



news

Colorado Office of Judicial Performance Evaluation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Steve C. Briggs, Chair
State Commission on Judicial
Performance

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Judge Evaluations Available on Internet August 7

The State Commission on Judicial Performance and local judicial district performance commissions have completed their evaluations of 90 judges who are scheduled to stand for retention in the November 6, 2012, election. The non-partisan commissions are charged with providing voters with fair, responsible, and constructive evaluations of individual judges seeking retention, and providing judges with useful information concerning their performance. The evaluations will be made public online on August 7, 2012, and will be printed in the Blue Book, which is mailed to every active registered voter household in the State.

“The judicial system and the decisions that judges make impact all our citizens and businesses. It is important that citizens take the time to review the information the commissions have provided and cast votes in the November election. Those votes determine whether the judges will be retained for another term,” said Steve Briggs, Chair of the State Commission on Judicial Performance. “Colorado’s judicial performance evaluation process is the best way to evaluate a judge’s performance over a period of time based on established criteria and not on the outcome of a particular decision. It is a process in which politics is to play no role.”

The judicial performance commissions evaluate judges on a wide range of criteria, including integrity, legal knowledge, communication skills, judicial temperament, and administrative performance. 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 more than

50,000 people who have had recent involvement with the judges, including prosecutors, public defenders, and private attorneys, litigants, jurors, crime victims, law enforcement officers, court employees, court interpreters, and probation officers. The results of interim survey results from past years are also reviewed.

The commissions then produce a narrative for each judge with a recommendation of “retain”, “do not retain”, or “no opinion”, which are included in the “Blue Books” published by the Legislative Council. The Blue Book is an informational booklet which provides voters with an analysis and arguments for and against every statewide ballot measure and also includes the evaluations of the judges standing for retention. It is mailed to every active registered voter household in the State. The narrative, recommendation, and complete statistical survey results, will be available on the Office of Judicial Performance Evaluation website at www.coloradojudicialperformance.gov , starting on August 7 no later than 1:00 p.m.

The volunteer members are appointed by the Colorado Chief Justice, Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House. Each commission consists of 10 members: six non-attorneys and four attorneys.

Editor’s Note: Below are the media contacts for each judicial performance commission.

State Commission (Supreme Court and Court of Appeals)

Contact: Heather Hanneman

Jane Howell, 303-866-6465

1st Judicial District (Gilpin, Jefferson Counties)

Contact: Sara Garrido, 303-279-7841

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

Contact: Dan Recht, 303-573-1900

3rd Judicial District (Huerfano, Las Animas Counties)

Contact: Dixie Newnam, 719-846-1800

4th Judicial District (El Paso, Teller Counties)

Contact: Alan Higbie, 719-475-0304

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

Contact: Betty Benson, 719-486-5454

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

Contact: Nick Palmer, 970-385-9000

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

Contact: John McClow, 970-641-6065

Caroline Mitchell, 970-417-8417

8th Judicial District (Jackson, Larimer Counties)

Contact: Sean Rutledge, 970-669-2864

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

Contact: Carol Craven, 970-963-3733

10th Judicial District (Pueblo County)

Contact: Joyce Vigil, 719-543-5995

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

Contact: Chip Cutler, 719-539-5017

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

Contact: Anna Ulrich, 719-849-8976

13th Judicial District (Kit Carson, Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, Yuma Counties)

Contact: Robert (Bo) Chapin, 970-842-5561

14th Judicial District (Grand, Moffat, Routt Counties)

Contact: Kristopher Hammond, 970-879-6060

Sharon Timmerman, 970-870-0830

15th Judicial District (Baca, Cheyenne, Kiowa, Prowers Counties)

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Wendy S. Shinn, 719-336-4313

16th Judicial District (Bent, Crowley, Otero Counties)

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17th Judicial District (Adams, Broomfield Counties)

Contact: Emily Jewett, 720-837-7080

18th Judicial District (Arapahoe, Douglas, Elbert, Lincoln Counties)

Contact: Susan M. Thornton, 303-324-7060

19th Judicial District (Weld County)

Contact: Kelley Hekowczyk, 970-356-2726

20th Judicial District (Boulder County)

Contact: Patrick Furman, 303-492-2638

21st Judicial District (Mesa County)

Contact: William Price, 970-243-8409

22nd Judicial District (Dolores, Montezuma Counties)

Contact: Cameron Secrist, 970-565-4545

Diana Buza, 970-570-6131