



News Release

Colorado Judicial Branch

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 23, 2026

Amy Woodward, Media Coordinator
720-550-1194
Amy.Woodward@judicial.state.co.us

New District Court judgeship created in the 7th Judicial District ***Commission sets date to select nominees***

The 7th Judicial District Nominating Commission will meet on April 20, 2026, at the Montrose County Justice Center, 1200 North Grand Avenue, Montrose, CO 81401, to interview and select nominees for appointment by the governor to the office of district judge for the 7th Judicial District (Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel counties). The new district court judgeship was created pursuant to SB25-024 and takes effect on July 1, 2026.

To be eligible, the applicant must be a qualified elector of the 7th Judicial District at the time of investiture and must be admitted to the practice of law in Colorado for five years. The current annual salary for this position is \$203,768.20. The initial term of office of a district judge 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, at 2 E. 14th Ave., Denver, CO 80203, and from

the office of the Court Executive, Leslie German, at the Montrose County Justice Center, 1200 North Grand Avenue, Montrose, CO 81401.

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 April 3, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. 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 March 27, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

The members of the nominating commission for the 7th Judicial District are:

Paul Major, of Telluride; David Inouye, of Hotchkiss; Martha Levine, of Lake City; Sally Hays, of Gunnison; and Dan Hotsenpiller, Kori Zapletal and Martha Whitmore all of Montrose.

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

- Dan Hotsenpiller, dkhotsenpiller@gmail.com
- Kori Zapletal, kori.zapletal@coloradodefenders.us
- Martha Whitmore, marti@whitmoreway.com
- Paul Major, paul@ruralhomes.co
- David Inouye, dwinouye@gmail.com
- Martha Levine, marthal@lakecityschool.org
- Sally Hays, sally.hays@gmail.com

**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 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 7th JD District Court – SB25-024** in the subject line with your materials attached as outlined above no later than 4 p.m. on **April 3, 2026**, 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 April 3, 2026.
5. Call the Colorado Supreme Court Clerk's office with questions: 720-625-5150

###