

FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
January 2014
Nominating Commission Overview

Prepared December 26, 2013

The Fourteenth Judicial District is situated in the northwest corner of the State, and includes Grand, Moffat and Routt counties. The Combined Court and Probation Department offices are located in Hot Sulphur Springs, Craig and Steamboat Springs. Population figures provided by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs are as follows:

Grand County: 14,843
Moffat County: 13,795
Routt County: 23,509

The District is served by three full-time district court judges, one full-time county court judge, and two part-time county court judges:

- Michael A. O'Hara, III, Chief Judge, District Judge, Water Judge
- Shelley A. Hill, District Judge
- Mary C. Hoak, District Judge
- James H. Garrecht, Routt County Judge (1.00 FTE)
- Ben W. McClelland, Grand County Judge (.650 FTE)
- Sandra H. Gardner, Moffat County Judge (.650 FTE)

The District is also home to Colorado Water Division 6, which includes most of Moffat, Routt, Jackson and Rio Blanco counties. A .130 FTE (full-time equivalent) Water Referee assists the Water Judge in the disposition of these cases.

Similarly, the State is divided into three regions to hear conservation easement cases filed pursuant to recent legislation. Routt County is the home designation for Region 3, which includes the entire western half of the State. Judge O'Hara, has been designated by the Judicial Branch to preside over these cases.

Judge O'Hara also presides over two Drug Courts, one in Moffat County and one in Routt County.

All three county judges provided limited support to the District Court in the capacity of acting district judge. Judge Gardner fills a .200 FTE district magistrate position working in Moffat County. Judge McClelland fills a .050 FTE district magistrate position working in Grand County. Judge Garrecht provides assistance to the Routt County District Court on a general schedule of one day every other week.

A large district in geographic terms, the distance between the Grand County Combined Court and the Routt County Combined Court is 70 miles and requires the crossing of a major mountain pass (either Rabbit Ears or Gore); a one-way trip averages 90 minutes in good weather. The distance between the Routt County Combined Court and the Moffat County Combined Court is 45 miles and a one-way trip requires just under one hour in good weather. One-way travel between the Grand County Combined Court and the Moffat County Combined Court requires nearly two and one-half hours in good weather (115 miles). Winter travel conditions are often severe and lengthen travel times considerably.

Case filing statistics for the Fourteenth Judicial District are available on the Colorado Judicial Branch Web site: www.courts.state.co.us

DISTRICT COURT

CHIEF JUDGE: **Michael A. O'Hara, III**
DATE SWORN IN AS DISTRICT JUDGE: January 1, 2003
RETAINED: November 2012 General Election
EXPIRATION DATE OF CURRENT TERM: January, 2019

DISTRICT JUDGE: **Shelley A. Hill**
DATE SWORN IN AS DISTRICT JUDGE: July 1, 2006
RETAINED: November 2008 General Election
EXPIRATION DATE OF CURRENT TERM: January, 2015

DISTRICT JUDGE: **Mary C. Hoak**
DATE SWORN IN AS DISTRICT JUDGE: July 5, 2007
RETAINED: November 2010 General Election
EXPIRATION DATE OF CURRENT TERM: January, 2017

COUNTY COURT

GRAND COUNTY JUDGE: **Ben W. McClelland**
DATE SWORN IN AS COUNTY JUDGE: September 1, 2007
RETAINED: November 2010 General Election
EXPIRATION DATE OF CURRENT TERM: January, 2015

MOFFAT COUNTY JUDGE: **Sandra H. Gardner**
DATE SWORN IN AS COUNTY JUDGE: January 1, 2007
RETAINED: November 2010 General Election
EXPIRATION DATE OF CURRENT TERM: January, 2015

ROUTT COUNTY JUDGE: **James H. Garrecht**
DATE SWORN IN AS COUNTY JUDGE: January 1, 1987
RETAINED: November 2010 General Election
EXPIRATION DATE OF CURRENT TERM: January, 2015

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact Evan Herman, District Administrator, at evan.herman@judicial.state.co.us; telephone 970-870-2334.

Fourteenth Judicial District Nominating Commission

(Moffat, Routt, and Grand Counties)

Effective: January, 2013

Name	Party	Atty. or Non-Atty	Term of Office		County of Residence
			Beginning	Ending	
Kelly Weimer	R	Non-Atty	03/28/12	12/31/17	Grand
David Jones	D	Non-Atty	06/19/12	12/31/17	Grand
Dana Duran	R	Non-Atty	02/26/09	12/31/14	Moffat
Jack Dysart	D	Non-Atty	01/01/13	12/31/18	Routt
Sheryl Uhlmann	D	Attorney	01/01/12	12/31/17	Routt
Bonnie Roesink	U	Attorney	01/01/11	12/31/16	Moffat
Jessica Ryan	U	Attorney	01/01/12	12/31/16	Routt

Rules of Procedure for Fourteenth Judicial District Nominating Commission

I. Notification and Proposals of Names

- A. 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).
- B. Without delay after a vacancy has occurred, the chairman shall issue a press release as to how and when names may be submitted for consideration; and the commission shall notify each practicing attorney at law in the district of the vacancy and the manner of submission of names.
- C. Members of the commission may request persons to permit their names to be considered.
- D. The names of all applicants shall be made public by the Chairman when the application period is closed. Public comment shall be invited on the qualifications of the applicants. The names of nominees forwarded to the Governor shall be released publicly promptly after the transmittal of the names to the Governor.

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. 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 II E above. The Clerk shall maintain these materials as a confidential record, to be opened only upon order of the Fourteenth 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. His integrity and moral courage.
 - 2. His legal ability and experience.
 - 3. His intelligence and wisdom.

4. Will he be deliberate and fair minded in reaching decisions?
 5. Will he be industrious and prompt in performing his duties as a judge?
 6. Are his personal habits and outside activities compatible with judicial office?
 7. Will he 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 Paragraph 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 to him), 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 four members of the commission and not less than three members shall agree upon any answers otherwise submitted to the Governor.

Amended: August 13, 2002