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OWENS APPOINTS TOM DEISTER TO DISTRICT COURT

DENVER - Governor Owens announced the appointment of Thomas M. Deister of Grand Junction to the Twenty-First Judicial District Court bench. The appointment is effective January 1, 2006, filling a vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Nicholas R. Massaro, Jr.

"Tom Deister is extremely qualified for this position," Owens said. "He has served as a county court judge, maintained a private practice, was assistant district attorney and served our country as an active duty member of the Judge Advocate General's Corps. Tom Deister brings a wealth of experience to the district court bench."

Deister has been a Mesa County Court Judge for the past nine years, hearing criminal and civil cases as well as all juvenile delinquency cases for the district. He was Assistant District Attorney from 1987 to 1994, in private practice from 1978 to 1987, and with the Judge Advocate General Corps from 1975 to 1978. He also is active in the community, particularly with youth and adult education regarding the courts and civic responsibility. Deister received his bachelor's and law degrees from the University of Denver.

The initial term of office for a district court judge is a provisional term of two years, after which the incumbent must stand for retention to serve an additional six years. The annual salary for this position is \$110,255.