial Performance and local judicial district performance commissions have completed their evaluations of 104 justices and judges who are scheduled to stand for retention in the November 2008 election. The commissions are charged with providing voters with fair, responsible, and constructive evaluations of individual judges seeking retention, and to provide judges with useful information concerning their performance.

The commissions evaluate judges on a wide range of criteria, including integrity, legal knowledge, communication skills, attentiveness, sentencing practices, and prompt case disposition. To do this, commissions review information from several sources: written opinions and decisions, caseload statistics, interviews, courtroom observations, judges' self-evaluations, and independent surveys. Earlier this year, surveys were sent to over 58,000 people who have had recent involvement with the judicial system, including prosecutors, public defenders, and private attorneys, litigants, jurors, crime victims, law enforcement officers, and probation officers.

The commissions then produce recommendations and supporting narratives for each judge standing for retention, which are included in the "Blue Book" published by the Legislative Council and are mailed to every voter household in the State. The recommendation, narrative, complete statistical survey results, and a list ranking the judges statewide according to their overall score will be available on the State Judicial Performance website at www.cojudicialperformance.com, starting on Aug. 5 no later than 1:00 p.m.

"Colorado's judicial performance process tries to strike an extremely difficult balance by making judges accountable to the public without becoming involved in politics," said Paul Farley, Chair of the State Commission on Judicial Performance. "It is important that citizens

take the time to review the information the commissions have provided and cast informed votes on Election Day.”

Editor’s Note: Below are the media contact for each judicial district.

Supreme Court and Court of Appeals

Contact: Jane B. Howell, 303-837-3665

1st Judicial District (Gilpin, Jefferson Counties)

Contact: Chris O’Dell, 303-436-9200

Jo-Ann Herrick, 303-726-6839

Dave Thomas, 303-238-0648

2nd Judicial District (Denver – County and District Court)

Contact: Dan Recht, 303-573-1900; 303-523-0782

3rd Judicial District (Huerfano, Las Animas Counties)

Contact: Theresa Garrison, 719-846-7282

4th Judicial District (El Paso, Teller Counties)

Contact: Mr. Alanson Higbie, 719-475-0304; 719-338-8680

5th Judicial District (Clear Creek, Eagle, Lake, Summit Counties)

Contact: Kristine Word, 970-453-2327 x 18

6th Judicial District (Archuleta, La Plata, San Juan Counties)

Contact: Steve Brittain, 970-247-1611

7th Judicial District (Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, San Miguel Counties)

Contact: David Masters, 970-249-8536

Contact: Ray Blaum, 970-944-0551

8th Judicial District (Jackson, Larimer Counties)

Contact: Beverly Newton, 970-484-1195

9th Judicial District (Garfield, Pitkin, Rio Blanco Counties)

Contact: Mary Elizabeth Geiger, 970-379-1489

10th Judicial District (Pueblo County)

Contact: Melissa Esquibel, 719-543-9591

11th Judicial District (Chaffee, Custer, Fremont, Park Counties)

Contact: Patricia Schlatter, 719-539-2723

12th Judicial District (Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, Saguache Counties)

Contact: Dan Walzl, 719-480-1320

13th Judicial District (Kit Carson, Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, Yuma Counties) Contact: Sally Torres, 970-522-2578

14th Judicial District (Grand, Moffat, Routt Counties)
Contact: Terry Carwile, 970-824-3108

15th Judicial District (Baca, Cheyenne, Kiowa, Prowers Counties)
NO JUDGES STANDING

16th Judicial District (Bent, Crowley, Otero Counties)
Contact: Ed Zimmer, 719-267-3123

17th Judicial District (Adams, Broomfield Counties)
Contact: Erik Schneider, 720-495-2252

18th Judicial District (Arapahoe, Douglas, Elbert, Lincoln Counties)
Contact: Paul Prendergast, 303-797-3300

19th Judicial District (Weld County)
Contact: Kelley Hekowczyk, 970-356-2726

20th Judicial District (Boulder County)
Contact: Susan Kolwicz, 303-499-9527

21st Judicial District (Mesa County)
Contact: Barclay Jameson, 970-255-1679

22nd Judicial District (Dolores, Montezuma Counties)
Contact: Kelly McCabe, 970-565-7209