News Release

Colorado Judicial Branch

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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21st Judicial District announces District Court vacancy

Commission sets date to select nominees

The 21st Judicial District Nominating Commission will meet on Dec. 22, 2026 at the Mesa County Justice Center, 125 N. Spruce St., Grand Junction, CO 81501 to interview and select nominees for appointment by the governor to the office of district judge for the 21st Judicial District (Mesa County). The vacancy will be created by the retirement of the Hon. JenniLynn E. Lawrence. The vacancy will occur on Jan. 9, 2027.

To be eligible, the applicant must be a qualified elector of the 21st Judicial District at the time of investiture and must have been admitted to the practice of law in Colorado for five years. The annual salary for this position is $203,768.20. The initial term of office for a district judge is a provisional two-year term; thereafter, the incumbent district judge, if approved by the voters, serves a six-year term.

Application forms are available from the office of the ex officio chair of the nominating commission, Justice Susan Blanco, 2 E. 14th Ave., Denver, CO 80203, and the office of the court executive William Sightler, 970-257-3632. 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 4 p.m. on Dec. 11, 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 4 p.m. on Dec. 4, 2026.

The members of the nominating commission for the 21st Judicial District are David Combs of Clifton; and Denise Rodriguez, Cynthia Graves, Ruth Swift, Felicia Peña, Tearsa Olson and Daniella Correa Shively, all of Grand Junction.

Contact information for the nominating commission members.

- Denise Rodriguez, denisengj1996@gmail.com
- Cynthia Graves, cindi.graves@edwardjones.com
- Ruth Swift, ruth.swift@coloradodefenders.us
- Felicia Peña, penafel97@gmail.com
- Tearsa Olson, tearsa.olson@mesacounty.us
- David Combs, dcfishes1974@gmail.com
- Daniella Correa Shively, daniella.shively@du.edu

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

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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, 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 21st JD – District Court – Lawrence the subject line** with your materials attached as outlined above no later than **4 p.m. on Dec. 11, 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 Dec 11, 2026.**

5. Call the Colorado Supreme Court Clerk's office with questions: 720-625-5150.