

**12TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
**January 2014**

The 12th Judicial District of the State of Colorado encompasses the six counties of the San Luis Valley: Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache. Considered a model judicial district, it serves an estimated population of 50,000 people.

The district court is Colorado's trial court of general jurisdiction. It has original jurisdiction in felony criminal (16%); civil claims in any amount (47%); domestic relations (15%); juvenile (12%); mental health (3%); and probate (7%) cases. It has appellate jurisdiction in connection with appeals from county court.

Water court, a specialized division of district court, is located at Alamosa. Over 5,700 cases have been filed in Water Division 3 (Rio Grande Basin) since its creation in 1969. In FY13 there were 35 filings and 78 claims.

The county court is a trial court of limited jurisdiction and hears matters as follows: civil up to \$15,000 (39%); felony complaints (4%); misdemeanors (14%); infractions (15%); small claims (2%); and traffic (26%). County court judges primarily handle the caseload of traffic and traffic infraction matters, including the 336 DUI filings in the San Luis Valley during FY13.

The three district judges in the San Luis Valley serve full-time. The county judges serve part-time based on the size of their case load. The percentage served is as follows: Alamosa (100%); Conejos (35%); Costilla (35%); Mineral (20%); Rio Grande (65%); and Saguache (45%).

New filings in District Court average between 2,600 and 2,700 cases annually. Most recent annual filings in the county courts are as follows: Alamosa (2839); Conejos (811); Costilla (819); Mineral (403) Rio Grande (1737); and Saguache (849).

In addition to the judges, there are 65 full or part-time staff positions in the 12th Judicial District. These positions include district administrator, water referee, magistrates, clerks of court, judicial assistants, court reporters, bailiffs, interpreters, collections, and probation department employees.

For further information, please contact the District Administrator, Alamosa County Courthouse, Alamosa, Colorado 81101, telephone number (719) 589-7605. Court proceedings are open to the public, and you are welcome to visit the courts.

**DISTRICT COURT**

<b>JUDGE</b>	<b>DATE SWORN IN</b>
Pattie P. Swift	2/28/2003
Martin A. Gonzales	8/07/2007
Michael A. Gonzales	10/28/2010

**COUNTY COURT**

<b>JUDGE</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>DATE SWORN IN</b>
Daniel A. Walzl	Alamosa	12/9/2011
Kimberly L. Wood	Costilla	2/28/2003
Elizabeth M. Garcia	Conejos	9/12/2007
Ruth M. Acheson	Mineral	1/8/2013
Patrick H. Hayes	Rio Grande	1/11/2011
Amanda K. Pearson	Saguache	3/17/1998

# Twelfth Judicial District Nominating Commission

(Saguache, Mineral, Rio Grande, Alamosa, Conejos, and Costilla Counties)  
Updated: January 1, 2014

Name	Party	Atty. or Non-Atty	Term of Office		County of Residence
			Beginning	Ending	
Zeke Ward	R	Non-Atty	05/17/12	12/31/17	Mineral
Kimberly A. Lookis	U	Non-Atty	03/28/12	12/31/17	Costilla
Amy Uhrich	R	Non-Atty	08/01/11	12/31/16	Rio Grande
Gordon Bosa	D	Attorney	01/01/13	12/31/18	Conejos
William Dunn	D	Attorney	08/28/13	12/31/18	Rio Grande
Paul Motz	D	Attorney	01/01/14	12/31/19	Alamosa
Carla Gomez	R	Non-Atty	12/26/13	12/31/19	Saguache

# Rules of Procedure for Twelfth Judicial District Nominating Commission

## I. Notification and Proposals of Names

- A. No later than seven days after a judicial vacancy occurs, the Commission Chair shall notify each Commission member of the vacancy and shall call a meeting of the Commission to be held as soon thereafter as possible, but in any event not later than 28 days after the vacancy occurs. (Nothing herein shall prevent the Chair of the Commission from acting before actual occurrence of a vacancy when an impending resignation becomes known.)
- B. Persons may submit to any member of the Commission their own names or the names of others by letter filed by a given date (and members of the commission may submit the names of others).
- C. Without delay after a vacancy has occurred, the Chair shall issue a press release as to how and when names may be submitted for consideration. The Chair shall publish the vacancy by distributing press releases and applications to the district administrator, the clerk of the county court in which the vacancy exists (for public posting), and the presidents of the local bar associations. The Chair shall send press releases to local newspapers, radio stations, and television stations within the district and shall post the vacancy on the Colorado Courts Web Page.
- D. Members of the Commission may request persons to permit their names to be considered.

## 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 on all matters, including the selection of nominees.
- 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. 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 Chair shall seal and forward to the Clerk of the Supreme Court the record required by Paragraph II E above. The Clerk shall maintain these materials as a confidential record, to be opened only upon order of the 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 applicant be deliberate and fair minded in reaching decisions?
  5. Will the applicant be industrious and prompt in performing duties as a judge?
  6. Are the applicant's personal habits and outside activities compatible with judicial office?
  7. Will the applicant be courteous and considerate on the bench?
- H. All commission records, proceedings and business, including the names of applicants, shall be confidential and may not be discussed outside Commission meetings except among Commission members, or as made necessary by II D above. The names of nominees forwarded to the Governor shall be released publicly promptly after the transmittal of the names to the Governor.

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

- A. At the time nominees for any vacancy are selected by the Commission, it also shall determine the extent of information concerning the nominees which shall be submitted to the Governor and whether any preferences among the nominees will be expressed to the Governor.
- B. After names of nominees for any vacancy have been submitted to the Governor (together with the information which the commission concluded also to submit), if the Governor shall express a desire for further information from the Commission, the secretary of the Commission shall make arrangements so that any conference with the Governor in this connection shall be attended by not less than three members of the Commission and not less than three members shall agree upon any answers otherwise submitted to the Governor.

Revised: September 1, 2000