

## THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OVERVIEW

January 2014

The Thirteenth Judicial District encompasses all of Kit Carson, Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington and Yuma Counties, namely all of northeastern Colorado. It is approximately the size of the state of Massachusetts. Its county seats are Burlington, Sterling, Fort Morgan, Holyoke, Julesburg, Akron and Wray.

The Thirteenth Judicial District serves a population of approximately 80,000 people. There are presently 3,500 cases filed annually in the district courts and 8,700 cases filed annually in the county courts. The caseload is the responsibility of four district judges, a magistrate, and seven county judges.

The seven county court judges are responsible for traffic and misdemeanor matters in addition to civil cases that do not exceed the jurisdictional dollar amount of the county court. The bulk of the county court judges' work is involved in the processing of traffic matters, domestic restraining orders and small civil claims. They also serve as district court magistrates for juvenile and mental health cases.

The four district court judges handle a varied caseload of domestic relations, felony criminal matters, juvenile cases (dependency and neglect and delinquency), probate proceedings, mental health matters, and civil filings which exceed the county court jurisdictional amount.

In addition to the district and county judges, there are approximately thirty-seven support staff positions. These positions include clerks of court, division clerks, court clerks, court reporters, collection investigators, family court facilitator, protective proceedings monitor, self-represented litigant coordinator, interpreter, and court administrative employees. Approximately twenty-four employees are assigned to the probation department.

For further information, please contact Michael Singer, Chief Judge, Logan County District Court, 110 N Riverview Road, Sterling, Colorado 80751; telephone number (970) 522-6565. Court proceedings are open to the public and you are welcome to visit the courts. One of the judges or clerks of court can assist you to plan a court visit.

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

These rules are adopted by the Judicial Nominating Commission for the Thirteenth Judicial District of the State of Colorado to supplement the provisions of Article VI, Sections 20 and 24 of the Constitution of Colorado.

## **I. Public Notice of Vacancies.**

The Ex Officio Chair, when a vacancy exists, shall forthwith issue a press release to all daily and weekly newspapers within the district or county, as may be appropriate, the Associated Press and United Press International, announcing the existence of the vacancy, that applications may be obtained from and filed by a certain date with the Ex Officio Chair, and that the applications will be accorded confidentiality.

## **II. Processing Applications.**

The Ex Officio Chair shall process all applications and shall, prior to interview sessions, furnish each Commission member with a file containing a copy of each application and copies of all letters received from references and opposing counsel in cases listed by the applicant.

## **III. Quorum.**

A quorum of the Commission shall be four voting members.

## **IV. Confidentiality.**

In order to encourage as many qualified persons as possible to apply for judicial positions, all Commission records, proceedings and business, including the names of applicants, other than the names of nominees submitted to the Governor, shall be confidential and shall not be discussed outside the Commission meetings, except to the extent necessary to conduct investigations of applicants. All communications, within or without the Commission, shall be marked "Confidential" and persons contacted by letter or orally shall be requested to treat the inquiry as confidential.

# Thirteenth Judicial District Nominating Commission

(Morgan, Logan, Sedgwick, Phillips, Yuma, Washington, and Kit Carson Counties)  
Updated: January, 2014

Name	Party	Atty. or Non-Atty	Term of Office		County of Residence
			Beginning	Ending	
Jeffrey Cure	R	Attorney	01/01/13	12/31/18	Kit Carson
David Garnas	R	Non-Attorney	05/17/12	12/31/17	Sedgwick
Thomas Ward	U	Attorney	05/01/12	12/31/17	Logan
Dr. Jerold Brandt	R	Non-Attorney	06/26/12	12/31/17	Phillips
Kerri Hansen	D	Non-Attorney	05/17/12	12/31/17	Yuma
Brigitte Shafer	D	Non-Attorney	01/01/14	12/31/19	Washington
Edward Zorn	R	Attorney	01/01/14	12/31/19	Morgan