

NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OVERVIEW – January 2014

The Ninth Judicial District includes the counties of Garfield, Pitkin and Rio Blanco and the towns of Glenwood Springs, Aspen, Meeker, Carbondale, New Castle, Silt, Rifle and Rangely. The district is diverse, including agriculture, natural resource development, recreation and commercial interests. The Ninth Judicial District serves a population of approximately 78,875 with 56,298 people residing in Garfield County, 16,043 in Pitkin County and 6,534 in Rio Blanco according to the US Census Bureau estimates.

There are five district judges in the district. Currently, Jim Boyd, Chief Judge, Denise Lynch, and Dan Petre have their offices in Glenwood Springs and Gail Nichols sits in Aspen. Judge Boyd, Judge Lynch, and Judge Petre share the criminal cases in Garfield County and Judge Nichols handles the criminal and juvenile cases in Pitkin County. All four district judges handle civil and domestic cases in each of the three counties. Judge Neiley is currently assigned to Rio Blanco County for the criminal docket. Judge Metzger, Garfield County Court Judge, is assigned the juvenile delinquency docket in Garfield. Judge Pototsky, Garfield Associate County Court Judge in the Associate County Court in Rifle, is also assigned some district court matters. There were 3608 district court cases and 8472 county court cases filed in 2013.

Judge Boyd is the Water Judge for Water Division 5 which includes the Colorado River Drainage. There were 201 filings and 971 structures in 2013. Judge Petre is the alternate Water Judge. Holly Strablizky is the Magistrate/Referee. 75% of the position is assigned to water court matters and 25% to district court matters, including preliminary felony proceedings, temporary domestic relations matters and dependency and neglect proceedings.

There are two part-time county court judges and two full-time county judges in the district. Garfield and Rio Blanco counties have a division of the county court in the county seats of Glenwood Springs and Meeker and Associate County Courts in Rifle and Rangely. In Rio Blanco, Judge Noble is the County Court Judge in Meeker and in Rangely. Judge Erin Fernandez-Ely is the County Judge in Aspen. Judge Pototsky sits in Rifle and Judge Metzger sits in Glenwood Springs. Judge Metzger and Judge Pototsky have been approved to serve full-time pursuant to statute. County Court judges handle traffic, misdemeanor, small claims and civil matters under \$15,000.00.

All of the courts in this district are staffed on the “rural staffing model”. Each district judge has an assigned courtroom clerk and shares the services of one court reporter. Many proceedings are digitally recorded. Staff is assigned to Combined Clerk’s offices and Associate Court offices under the supervision of the respective Clerks of Court, the District Administrator and the Chief Judge. Currently, there are 28 case processing employees, 1 court reporter and 1 full-time Family Court Facilitator, one part-time Protective Proceedings Monitor, and one part-time Self Represented Litigant Coordinator. Probation offices are staffed in each location except Rangely.

There are 23 total probation employees (2 supervisors, 15 officers and 5 support staff) and 2.2 collection investigators assigned to the district. Adult Drug Courts are established and located in Garfield and Pitkin counties, and we have added a Problem Solving Court Coordinator to the specialty courts in the district.

Lynn Reed serves as District Administrator. She maintains an office in Glenwood Springs and is available throughout the district as circumstances require. For further information, please contact Lynn at 109 8th Street, Ste. 300, Glenwood Springs, CO, 81601, or by phone at 970-928-3080 or by email, Lynn.reed@judicial.state.co.us . Most court proceedings are open to the public and you are welcome to visit the courts. Dockets can be viewed on our web site.

Ninth Judicial District Nominating Commission

(Garfield, Rio Blanco, and Pitkin Counties)

Updated: January 1, 2014

Name	Party	Atty. or Non-Atty	Term of Office		County of Residence
			Beginning	Ending	
Sharon Day	R	Non-Atty	03/28/12	12/31/17	Rio Blanco
Ronald Erickson	R	Non-Atty	08/21/13	12/31/18	Pitkin
Matthew Ferguson	U	Attorney	01/01/12	12/31/17	Pitkin
Andrea Bryan	U	Attorney	01/01/14	12/31/19	Garfield
David Fiore	R	Non-Atty	01/01/14	12/31/19	Pitkin
Michael Sawyer	D	Attorney	01/01/10	12/31/15	Garfield
Julie Goldstein	D	Non-Atty	03/28/12	12/31/17	Pitkin

Rules of Procedure for Ninth 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 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 chairman shall issue a press release as to how and when names may be submitted for consideration; and the commission shall notify the local bar association 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 Ninth 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 or her 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 and 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, II I below, III A and III B below, or as required by law.
 - I. The names of the nominees, listed in alphabetical order, shall be made public, but forwarded to the Governor in order of preference or alphabetically.

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.
- 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 four members of the commission and not less than three members shall agree upon any answers otherwise submitted to the Governor.

Amended 2/20/04