

FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OVERVIEW

January 1, 2014

The Fifteenth Judicial District is comprised of the counties of Baca, Cheyenne, Kiowa and Prowers with an estimated combined population of 19,600 (2010 U.S. Census estimates). The economy in this area is deeply rooted in agriculture, as well as natural resources such as oil and wind.

The district is served by two district judges who have their primary offices in Prowers County. Both district judges have a regular travel schedule to the other counties in the district. In addition to the regular travel schedule, the judges travel to the outlying counties on an "as needed" basis. Each county has a part-time county judge who handles the county court caseload for that respective county. The judicial officers are supported by 16 trial court employees consisting of administrative staff, clerks of court, judicial assistants, court reporters, family court facilitator, protective proceedings monitor and self-represented litigant coordinator. The district employs an additional 9 employees in the probation department.

The case filings for the Fifteenth Judicial Districts courts for fiscal year 2013 are as follows:

	County Court	District Court
Baca County	536	157
Cheyenne County	353	92
Kiowa County	533	81
Prowers County	2,650	639
Total Filings	4,072	969

These filings represent an 11.92% decrease in county court cases from the 2012 statistics compared to a state-wide decrease of 7.87% and a 9.94% decrease in district court filings compared to the state-wide decrease of 20.21%.

FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUDICIAL OFFICERS

	<u>FIRST SWORN IN</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
<u>DISTRICT COURT JUDGES</u>		
Stanley A. Brinkley, Chief Judge	10/15/01	1/10/17
Douglas Tallman	1/14/03	1/8/19
<u>COUNTY COURT JUDGES</u>		
Debra M. Gunkel, Baca County, 20% FTE	1/11/11	1/13/15
Gerald Keefe, Cheyenne County, 20% FTE	1/3/12	1/13/15
Gary W. Davis, Kiowa County, 20% FTE	5/8/92	1/13/15
Larry E. Stutler, Prowers County, 90% FTE	11/1/95	1/13/15

Please address any questions related to the trial courts to Barbara McDaniel, District Administrator, at 719-336-7424 or barbara.mcdaniel@judicial.state.co.us. Questions regarding probation may be directed to Byron Hall, Chief Probation Officer, at 719-336-2765 or byron.hall@judicial.state.co.us.

Fifteenth Judicial District Nominating Commission

(Cheyenne, Kiowa, Prowers and Baca Counties) - Less than 35,000 population
Updated: January 1, 2014

Name	Party	Attorney or Non-Attorney	Term of Office		County of Residence
			Beginning	Ending	
Staci Faye Bishop	R	Non-Attorney	03/28/12	12/31/18	Baca
Joshua Dougherty	U	Attorney	01/01/13	12/31/18	Prowers
Linda.Rae Lusk	D	Non-Attorney	03/28/12	12/31/18	Baca
Steven Shelton	R	Non-Attorney	02/09/09	12/31/14	Prowers
Larry Porter	D	Attorney	11/30/10	12/31/15	Baca
Marty Miller	R	Non-Attorney	01/01/14	12/31/19	Kiowa
Christian Paul Tallman	R	Non-Attorney	03/28/12	12/31/18	Cheyenne

Rules of Procedure for Fifteenth Judicial District Nominating Commission

I. Notification and Proposal of Names.

- A. No later than seven days after a judicial vacancy occurs, the Commission Chair shall notify each Commission Member of the vacancy and shall call a meeting of the Commission to be held no later than fifteen days after the vacancy occurs. (Nothing herein shall prevent the Chair of the Commission from acting before the 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 Commission Members may submit the names of others).
- C. Without delay after a vacancy has occurred, the Chair shall issue a press release as to how and when names may be submitted for consideration; and the Commission shall notify each practicing attorney 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 Fifteenth 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. Whether the nominee will be deliberate and fair-minded in reaching decisions.
 5. Whether the nominee will be industrious and prompt in performing his or her duties as a judge.
 6. Whether the nominee's personal habits and outside activities are compatible with judicial office.
 7. Whether he or she will be courteous and considerate on the bench.
- H. All Commission records, proceedings and business 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, or as required by law.
- I. The names of all applicants shall be made public by the Chairman when the application period is closed. Public comment shall be invited on the qualifications of the applicants. The names of nominees forwarded to the Governor shall be released publicly promptly after the transmittal of the names to the Governor.

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

Revised: 9/25/01