



# News Release

## Colorado Judicial Branch

Monica M. Márquez, Chief Justice

Steven Vasconcellos, State Court Administrator

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 20, 2026

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### 7th Judicial District County Court judge finalists selected *Governor to appoint new county court judge*

The 7th Judicial District Nominating Commission has nominated two candidates for a county court judgeship created by the appointment of the Honorable Laura E.H. Harvell , to the 7th Judicial District Court effective January 1, 2026.

Nominees Ryan Lane Hess and Montrose and Mark Alan Franklin, both of Montrose, were selected by the commission on January 16, 2026.

Under the Colorado Constitution, the governor has 15 days from today, within which to appoint one of the nominees as a county court judge for the 7th Judicial District (Montrose County).

Comments regarding any of the nominees may be sent via e-mail to the governor at [gov\\_judicialappointments@state.co.us](mailto:gov_judicialappointments@state.co.us)

**Editor's Note:** Contact information for the two nominees:

- Ryan Lane Hess: 434 S. 1<sup>st</sup> St. Montrose, CO 81401. 970-252-5200.

- Mark Alan Franklin: Office of the District Attorney, 125 N. Spruce St., Grand Junction, CO 81501. 970-244-1730.

For questions about this announcement, please contact the Colorado Supreme Court Clerk's Office at: 720-625-5150.

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