

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?

- Volunteer to serve on nominating and performance commissions at www.ojpe.org.
- Educate yourself about the Colorado retention process and the judges on the ballot.
- Review the blue book that you receive in the mail.
- Vote!

OUR COURTS MISSION

Our Courts provides nonpartisan information programs to further public knowledge and understanding of the state and federal courts in Colorado.

More Information:

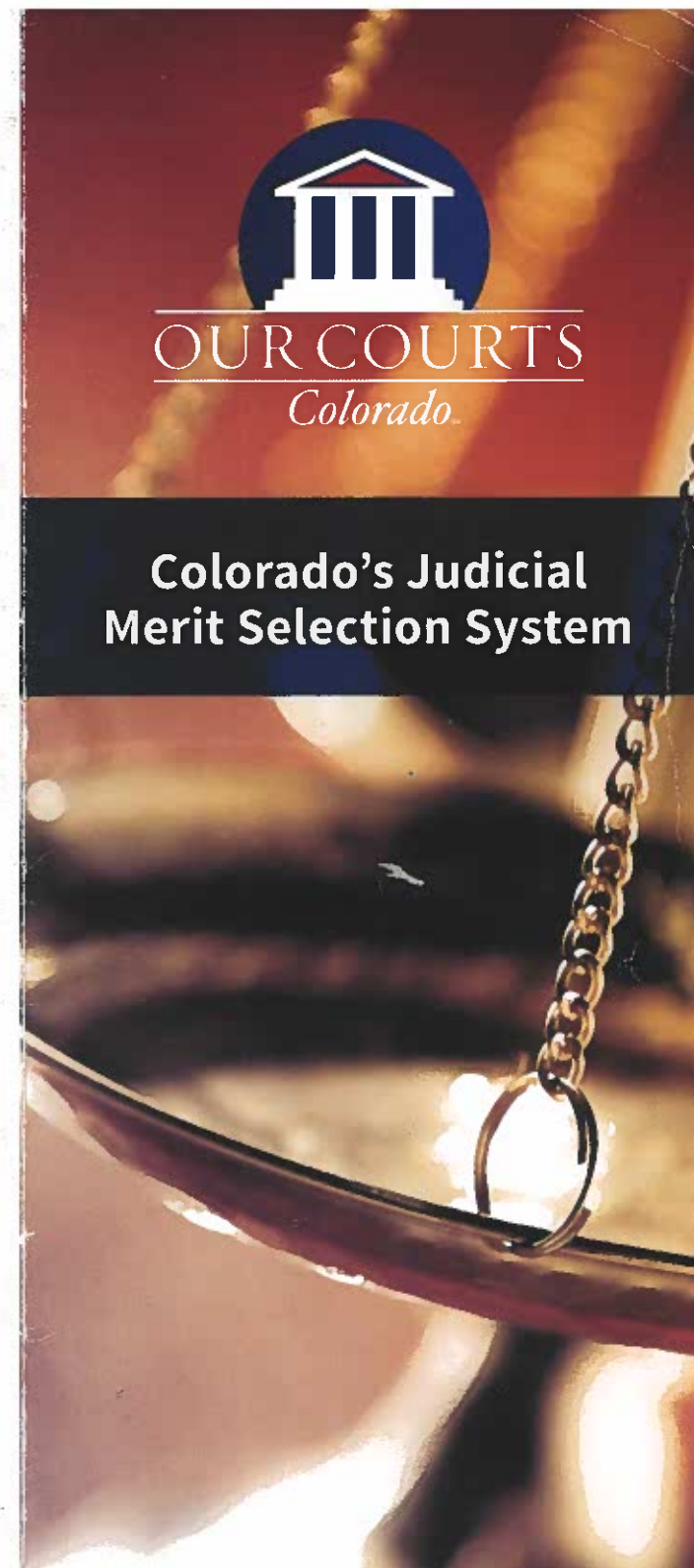
www.ourcourtscolorado.org

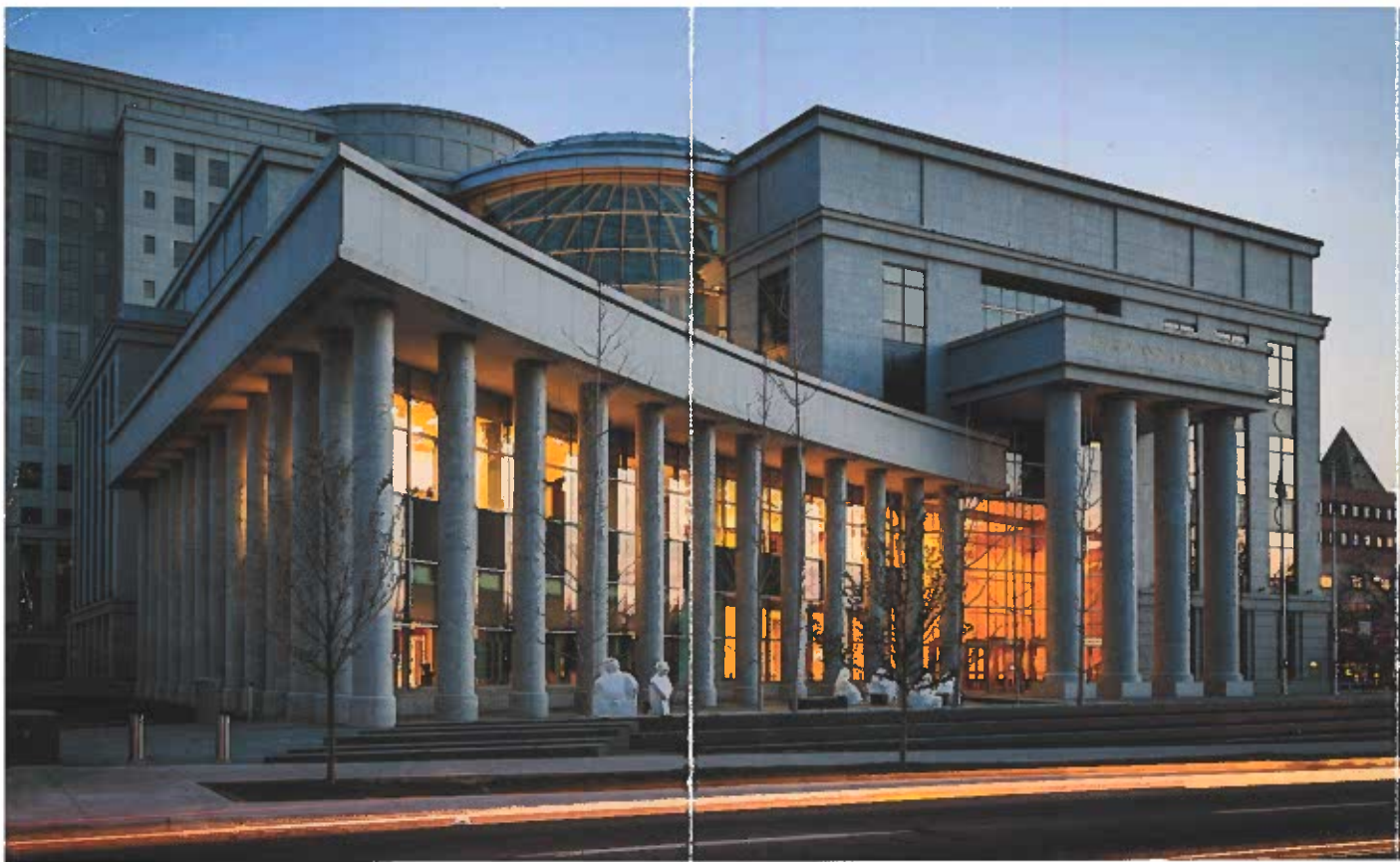
To schedule a presentation or to learn more:
303-860-1115 or ourcourts@cobar.org



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COLORADO'S JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION SYSTEM

Over 50 years of choosing judges based on merit. Not Money. Not politics.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Three important steps keep us focused on qualifications, not politics.

- 1. Judicial Nominating Commissions—** Nonpartisan, citizen commissions with a majority of non-lawyers review applications and nominate candidates to the governor. The governor selects one of them.

- 2. Judicial Performance and Retention Commissions—** Nonpartisan, citizen commissions with a majority of non-lawyers conduct reviews of each judge's performance, including surveys, interviews, and direct observation. They assess whether the judge treats people fairly, applies the law impartially, and meets performance standards.

- 3. Retention Elections—** After a two-year period of service, and thereafter at regular intervals, each judge stands for retention. This is a nonpartisan election in which the judges do not campaign. The public votes on whether the judge should continue to serve the people of Colorado.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1. Who reviews trial court candidates?**
 - In each judicial district, one nonpartisan nominating commission comprised of non-lawyers and lawyers reviews trial court candidates.
- 2. Who reviews Court of Appeals and Supreme Court candidates?**
 - One nonpartisan statewide nominating commission comprised of non-lawyers and lawyers reviews candidates for the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals.
- 3. What makes a good judge?**
 - Knowledge, experience, skills, character, personality, and other attributes.
- 4. What does the Governor's office do?**
 - Checks state and federal agency records to ensure no law violations.
 - Solicits and receives information about each applicant.
 - Interviews candidates.
 - Appoints one.
- 5. Who gathers information about judges' performance?**
 - Nonpartisan judicial performance commissions comprised of non-lawyers and lawyers evaluate the performance of all Colorado judges.
- 6. How often does each judge appear on a ballot after his or her two-year provisional term?**
 - County Court judges every four years.
 - District Court judges every six years.
 - Court of Appeals judges every eight years.
 - Supreme Court justices every ten years.
- 7. When do we vote on retaining judges?**
 - November of even numbered years.