



News Release

Colorado Judicial Branch

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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New District Court Judgeship Created in the 23rd Judicial District ***Commission sets date to select nominees***

The 23rd Judicial District Nominating Commission will meet at the Douglas County Courthouse, 4000 Justice Way, Castle Rock, CO 80109, on June 4, 2025, to interview and select nominees for appointment by the governor to the office of district judge for the 23rd Judicial District (Douglas, Elbert, and Lincoln counties). The new district court judgeship was created pursuant to SB25-024 and is effective July 1, 2025.

To be eligible, the applicant must be a qualified elector of the 23rd Judicial District at the time of investiture and must have been admitted to the practice of law in Colorado for at least five years. The current annual salary for this position is \$198,798.24. The initial term of office of a district judge is a provisional term of two years; thereafter, the incumbent district judge, if retained by the voters, has a term of six years.

Application forms are available from the office of the ex officio chair of the nominating commission, Justice Carlos Samour, 2 E. 14th Ave., Denver, CO 80203, and the office of the court executive, Carol Rigato, 4000 Justice Way, Castle Rock, CO 80109. Applications are also available on the court's homepage at coloradojudicial.gov/careers/judge-opportunities.

The completed application must be emailed to the address listed in the instructions below by 4:00 p.m. on May 19, 2025. Late applications will not be considered. Any person wishing to suggest a candidate to fill the vacancy may do so by submitting a letter to any member of the nominating commission, with a copy to the ex officio chair, no later than 4:00 p.m. on May 12, 2025.

The members of the nominating commission for the 23rd Judicial District are Ara Ohanian of Castle Pines, Patrick O'Rourke of Highlands Ranch, Tracie Keesee of Elizabeth, Jennifer Vasquez-Stitt of Castle Rock, Kevin Stansbury of Hugo, and Fay Matsukage and Jayant Patel of Parker.

Editor's Note: Contact information for the nominating commission members:

- Fay Matsukage, fay@doidacrow.com
- Ara Ohanian, ara.ohanian@coloradodefenders.us
- Patrick O'Rourke, patrick.orourke@childrenscolorado.org
- Tracie Keesee, tdoctor45@yahoo.com
- Jayant Patel, jayson1inc@hotmail.com
- Jennifer Vasquez-Stitt, jennifer.vasquez@state.co.us
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The Colorado Judicial Branch works to provide equal access to justice, contribute to public safety, and strengthen the rule of law across Colorado. Together, our courts and probation departments are committed to impartial and timely dispute resolution, support for families, litigants, and victims, client rehabilitation, and meaningful community engagement.

JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION
APPLICATION FOR COLORADO STATE COURT JUDGESHIP
PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Instructions

1. The application form for a Colorado state court judgeship can be found on the Judicial Branch website at coloradojudicial.gov/careers/judge-opportunities.

Please be complete and thorough in answering the questions. If an answer to any question requires more space than provided, attach a separate page for the question(s). Do not change the margins or font size on the application.

2. Your application materials should be prepared in the following manner:

The application and any attachments must be submitted as a single PDF file with reference letters attached last. The application should be in text searchable format.

You may submit letters of reference from not less than three and no more than five individuals who are able to comment upon your qualifications for a judicial position.

It is preferred that reference letters are included with your application submission. However, if they are submitted directly by the author, they must be submitted by email, as described below in paragraph 3. All letters of reference are due by the filing deadline listed in paragraph 4.

3. Your application materials compiled as outlined above should be sent via email with **your name and 23rd JD District Court** in the subject line with your materials attached as outlined above no later than 4 p.m. on **May 19, 2025**, to the following email address:

judicial.applicants@judicial.state.co.us

You should receive an automatic response to your email submission. If you do not, please call the Supreme Court at the telephone number listed below. Please add this email address to your contacts so that email does not get filtered into your spam.

4. Your application must be received no later than **4 p.m. on May 19, 2025**.
5. Call the Colorado Supreme Court Clerk's office with questions: 720-625-5150