



News Release

Colorado Judicial Branch

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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First Judicial District announces Jefferson County Court vacancy ***Commission sets date to select nominees***

The First Judicial District Nominating Commission will meet on October 16, 2026, at the Jefferson Combined Court, 100 Jefferson County Parkway, Golden, CO 80401, to interview and select nominees for appointment by the governor to the office of county judge for the 1st Judicial District (Jefferson County). The vacancy will be created by the retirement of the Honorable Mark M. Randall. The vacancy will occur on December 1, 2026.

To be eligible, the applicant must be a qualified elector of Jefferson County at the time of investiture and must have been admitted to the practice of law in Colorado. The current annual salary for this position is \$195,001.25. The initial term of office for a county judge is a provisional two-year term; thereafter, the incumbent county judge, if approved by the voters, serves a four-year term.

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 Court Executive, Jennifer Mendoza, and Deputy Court Executive, Traci Worthan, 720-772-2751.

Applications also are available on the court's home page at coloradojudicial.gov/careers/judge-opportunities.

The completed application must be e-mailed to the address listed in the instructions below no later than Sept. 23, 2026, at 4 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 Sept. 16, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

The members of the nominating commission for the 1st Judicial District are Carolyn Collins Petersen of Nederland; Candace Gonzales of Wheat Ridge; Stephen Cook and Tracy Schroeder, both of Littleton; and Charles Jones and Sean Baker, both of Arvada.

Contact information for the nominating commission members:

- Stephen Cook, steve@smithandcook.com
- Carolyn Collins Peterson, cc.petersen@gmail.com
- Candace Gonzales, candacegonzo49@yahoo.com
- Charles Jones, charlesajones@live.com
- Sean Baker, baker@cruxlegal.com
- Tracy Schroeder, tracylynnschroeder@gmail.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. Please be complete and thorough in answering the questions. If an answer to any question requires more space than provided, you may attach a separate page(s) as needed. Do not change the margins or font size on the application.
2. Your application must include the names of not fewer than three nor more than five individuals from whom you are requesting a letter of reference. **Reference letters must be submitted directly by the author, by email as described below in paragraph Reference letters shall be strictly confidential and sent directly to the Ex-Officio Chair of the Commission by email as described below by the deadline listed.** It is your responsibility to notify references of these requirements.
3. Your application must be submitted as a single PDF document in text searchable format. If you include any cover letter, extra pages, writing sample etc. it must be combined into one PDF document with your application.
4. Application materials must be sent via email with **your name and 1st JD – Jefferson County in the subject line** with your materials attached as outlined above no later than **4 p.m. on September 23rd, 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. Please add this email address to your contacts so that email does not get filtered into your spam.

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