



# News Release

## Colorado Judicial Branch

Monica M. Márquez, Chief Justice  
Steven Vasconcellos, State Court Administrator

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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Amy Woodward, Media Coordinator  
720-550-1194  
[Amy.Woodward@judicial.state.co.us](mailto:Amy.Woodward@judicial.state.co.us)

### **Colorado Supreme Court announces court vacancy** ***Commission sets date to select nominees***

The Colorado Supreme Court Judicial Nominating Commission will meet on Feb. 2 and 3, 2026, at the Ralph L. Carr Judicial Center, 2 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Ave., Denver, CO 80203, to interview and select nominees for appointment by the governor to the Colorado Supreme Court. The vacancy will be created by the retirement of the Honorable Melissa Hart. The vacancy will occur on Jan. 5, 2026.

To be eligible for appointment to fill the vacancy, the applicant must be a qualified elector of the State of Colorado and must have been admitted to the practice of law in Colorado for five years. The current annual salary for this position is \$221,302.09. The initial term of office of a Supreme Court justice is a provisional term of two years; thereafter, the incumbent justice, if retained by the voters, has a term of 10 years.

Application forms are available from the office of the ex officio chair of the nominating commission, Chief Justice Monica Márquez, or from the Supreme Court Clerk, Cheryl Stevens, 2 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Ave., Denver, CO 80203. Applications are also available on the court's home page at [coloradojudicial.gov/careers/judge-opportunities](https://coloradojudicial.gov/careers/judge-opportunities).

The completed application must be emailed to the address listed in the instructions below by 12 p.m. on Jan. 23, 2026. 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 12 p.m. on Jan. 16, 2026.

Applicants should be prepared to be notified about interview slots by 4 p.m. on Jan. 30, 2026, and should block off their calendars in advance for the interview dates on Feb. 2 and 3, 2026.

The members of the Supreme Court Nominating Commission are Peter Gould of Boulder; Lisa Kaufmann of Lyons; Daneya Esgar of Pueblo; Steve ErkenBrack of Grand Junction; Patrick O'Rourke of Highlands Ranch; Dr. Paul Wiggins of Peyton; John Suthers of Colorado Springs; Marco Chayet of Centennial; Janet Buckner of Aurora; Alejandra Major of Lakewood; Edwin Perlmutter of Arvada; Eva Henry of Thornton; Jerome DeHerrera of Westminster; Alvina Vasquez of Wheat Ridge; and Ageno Otii and David Powell, both of Denver.

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

- David Powell, [david.powell@garnettlegalgroup.com](mailto:david.powell@garnettlegalgroup.com)
- Ageno Otii, [aotii@coloradohealth.org](mailto:aotii@coloradohealth.org)
- Peter Gould, [peter.gould@squirepb.com](mailto:peter.gould@squirepb.com)
- Lisa Kaufmann, [lisakaufmann@gmail.com](mailto:lisakaufmann@gmail.com)
- Daneya Esgar, [daneya.esgar@gmail.com](mailto:daneya.esgar@gmail.com)
- Steve ErkenBrack, [serkenbrack@buellfoundation.org](mailto:serkenbrack@buellfoundation.org)
- Patrick O'Rourke, [patricktorourke@gmail.com](mailto:patricktorourke@gmail.com)
- Dr. Paul Wiggins, [wigginsp20@gmail.com](mailto:wigginsp20@gmail.com)
- John Suthers, [jsuthers@comcast.net](mailto:jsuthers@comcast.net)
- Marco Chayet, [marco@coloradoelderlaw.com](mailto:marco@coloradoelderlaw.com)
- Janet Buckner, [jpbuckner@msn.com](mailto:jpbuckner@msn.com)
- Alejandra Major, [heatherlipp4@gmail.com](mailto:heatherlipp4@gmail.com)
- Edwin Perlmutter, [edwin.perlmutter@gmail.com](mailto:edwin.perlmutter@gmail.com)

- Eva Henry, [evajhenry@gmail.com](mailto:evajhenry@gmail.com)
- Jerome DeHerrera, [jd@achievegroup.com](mailto:jd@achievegroup.com)
- Alvina Vasquez, [alvina@powermapltd.com](mailto:alvina@powermapltd.com)

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**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](https://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 must be saved as a PDF file and in text searchable format. The electronic application does not need to contain a signature. If your application materials include multiple documents (i.e., cover letter, personal statement, reference letters) these documents must be combined into one single PDF document with the reference letters attached last.

You must submit the names of not fewer than three nor more than five individuals from whom you are requesting a letter of reference. It is preferred that reference letters are included with your application submission. If they are submitted directly by the author, they must be submitted by email as described below in paragraph 3. It is your responsibility to ensure that all letters of reference are submitted 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 Colorado Supreme Court Vacancy** in the subject line with your materials attached as outlined above no later than 12 p.m. on **January 23, 2026**, to the following email address:

[judicial.applicants@judicial.state.co.us](mailto: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.

4. Your application must be received no later than: **12 p.m. on January 23, 2026.**
5. Call the Colorado Supreme Court Clerk's office with questions: 720-625-5150