



News Release

Colorado Judicial Branch

Monica M. Márquez, Chief Justice
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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4th Judicial District announces District Court vacancy ***Commission sets date to select nominees***

The Fourth Judicial District Nominating Commission will meet on Aug. 13, 2025, to interview and select nominees for appointment by the governor to the office of district judge for the 4th Judicial District (El Paso and Teller counties). The vacancy will be created by the retirement of the Honorable David L. Shakes. The vacancy will occur on Sept. 30, 2025.

To be eligible, the applicant must be a qualified elector of the 4th Judicial District at the time of investiture and must have been admitted to the practice of law in Colorado for five years. The current annual salary for this position is \$198,798.24. A district judge's initial term of office is a provisional term of two years; thereafter, the incumbent district judge, if approved 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 Richard Gabriel, 2 E. 14th Ave., Denver, CO 80203, and the office of the court executive, Scott Sosebee, 270 S. Tejon St., Colorado Springs, CO 80903. Applications are also available on the court's home page at coloradojudicial.gov/careers/judge-opportunities.

The completed application must be emailed to the address listed in the instructions below no later than 4 P.M. on July 24, 2025. Late applications will not be considered. Any person wishing to suggest a candidate to fill the vacancy may do so by letter to be submitted to any member of the nominating commission, with a copy to the ex officio chair, no later than 4 P.M. on July 17, 2025.

The members of the nominating commission for the 4th Judicial District are Kathleen Cefus of Divide; Michael Allen of Monument; and Stella Hodgkins, Paul Hurcomb, C. Onye Ikwaukor, Roland Rainey, and Misty Plowright, all of Colorado Springs.

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

- Stella Hodgkins, stella.hodgkins@gmail.com
- Paul Hurcomb, pwh@sparkswillson.com
- C. Onye Ikwaukor, onye44@gmail.com
- Kathleen Cefus, ekcefus@msn.com
- Roland Rainey, rojune28@yahoo.com
- Misty Plowright, misty.plowright@gmail.com
- Michael Allen, mtallen@mikemoranlaw.com

The Colorado Supreme Court Clerk's office may be contacted for questions about the application and nomination process at 720-625-5150.

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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 a 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 be 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 4th JD El Paso District Court** in the subject line with your materials attached as outlined above, no later than 4 p.m. on **July 24, 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 the email does not get filtered into your spam.

4. Your application must be received no later than **4 p.m. on July 24, 2025**.
5. Call the Colorado Supreme Court Clerk's office with questions: 720-625-5150