



ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
STATE OF COLORADO  
EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

---

APPOINTMENTS OF PRESIDING DISTRICT COURT JUDGES, PRESIDING  
COUNTY COURT JUDGE, AND ACTING CHIEF JUDGE

---

ORDER 2026-1

---

Pursuant to Chief Justice Directive 95-01, Chief Judge is authorized to appoint judicial officers as presiding judges. Judge Thomas L. Lynch was appointed Presiding County Court Judge of the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. He remains the Presiding County Court Judge. District Court Judge C. Michelle Brinegar is appointed as Presiding Judge over criminal cases and specialty courts. District Court Judge Laurie Dean is appointed as Presiding Judge over domestic relations cases and dependency & neglect cases.

Chief Justice Directive 95-01 allows for an Acting Chief to be appointed in the absence of the Chief Judge. The District Court Judge C. Michelle Brinegar is appointed as the Acting Chief when the Chief Judge is absent. In the absence of both the Chief Judge and Acting Chief Brinegar, District Court Judge Laurie Dean is appointed as Acting Chief Judge.

This Order is effective immediately and replaces any prior Orders regarding Presiding or Acting Chief Judges.

Dated: April 1, 2026

BY THE COURT:

---

Gregory M. Lammons  
Chief Judge  
8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, Colorado