

2014  
**FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT—COURT OVERVIEW**

The Fifth Judicial District is comprised of the four central mountain counties of Clear Creek, Summit, Lake, and Eagle. Straddling the I-70 corridor, the Fifth District contains some of the State's most popular ski and recreational areas, including Loveland and Arapahoe Basin, Breckenridge, Vail, Keystone, Beaver Creek and Copper Mountain, as well as Lake Dillon, several National Forests, and the popular shopping area of Silverthorne. Year-around District residents number in excess of 92,000, but this number nearly triples during ski season with the influx of recreational enthusiasts and seasonal workers. Moreover, the summer season now rivals the ski season with the number of visitors to the District enjoying the many summer recreational opportunities available. The Fifth Judicial District's challenge is to ensure the fair and expeditious administration of justice to this growing and highly transient population, while projecting the best possible image for the State of Colorado to visitors from all over the country and the world.

In fiscal year 13 there were 4301 new District Court cases filed in the Fifth District and 12133 new County Court cases. The caseload in the Fifth District dipped some in fiscal year 13 due to the weaker economy over the past couple of years; however, filings are anticipated to rebound when the economy recovers and workers return to the area. The cases being filed in district court, especially civil cases, have grown more complex in recent years and consume a greater amount of the judges' time.

Forty-seven court employees and thirty-two probation staff attend to the business of the Fifth Judicial District. In fiscal year 14, the Fifth Judicial District was appropriated a new District judge and four new staff, including a Self-Represented Litigant Coordinator.

One County Court judge in each of the four counties is responsible for traffic, misdemeanor and small claims cases, in addition to civil cases where the matter in dispute is less than \$15,000. All felony cases begin in country court, where many are eventually pled down to misdemeanors and disposed of in that forum. The majority of the County Court judges' duties consist of hearing a heavy caseload of traffic violations, infractions, and misdemeanors that are directly tied to the visitor population to the District. One part-time county court magistrate assists with the small claims caseload in Eagle. Volunteer mediators provide support to the small claims docket in each of the counties greatly streamlining the process and enhancing the outcomes.

Six District Court judges hear a mixed caseload of felonies, domestic relations, juvenile delinquency and dependency matters, probate, mental health issues, and civil disputes concerning matters over \$15,000. Civil and criminal filings comprise the bulk of the District Court caseload, with family law matters strongly represented.

The District continues to work to improve the service it provides to the public, including making adjustments to the caseloads of its six district court judges to improve the time to disposition of pending cases; improving security at all the courts; instituting Drug Courts in Leadville, Summit, and Eagle, and opening up a Self-Represented Litigant Help Center in Eagle. The center operates from 2-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Our goal is to help self-represented litigants effectively navigate through the legal system. The goal is to open up other centers in the District by the first part of fiscal year 15.

For further information on the Fifth Judicial District, please contact Danny Davis, District Administrator, PO Box 597, Eagle, Colorado 81631, and telephone (970) 328-4487. Court proceedings are open to the public, and you are welcome to visit the courts in Georgetown, Breckenridge, Leadville, El Jebel and Eagle. Mr. Davis can assist you in planning a court visit.

# Fifth Judicial District Nominating Commission

(Lake, Eagle, Clear Creek, and Summit Counties)  
Updated: April, 2013

Name	Party	Atty. or Non-Atty	Term of Office		County of Residence
			Beginning	Ending	
Gregory Johnson	R	Non-Atty	05/08/12	12/31/17	Eagle
Daniel Wolf	D	Attorney	06/15/10	12/31/15	Summit
Christina Hooper	U	Attorney	01/01/12	12/31/17	Eagle
George Clark, Jr.	D	Non-Atty	01/01/13	12/31/18	Clear Creek
J.B. Katz	D	Attorney	04/09/13	12/31/18	Summit
Heather Scanlon	D	Non-Atty	08/05/12	12/31/17	Lake
John Montepare	R	Non-Atty	08/02/10	12/31/15	Summit

# **Rules of Procedure for Fifth Judicial District Nominating Commission**

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

- A. No later than fifteen 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 thirty 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 know.)
- 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 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.
- 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 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 Fifth 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 or her integrity and moral courage.
  - 2. His or her legal ability and experience.

3. His or her intelligence and wisdom.

4. Will he or she be deliberate and fair minded in reaching decisions?

5. Will he or she be industrious and prompt in performing his duties as a judge?

6. Are his or her personal habits and outside activities compatible with judicial office?

7. Will he or she be courteous and considerate on the bench?

H. All commission records, proceedings and business, including the names of all proposed nominees except the names of nominees forwarded to the Governor, shall be confidential and shall not be discussed outside commission meetings except among commission members or as made necessary by II D above or as required by law.

### **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.

Revised: 12/12/90