

FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
January 2017
Nominating Commission Overview

Prepared February 28, 2017

The Fourteenth Judicial District is situated in the northwest corner of the State, and includes Grand, Moffat and Routt counties. The Combined Court and Probation Department offices are located in Hot Sulphur Springs, Craig and Steamboat Springs. Population figures provided by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs are as follows:

Grand County: 14,615
Moffat County: 12,923
Routt County: 24,103

The District is served by three full-time district court judges, one full-time county court judge, and two part-time county court judges:

- Michael A. O'Hara, III, Chief Judge, District Judge, Water Judge
- Shelley A. Hill, District Judge
- Mary C. Hoak, District Judge
- James H. Garrecht, Routt County Judge (1.00 FTE)
- Sandra H. Gardner, Moffat County Judge (.600 FTE)
- Nicholas Catanzarite, Grand County Judge (.550 FTE)

The District is also home to Colorado Water Division 6, which includes most of Moffat, Routt, Jackson and Rio Blanco counties. A .400 FTE (full-time equivalent) Water Referee assists the Water Judge in the disposition of these cases.

Similarly, the State is divided into three regions to hear conservation easement cases filed pursuant to recent legislation. Routt County is the home designation for Region 3, which includes the entire western half of the State. Judge O'Hara has been designated by the Judicial Branch to preside over these cases.

Judge O'Hara presides over two Treatment Courts, one in Moffat County and one in Routt County, and one Family Treatment Court in Routt.

Two of our three county judges provide limited support to the District Court. Judge Gardner fills a .250 FTE district magistrate position working in Moffat County, and Judge Garrecht provides assistance to the Routt County District Court on a general schedule of one day every other week.

A large district in geographic terms, the distance between the Grand County Combined Court and the Routt County Combined Court is 70 miles and requires the crossing of a major mountain pass (either Rabbit Ears or Gore); a one-way trip averages 90 minutes in good weather. The distance between the Routt County Combined Court and the Moffat County Combined Court is 45 miles and a one-way trip requires just under one hour in good weather. One-way travel between the Grand County Combined Court and the Moffat County Combined Court requires nearly two and one-half hours in good weather (115 miles). Winter travel conditions are often severe and lengthen travel times considerably.

Case filing statistics for the Fourteenth Judicial District are available on the Colorado Judicial Branch Web site: www.courts.state.co.us

DISTRICT COURT

CHIEF JUDGE: **Michael A. O'Hara, III**
DATE SWORN IN AS DISTRICT JUDGE: January 1, 2003
RETAINED: November 2012 General Election
EXPIRATION DATE OF CURRENT TERM: January, 2019

DISTRICT JUDGE: **Shelley A. Hill**
DATE SWORN IN AS DISTRICT JUDGE: July 1, 2006
RETAINED: November 2014 General Election
EXPIRATION DATE OF CURRENT TERM: January, 2021

DISTRICT JUDGE: **Mary C. Hoak**
DATE SWORN IN AS DISTRICT JUDGE: July 5, 2007
RETAINED: November 2016 General Election
EXPIRATION DATE OF CURRENT TERM: January, 2023

COUNTY COURT

GRAND COUNTY JUDGE: **Nicholas Catanzarite**
DATE SWORN IN AS COUNTY JUDGE: January 13, 2015
RETAINED: Completing provisional term of office.
EXPIRATION DATE OF CURRENT TERM: January, 2019

MOFFAT COUNTY JUDGE: **Sandra H. Gardner**
DATE SWORN IN AS COUNTY JUDGE: January 1, 2007
RETAINED: November 2014 General Election
EXPIRATION DATE OF CURRENT TERM: January, 2019

ROUTT COUNTY JUDGE: **James H. Garrecht**
DATE SWORN IN AS COUNTY JUDGE: January 1, 1987
RETAINED: November 2014 General Election
EXPIRATION DATE OF CURRENT TERM: January, 2019

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact Evan Herman, District Administrator, at evan.herman@judicial.state.co.us; telephone 970-870-2334.