



## **ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

For the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District of Colorado

CLEAR CREEK COUNTY – EAGLE COUNTY – LAKE COUNTY – SUMMIT COUNTY

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### **IN THE MATTER OF THE TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT OF COUNTY COURT JUDGES TO SIT AS DISTRICT COURT JUDGES IN CERTAIN DESIGNATED CASES**

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**Effective:** July 27, 2026

**Expiration:** December 31, 2026

**Order Number:** 2026-11

This Order supersedes any 5th Judicial District Chief Judge Order of the same title.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article VI, Section 5, of the Colorado Constitution, C.R.S. 13-6-218, and Chief Justice Directive 95-01, the Chief Judge of a district has authority to temporarily assign a County Court Judge to perform District Court duties; and

WHEREAS, the present caseload and geographic dispersion of cases in the District Court divisions of this district at times makes it very difficult to achieve a prompt resolution of cases; and

WHEREAS, C.R.S. § 16-5-301(b)(I) eliminates the right to a preliminary hearing in certain class 4, 5, and 6 felonies, and mandates a dispositional hearing; and

WHEREAS, it would be an efficient use of judicial resources if the County Court Judges could accept guilty pleas and impose sentences for class 4, 5, and 6 felonies and level 3 and level 4 drug felonies; and

WHERE, it is the interest of the public to ensure that civil, domestic, juvenile and other matters that come before the District Court are promptly addressed; and

WHEREAS, all of the County Court Judges being experienced judges and/or attorneys, and/or being otherwise qualified, it would be an efficient use of judicial resources to allow the

County Court Judges to preside on jury trials and other matters that come before the District courts; and

WHEREAS County Court Judges Cynthia J. Jones (Clear Creek), Inga H. Causey (Eagle), Judge Leslee K. Balten (Eagle), John G. Scott (Lake), and Robert N. Gregory (Summit), possess the experience and constitutional requirements to sit as District Court Judges in appropriate cases as described herein;

NOW THEREFORE IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. Judge Cynthia J. Jones, Judge Inga H. Causey, Judge Leslee K. Balten, Judge John G. Scott, and Judge Robert N. Gregory are hereby appointed to sit as District Court Judges on a temporary basis for the purpose of accepting pleas of guilty and imposing sentences or granting deferred judgments and sentences in those class 4, 5, and 6 felonies and level 3 and level 4 drug felonies authorized by C.R.S. § 16-5-301(b)(I), and for the purposes of conducting jury trials in such criminal cases. In addition, said Judges are authorized to hear District court matters of a routine or emergency nature that may arise in the absence of the sitting District Court Judge or as a consequence of docket congestion, including, but not limited to, jury trials, bench trials, domestic relations, probate and juvenile hearings.
2. A County Court Judge may decline to exercise this authority in his or her sole discretion.
3. This Order shall be effective Julye 27, 2026, and the authority delegated herein shall continue until December 31, 2026. The Chief Judge shall monitor the workload in the County and District Court and shall periodically evaluate the propriety of this temporary assignment.

SO ORDERED this 27<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2026.

BY THE COURT:



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Paul R. Dunkelman  
Chief District Judge, 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District