

TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY

January 2014

The Tenth Judicial District encompasses all of Pueblo County. This includes Pueblo, Pueblo West, Colorado City, Rye, Beulah, Avondale and Boone.

The District serves a population in excess of 150,000 people. In Fiscal Year 2013 there were 8421 new filings in District Court (criminal, civil, probate and mental health) and 17,241 (misdemeanors, traffic, civil, small claims and traffic infractions) in County Court.

The Tenth Judicial District bench is comprised of seven district court judges, three county court judges, and two fulltime magistrates handling both county and district court matters. Pueblo District Court continues specialized case assignments. Four judges handle 100% of criminal cases, two judges hear 100% of non- Rule 120 civil matters, two court judges hear attorney filed domestic cases with all pro se domestic matters being heard by a magistrate. Two divisions specialize in Juvenile Delinquency, Truancy and Dependency and Neglect cases. The Tenth Judicial District also acts as Division Two Water Court and in 2013 added a Mental Health specialty court working in conjunction with the Tenth Judicial District Probation Services Office.

In addressing the ability of the judiciary to adequately meet future needs of the greater Pueblo community the Board of County Commissioners decided in favor of building a new judicial building. Both design documents and construction documents have been completed under the direction of DLR, a nationally known architectural firm with significant national experience in judicial buildings. Ground breaking and building commenced February 1, 2012 with significant construction progress occurring during 2013. Completion is expected in March of 2014 with a subsequent installation of furnishings and technology. A move to begin operations at the new site is expected mid-year.

Three County Court Judges are responsible for handling traffic and misdemeanor cases, the majority of which are initiated in the First Appearance Center. Civil cases under the jurisdictional limit of \$15,000 are heard by a County Court Judge. There were 629 DUI's filed in the County Court along with 733 domestic violence cases. 595 Civil Protection Orders were issued in Fiscal Year 2013. 8186 civil cases were filed in the County Court. 91% of the civil cases were money and FED matters.

The Tenth Judicial District First Appearance Center continues to streamline the disposition of misdemeanor, traffic and traffic infraction cases by dealing efficiently with a high volume of cases. The First Appearance Center operates four days per week, every other week. More than 90% of traffic infractions are resolved at initial appearance.

In addition to ten Judges, the Tenth Judicial District has two fulltime Magistrates. The Magistrates handle traffic infraction final hearings, small claims, evictions, pro se domestic cases, Rule 120 Foreclosures, and in custody advisements. One magistrate presides over the First Appearance Center.

The Tenth Judicial District continues to strive to respond to changing societal concerns. Legislative mandates often require more and more paperwork or processing of cases with decreases in personnel resources. This requires the continued evaluation of staff resources and the implementation of changes to meet the needs of the general public accessing the system. The district maintains mandatory e-filing in all probate, water, County Court money and FED matters along with District Court civil and domestic cases and continues to search for efficiencies without significant reduction in services.

For further information, please contact the Court Administrator, Judicial Building, 320 W. 10th Street, Pueblo, Colorado 81003, telephone number (719) 583-7000. Court proceedings are open to the general public and you are welcome to visit the courts. The Administrator can assist you in planning a court visit.

Tenth Judicial District Nominating Commission

(Pueblo County)

Updated: January 1, 2014

Name	Party	Atty. or Non-Atty	Term of Office		County of Residence
			Beginning	Ending	
James Whitmire	D	Attorney	01/01/14	12/31/19	Pueblo
James Croshal	D	Attorney	01/01/11	12/31/16	Pueblo
Patrick Garcia	D	Attorney	01/01/11	12/31/16	Pueblo
Louie Carleo	R	Non-Atty	01/01/12	12/31/17	Pueblo
Sharon Swerdfeger	R	Non-Atty	01/01/14	12/31/19	Pueblo
David Abeyta	R	Non-Atty	01/01/10	12/31/15	Pueblo
Christopher Burke	U	Non-Atty	01/01/12	12/31/17	Pueblo

Rules of Procedure for Tenth Judicial District Nominating Commission

(As Amended April 5, 1993)

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 Tenth 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?

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