

Lesson: Who are Colorado's High Court Justices?

Objective: Students become familiar with Supreme Court justices, who are state officials.
(*Colorado Model Content Standards: Civics, Standard 2.1, grades 9-12*)

Activities: Class participation activity and homework assignment.

Outcomes: Students will be familiar with the justices who will be presiding over the hearings at their school.

Grade Level: Grades 9-12

Anticipated classroom time: 45-60 minutes

A Message from former Colorado Supreme Court Justice Alex Martinez

The biographies of the members of the Colorado Supreme Court reveal many more qualifications than the minimal requirements of law for sitting on the court. Generally, justices, like all judges, are selected from the pool of lawyers and judges who have demonstrated that they are very capable in their practices and other prior activities.

Despite their many accomplishments and grave responsibilities, the justices of this court are known to some people as moms or dads, brothers or sisters, friends, and neighbors, just like anyone else. Perhaps the greatest strength of the court is that the justices who come together to discuss and resolve important issues have very different backgrounds and experiences, both personal and professional, and that those different perspectives inform the decision-making process.

Teacher background information:

Included on the following pages are biographies for each of the seven Colorado Supreme Court justices. Information is also available at http://www.courts.state.co.us/Courts/Supreme_Court/Justices.cfm.

Qualifications for becoming a Colorado Supreme Court justice: A nominee for the Colorado Supreme Court must be a qualified elector of the state of Colorado, licensed to practice law in Colorado for at least five years, and under the age of 72 at the time his or her name is submitted to the Governor.

Classroom activities:

- 1) Have the students read through the biographies of the justices.
- 2) Generate discussion about the justices by asking the students:
 - Does the panel of Supreme Court justices reflect the diversity of the population of the State of Colorado? Why do you think that each of these justices was selected to serve in this position?
 - Does anything surprise you about who is sitting on the Supreme Court?
- 3) How do the past professional experiences of the justices differ? What impact do you think this has on the judiciary?

Homework assignment: The worksheet entitled "Colorado's Supreme Court Justices."

Chief Justice Michael L. Bender

Date of Judicial Appointment: January 2, 1997

Became Chief Justice: December 1, 2010



PROFESSIONAL: Chair, Judicial Building Steering Committee for the New Ralph Carr Justice Center, 2006-present; Chief Justice's Commission on the Legal Professions, 2010-present; Fairness and Diversity Committee, 2010-present; Liaison, Judicial Discipline Commission, 2009; Chair, Jury Reform Standing Committee, 2006-present; Chair, Colorado Judicial Code of Conduct Revision Committee, 2007-2009; Chair, Government Access to Third Party Records, ABA Criminal Justice Standards Committee, 2007-present; Chair, ABA Criminal Section, 1990; Board Member, Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System, 2006-2010. Adjunct faculty member, Professional Ethics, University of Colorado School of Law, 2004-2007. Liaison

Member to the following Supreme Court Committees: Planning and Analysis Standing Committee, 2008-2010; Colorado Supreme Court's Water Court Standing Committee, 2008-2009; Judicial Ethics Advisory Board, 2006-; Co-Chair, Colorado Supreme Court Standing Committee of Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct, 2003-2010; Caseflow Leadership Taskforce, 2002; Attorney Regulation Advisory Committee, 1997-2010; Public Education Committee, 1998-2005; Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee, 1997-2010; Colorado's Attorney Fund for Client Protection, 1998-2010; Committee on Ethical Issues in Family Law, 2000-2003; Colorado Judicial Branch Mentoring Committee, 2001-2003; Co-Chair, Committee to Review and Revise Attorney Regulation System, 1997-1998. Governor's Task Force on Civil Justice Reform, 1999; Colorado Bar Association: Board of Governors, 1989-1991, 1980-1982; American Bar Association: Member ABA Criminal Justice Standards Committee, 1997-2000. Member, Law Alumni Board, University of Colorado School of Law, 1999-2001; Member, U.S. District Court Committee for Criminal Justice Act for District of Colorado, 1991-1993; Colorado Trial Lawyer's Association, Board of Directors, 1985-1987; National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Board of Directors, 1984-1991.

HONORS: University of Colorado School of Law Alumni Award for Distinguished Achievement, 2006; Outstanding Judicial Officer of the Year, 2000; Co-winner, Denver Bar Association Volunteer Lawyer of the Year, 1988. Robert C. Heeney Memorial Award, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Outstanding Service Award, 1990. Received Faculty Award for Outstanding Student Work in the University of Colorado Law Review, 1967.

CAREER: Colorado Supreme Court, 1997- . President and shareholder, Michael L. Bender, P.C., 1993-1997. Formerly in practice with: Bender & Treece, P.C., 1983-1993; Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, Los Angeles, CA, 1979-1980. Adjunct faculty member, University of Denver College of Law, criminal law, criminal trial advocacy, and employment discrimination law, 1981-1986. Division Chief, Denver Public Defender, 1977-1978. Supervising attorney, Jefferson County Public Defender, 1975-1977. Associate Regional Attorney, Denver Regional Litigation Center, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 1974-1975. Deputy State Public Defender, 1968-1971.

PERSONAL: Born January 7, 1942. Received B.A. from Dartmouth College, 1964. Received J.D. from the University of Colorado School of Law, 1967. Attended Institute of Criminal Law and Procedure, Masters Program, Georgetown Law Center, 1967; participated in Barrett E. Prettyman Fellowship Training, 1967. Married to Helen H. Hand, Ph.D.; Children: Jeremy Bender, Aviva Siegel, Maryjean Hand-Bender, Tess Hand-Bender, and Benjamin Hand-Bender; grandchildren: Alison, Mitchell, and Liam Siegel; and Margot and Samuel Bender.

Justice Gregory J. Hobbs, Jr.

Date of Judicial Appointment: April 18, 1996



CAREER: Appointed by Governor to the Colorado Supreme Court April 18, 1996. Retained by Colorado voters for ten-year term commencing January 1999. Practiced law for 25 years, with emphasis on water, environment, land use, and transportation. Former senior partner, Hobbs, Trout & Raley P.C.; Partner, Davis, Graham & Stubbs; First Assistant Attorney General, Natural Resources Section, State of Colorado; Enforcement Attorney, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Law Clerk for Judge William E. Doyle, U.S. Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. Taught sixth grade in New York City and served with the Peace Corps in South America.

PROFESSIONAL: Member, American, Colorado and Denver Bar Associations, American Bar Foundation, Colorado Bar Foundation. Admitted to practice in Colorado and California (inactive). Former Adjunct Professor, Environmental Law, Master's Program in Environmental Policy and Management, University of Denver.

CIVIC: Vice-President, Colorado Foundation for Water Education; Co-Convenor, Dividing the Waters (Western Water Judges Project). Former Vice Chair, Colorado Air Quality Commission. Former Member, Regional Air Quality Council, Metropolitan Transportation Development Commission, Governor's Water Roundtable, Governor's Transportation Roundtable, and Wilderness Air Quality Related Values Task Force. Member, Colorado Authors League. Author of *In Praise of Fair Colorado*, *The Practice of Poetry*, *History and Judging* (Bradford Publishing Co. 2004); *Colorado Mother of Rivers*, *Water Poems* (Colorado Foundation for Water Education 2005); *The Public's Water Resource*, *Articles on Water Law, History, and Culture* (Continuing Legal Education in Colorado Inc. 2007) and *Living the Four Corners*, *Colorado Centennial State at the Headwaters* (Continuing Legal Education in Colorado Inc., forthcoming 2010). Member of the advisory boards of the Natural Resources Law Center, University of Colorado School of Law; the Center for Law, Energy and the Environment, University of California, Berkeley School of Law; and the Water Resources Archives, Morgan Library, Colorado State University.

PERSONAL: Born December 15, 1944, in Gainesville, Florida. Received A.B. in History, Magna Cum Laude, from University of Notre Dame, 1966. Received J.D. from the University of California at Berkeley (Boalt Hall), 1971, Order of the Coif, Supreme Court Editor, California Law Review. Spouse Bobbie Hobbs is the former director and presently a board member of Children's Garden Montessori School in Denver. Children: Daniel and Emily; granddaughters Joni, Shannon, and Ella; and grandsons Kyle and Quinn.

Justice Nancy E. Rice

Date of Judicial Appointment: August 5, 1998



CAREER: Appointed to the Colorado Supreme Court on August 5, 1998. Denver District Court Judge, 1987 to 1998. Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Colorado, 1977 to 1987. Deputy Chief of Civil Division of U.S. Attorney's Office from 1985 to 1987. Deputy State Public Defender, Appellate Division, From 1976 to 1977. Law clerk for Judge Fred Winner, U.S. District Court, District of Colorado, 1975 to 1976. Adjunct Professor of Law, trial advocacy, University of Colorado School of Law, 1987 to present.

PROFESSIONAL: Member, Denver, Colorado, and Women's Bar Associations. Elected member of CBA Board of Governors, 1990-1992. Appointed member of CBA Executive Council, 1991-1992. Master, Rhone-Brackett Inn of Court, 1993 to 1997. Co-chair, Women Judges Association, National Conference, Denver, 1990. Supreme Court Ad Hoc Committee on the Revision of the Colorado Civil Rules, 1994. Supreme Court Civil Rules Committee, 1998.

PUBLICATIONS: "Awarding Costs in Civil Cases" Colorado Lawyer, 1996. "Volley, Set, and Match: The Art of Not Losing at Trial" ABA Litigation Magazine, Spring, 1996. Colorado Practice: Civil Rules Annotated, "Rule 16, C.R.C.P." "Dealing with Difficult Witnesses," The Docket, July, 1996. "Be Thou Concise and Candid: Effective Legal Writing" The Docket, January, 1994. "Jury Selection" The Docket, January, 1995. "How to Choose and Qualify Expert Witnesses" The Docket, January, 1995. "The Business Record Exception to the Hearsay Rule" and "Impeaching and Refreshing Witnesses" The Docket, 1992. "How to Object Without Being Objectionable" The Docket, 1991.

HONORS: Phi Alpha Delta award for Judicial Merit, 1998; Colorado Bar Association Award for best litigation article, 1996-1997; Denver Bar Association Judicial Excellence Award, 1993.

PERSONAL: Born June 2, 1950 in Boulder, Colorado. Grew up in Colorado and Cheyenne, Wyoming. Received Bachelor of Arts cum laude from Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts, in 1972. Received J.D. from University of Utah College of Law in 1975. Editor-in Chief, University of Utah Journal of Contemporary Law. Mother of teenage daughter.

Justice Nathan B. Coats

Date of Judicial Appointment: April 24, 2000



CAREER: Appointed to the Colorado Supreme Court, April 24, 2000. Chief Appellate Deputy District Attorney for the Second Judicial District (Denver) 1986 to May 2000; Adjunct Professor, University of Colorado School of Law (Constitutional Criminal Procedure) Fall of 1990; Deputy Colorado Attorney General, Appellate Section, 1983 to 1986; Assistant Colorado Attorney General, Appellate Section, 1978 to 1983; Associate, Hough, Grant, McCarren and Bernard, 1977 to 1978.

PROFESSIONAL: Colorado Supreme Court Criminal Rules Committee, Member 1983 - 2000, Chair 1997 - 2000; Colorado Supreme Court Board of Law Examiners 1984 - 1994; Colorado Supreme Court Appellate Rules Committee 1985 - 2000; Colorado Supreme Court Civil Rules Committee, Joint Civil/Criminal Subcommittee on the Colorado Rules of Evidence, 1996 - 2000; Colorado Supreme Court Criminal Pattern Jury Instructions Committee, 1987 - 2000; Colorado Supreme Court Jury Reform Pilot Project Committee, 1998 - 2000; Colorado District Attorneys Council Legislative Committee, 1990 - 2000; Reporter for Governor's Columbine Commission, Fall 1999 - April 2000; Lecturer, Denver Police Academy, 1986 - 1997; Chief Reporter for the Erickson Commission on Officer-Involved Shootings, 1996 - 1997.

EDUCATION: Received B.A. in Economics from University of Colorado, 1971. Received J.D. from the University of Colorado School of Law, 1977.

Justice Allison Eid

Date of Judicial Appointment: February 15, 2006



Allison H. Eid was sworn in as the 95th Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court on March 13, 2006. Before joining the Court, Justice Eid was the Solicitor General of the State of Colorado, serving as the chief legal officer to the Colorado Attorney General and representing Colorado officials and agencies in state and federal court. She was also a tenured Associate Professor of Law at the University of Colorado School of Law, teaching Constitutional Law, Legislation, and Torts, and writing on the topic of constitutional federalism.

Prior to joining the faculty of the University of Colorado School of Law, Justice Eid practiced commercial and appellate litigation with the Denver office of the national law firm of Arnold & Porter. She clerked for the Honorable Clarence

Thomas, Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, and for Judge Jerry E. Smith of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in Houston, Texas.

Justice Eid earned her bachelor's degree in American Studies (With Distinction and Phi Beta Kappa) from Stanford University in 1987. She then served as a Special Assistant and Speechwriter to U.S. Secretary of Education William J. Bennett. In 1991, she graduated with High Honors from The University of Chicago Law School, where she was Articles Editor of *The University of Chicago Law Review* and was elected to the Order of the Coif. In 2002, President George W. Bush appointed her to serve on the Permanent Committee for the Oliver Wendell Holmes Devise, established by Congress in 1955 to prepare the history of the U.S. Supreme Court. She is a member of the American Law Institute and studied comparative law in London as a Temple Bar Scholar.

Justice Eid grew up in Spokane, Washington. She and her husband Troy, an attorney, have two children.

Justice Monica M. Márquez

Date of Judicial Appointment: September 8, 2010



Monica M. Márquez was sworn in as Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court on December 10, 2010. She was appointed by Governor Bill Ritter, Jr. Before joining the Court, Justice Márquez served as Deputy Attorney General at the Colorado Attorney General's Office, where she led the State Services section in representing many Colorado Executive Branch agencies and Colorado's statewide elected public officials, including the Governor, Treasurer, Secretary of State, and Attorney General. Before being appointed Deputy Attorney General, Justice Márquez also served as Assistant Solicitor General and as Assistant Attorney General in both the Public Officials Unit and the Criminal Appellate Section.

Prior to joining the Attorney General's Office, Justice Márquez practiced general commercial litigation and employment law at Holme Roberts & Owen, LLP. She clerked for Judge David M. Ebel of the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit in Denver, Colo., and for Judge Michael A. Ponsor of the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts in Springfield, Mass.

Justice Márquez was born in Austin, Texas. She grew up in Grand Junction, Colo., where she graduated from Grand Junction High School. She earned her bachelor's degree from Stanford University, then served in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps as a volunteer inner-city school teacher and community organizer in Camden, N.J., and Philadelphia, Pa. She graduated from Yale Law School, where she served as Editor of the Yale Law Journal, Articles Editor of the Yale Law & Policy Review, and co-coordinator of the Latino Law Students Association.

Justice Márquez has been a member of the Colorado and Denver Bar Associations and the Minoru Yasui Inn of Court. Prior to joining the Court, Justice Márquez served on the boards of the Colorado Hispanic Bar Association, the Colorado GLBT Bar Association, and the Latina Initiative, and as Chair of the Denver Mayor's GLBT Commission.

Justice Márquez has received honors and awards including the Colorado GLBT Bar Association's 2009 Outstanding GLBT Attorney Award, the 2009 Richard Marden Davis Award (given to a Denver attorney who combines excellence as a lawyer with creative civic cultural, educational and charitable leadership), and the 2010 Latina Chamber Inspiración Award.

Justice Brian Boatright

Date of Judicial Appointment: October 27, 2011



Brian D. Boatright was sworn in as Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court on November 21, 2011. He was appointed by Governor John Hickenlooper. Before joining the Supreme Court, Justice Boatright was a District Court Judge in the First Judicial District in Golden, Colorado and had been appointed to that position on June 16, 1999 by Governor Bill Owens. As a District Court Judge, Justice Boatright presided over Felony Criminal matters, Probate matters, Civil Cases matters, Dependency & Neglect matters and Juvenile Delinquency matters. While serving on the District Court Bench, he presided well over a hundred jury trials.

Prior to his appointment to the District Court Bench, he was a Deputy District Attorney in the First Judicial District for over nine years. During his tenure with the D.A.'s office, Justice Boatright tried everything from first degree murder cases to third degree assault cases. Prior to being appointed as a Deputy D.A., he was in private practice for approximately a year and a half with the firm of Boatright and Ripp.

Justice Boatright was born in Golden, Colorado and graduated from Jefferson High school in 1980. He graduated from Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri in 1984 and received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Denver in 1988.

Justice Boatright is a member of the Colorado Bar Association and the First Judicial District Bar Association and has held several offices including being President of the First Judicial District Bar Association (2000-2001). Justice Boatright has served on several boards and committees including the Juvenile Services Planning Committee; Children Youth Leadership Commission; Plain English Jury Instruction Committee; and the Lieutenant Governors Committee to Promote Adoptions.

He has been the Dean of the Advance New Judges Training, which is an annual training for all new judicial officers, since 2007. Justice Boatright was named Colorado CASA Judicial Officer of the Year for 2011.

Justice Boatright and his wife Kara have two children.

COLORADO'S SUPREME COURT JUSTICES

Read the biographies of three justices. Write down three facts that are mentioned in each justice's bio. Then explain why this experience or situation might be beneficial for an appellate judge. For example: if it says that a judge was in private practice, how might this help her while serving on the bench of the Supreme Court?

Justice _____

FACT #1: _____

Why is this beneficial? _____

FACT #2: _____

Why is this beneficial? _____

FACT #3: _____

Why is this beneficial? _____

Justice _____

FACT #1: _____

Why is this beneficial? _____

FACT #2: _____

Why is this beneficial? _____

FACT #3: _____

Why is this beneficial? _____

Justice _____

FACT #1: _____

Why is this beneficial? _____

FACT #2: _____

Why is this beneficial? _____

FACT #3: _____

Why is this beneficial? _____