

## ELEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OVERVIEW JANUARY 2014

The Eleventh Judicial District includes the four counties of Chaffee, Custer, Fremont, and Park. The population of the district is approximately 85,094 people based on the 2010 census. The population has fluctuated slightly over the past several years within the respective counties but overall continues to show slight increases district wide.

There are four district court judges handling a mixed caseload of felony criminal matters, civil cases, probate, mental health matters, county court appeals, and juvenile and domestic relation cases not assigned to the magistrate. The primary offices for the district judges are as follows: Two are located in Fremont County, one in Chaffee County and one in Park County. All the district judges currently handle an additional caseload in a second county within the district and may also handle individual cases in all of the four counties at any given time.

There is one county court judge in each of the four respective counties. The judge in Fremont County is full-time. The judges in Chaffee, Custer and Park Counties work part-time. Their schedule is based upon the caseload for their respective county. The county courts hear traffic relates matters, criminal misdemeanors, civil and small claims matters.

Our district has one full-time magistrate and one part-time magistrate (.10 FTE). The full-time magistrate primary serves in Fremont County but also handles Custer County matters and travels there approximately two days per month. The part-time magistrate sits in Fremont County 4 hours per week and handles Family Drug Court matters. Due to the FY09-11 budget crisis we experienced a downsizing in our magistrate time. The magistrates handle a variety of juvenile, domestic relations, civil and other cases as assigned by the Chief Judge. The magistrate is not an elected official but is appointed by the Chief Judge of the district.

In addition to the judges and magistrate, there are approximately 60 support staff positions. As above, the support staff was also reduced as a result of the FY09-11 budget crisis, but due to some caseload increases and the addition of Problem Solving Courts has increased slightly. These positions include clerks of court, court judicial assistants, administrative and accounting staff, and probation officers and their support staff.

As of January 2014, there were 1,302 pending district court cases and 2,967 pending county court cases. Fluctuations in case filings have continued over the past few years. District wide in FY12, District Court filing reflected a minimal increase and County Court filings decreased slightly over the previous year. These changes seem to be reflective of our economy but historically, the trend point toward future growth.

For further information, please contact Walter Blair, Judicial District Administrator, Fremont County Judicial Center, 136 Justice Center Road, Canon City, Colorado 81212. The telephone number is (719) 204-2224. Court proceedings, except certain juvenile, probate, and mental health proceedings, are open to the public.

Revised: January 14, 2014

**ELEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

<u>DISTRICT COURT</u>	<u>DATE SWORN IN</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
<u>JUDGE</u>		
Charles M. Barton	01/14/03	January 2019
Stephen Groome	07/01/07	January 2017
Patrick W. Murphy	01/07/13	January 2017
David M. Thorson	01/11/05	January 2015
 <u>COUNTY COURT</u>		
<u>JUDGE</u>		
<u>Custer County:</u>		
Peter F. Michaelson	9/02/03	January 2015
<u>Chaffee County:</u>		
William P. Alderton	7/01/90	January 2017
<u>Fremont County:</u>		
Norman C. Cooling	3/01/07	January 2015
<u>Park County:</u>		
Brian L. Green	1/09/07	January 2015
 <u>Magistrate</u>		
Robert Freeman	1/04/94	Serves at the pleasure of
Larry D. Allen	3/16/98	Chief Judge

Revised: January 14, 2014

# Eleventh Judicial District Nominating Commission

(Chaffee, Fremont, Park, and Custer Counties)  
Updated: January, 2013

Name	Party	Atty. or Non-Atty	Term of Office		County of Residence
			Beginning	Ending	
Sandra Berryman	R	Non-Atty	01/01/11	12/31/16	Park
Paul Snyder	D	Attorney	2/12/09	12/31/14	Custer
Sandra Attebery	R	Non-Atty	01/16/09	12/31/14	Custer
Kathleen O'Brien	D	Attorney	2/12/09	12/31/14	Park
Mark Pedigo	U	Non-Atty	04/20/12	12/31/17	Custer
Carlin Walsh	D	Non-Atty	01/01/13	12/31/18	Chaffee
Michael Meyrick	D	Attorney	01/01/13	12/31/18	Fremont

# Rules of Procedure for Eleventh Judicial District Nominating Commission

Scope Note: These rules are intended to state simple, minimum guides for the Nominating Commission.

## **I. Notification and Proposals of Names**

- A. No later than seven days after a judicial vacancy occurs, the Commission Chairman shall notify each Commission member of the vacancy and shall call a meeting of the Commission to be held no later than fifteen days after the vacancy occurs. (Nothing herein shall prevent the Chairman or Commission from acting before actual occurrence of a vacancy where an impending resignation becomes known.)
- B. The Chairman shall issue a press release containing the following information:
  - 1. That a vacancy has occurred or is imminent.
  - 2. That persons may submit their applications to the Ex-Officio Chairman by a given date, that persons may submit to any member of the Commission or the Ex-Officio Chairman the names of others by letter filed by a given date, and that the nominations will be kept confidential.
- C. The Commission shall notify each practicing attorney at law in the District of a vacancy as soon as possible after a vacancy occurs or an impending vacancy becomes known.
- D. Members of the Commission may request any qualified person to permit the Commission to consider such person as a candidate to fill the judicial vacancy.

## **II. Commission Procedures**

- A. The commission shall elect one of its members as secretary. The secretary's term shall be for one year or until a successor is elected.
- B. A quorum for the Commission shall be four voting members. The Commission may act by majority vote of voting members present, except in the selection of nominees, when it must act by a majority of all voting members, and in interviewing, when it may act through subcommittees of two or more.
- C. Every proposed nominee shall receive and submit a questionnaire substantially in the form prescribed by the Commission.
- D. The Commission may conduct investigations of the personal and professional qualifications of the proposed nominees.
- E. The secretary shall keep a record of the Commission's official actions and shall maintain a list of names considered for each vacancy. The record shall show when and where meetings were held and persons present at each meeting.
- F. After nominations to fill a vacancy are presented to the Governor, the secretary shall seal and forward to the Clerk of the Supreme Court the record required by Paragraph E above. The Clerk shall maintain these materials as a confidential record, to be opened only upon order of the Eleventh Judicial District Nominating Commission, and then only after approval of a majority of the voting members. Five years after the Governor's appointment to fill a vacancy, the record of proceedings for that vacancy may be destroyed.

- G. When selecting nominees, the Commission shall give consideration to the following factors and questions, among others, with respect to each proposed nominee:
1. Integrity and moral courage.
  2. Legal ability and experience.
  3. Intelligence and wisdom.
  4. Will the proposed nominee be deliberate and fair minded in reaching decisions?
  5. Will the proposed nominee be industrious and prompt in performing duties as a judge?
  6. Are the proposed nominee's personal habits and outside activities compatible with judicial office?
  7. Will the proposed nominee be courteous and considerate on the bench?
- H. All commission records, proceedings and business, including the names of all proposed nominees, shall be confidential and may not be discussed outside Commission meetings except among Commission members or as made necessary by II D above, or as required by law. The names of nominees forwarded to the Governor shall be released publicly immediately after such names shall have been received by the Governor.

### **III. Transmittal to the Governor.**

- A. Within thirty days after a vacancy occurs, the Commission shall submit to the Governor the names of nominees for such vacancy in the number required by the Constitution.
- B. The names of the nominees listed in alphabetical or preferential order, as the Commission may indicate, with their dates of birth, occupations, and addresses, shall be hand delivered to the Governor or sent to him by registered or certified mail.
- C. The Commission also shall furnish to the Governor copies of the nominees' questionnaires, reference letters, and any other information gathered by the Commission during its investigations.

Amended: August 27, 2002