

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OVERVIEW – JANUARY 2014

The First Judicial District encompasses all of Jefferson and Gilpin Counties. Jefferson County contains twelve incorporated cities. Many communities occupy unincorporated portions of the county as well. Gilpin County has two cities. Jefferson County is the fourth largest county in Colorado, with a population estimated at 539,884, according to 2011 Census estimates. Gilpin County's population is approximately 5,467. The district is the fourth largest in the state by caseload volume, trailing the 17th, 18th, and 4th Judicial Districts. In fiscal year 2013, 51,319 new county court cases and 21,973 new district court cases were filed in the First Judicial District.

There are now thirteen judges and 7.5 magistrates assigned to the district court. Magistrates are judicial non-elected officers who are responsible to the district's Chief Judge. District Court magistrates handle juvenile matters (including juvenile delinquency, dependency and neglect, adoptions, and non-support) and preliminary domestic relations matters. District court judges handle a mixed caseload of domestic relations, criminal, civil and probate cases. Currently one judge handles all juvenile matters for the District court.

There are now nine full-time judges and 1.5 magistrates in Jefferson County Court, and a 0.55 judge in Gilpin County Court. Magistrates handle small claims actions, traffic infractions, truancy cases and preliminary civil matters. County court judges handle a mixed caseload of traffic, misdemeanor and civil cases. County judges in this jurisdiction also process most felony cases through the preliminary hearing proceedings. In addition to the judges and magistrates, there are 132 clerical and support staff positions in the courts, and an additional 128 personnel in the Probation and Alcohol Evaluation departments.

The First Judicial District is the home of several specialized courts. The Jefferson County Recovery Court, established in 2009, supervises high risk and high need adult probation clients identified as having substance dependency. The offenders are required to complete an intensive 18-month program including substance abuse treatment, probation appointments, drug testing, and weekly court appearances. Incentives are provided to reward compliance and sustained sobriety, and sanctions are imposed by the judge for violations. Upon graduation the clients will have demonstrated continued sobriety, obtained employment and housing and completed 40 hours of restorative justice to give back to the community.

One County Court judge presides over a juvenile mental health court, which is a treatment court established to address juvenile delinquency cases where mental health issues are a cause of the delinquency.

The 1st JD also has a family dependency court. FIT (Family Integrated Treatment) Court is a special track of dependency and neglect cases where parents admit they have a substance abuse problem and are willing to engage in treatment immediately. It is a voluntary family-based program. The Court implements the key principles of drug court as well as sound child welfare practices. This program is a collaborative effort between Judicial and the Jefferson County Division of Children, Youth and Families and involves several community-based organizations as well. Along with sustained sobriety for parents, FIT Court seeks to increase family preservation and reunification rates as well as reduce family re-entry into Child Protection Services.

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee has identified mental health issues of criminal defendants as an area of focus for the First Judicial District. A Veterans Court and an Adult Mental Health Court are currently in the planning stages - Veterans Court is anticipated to start in spring 2014 and the Adult Mental Health Court will follow in the fall of 2014. Veterans Court will serve military veterans with substance abuse and/or treatable mental health concerns who are involved in the criminal justice system, while Adult Mental Health Court will serve non-veteran defendants with treatable mental health disorders. The primary focus of these courts will be to provide individualized services to participants with the goal of treating their chemical dependency and/or mental health issues in order to increase community safety, reduce criminal recidivism, and improve the lives of the individuals. These Courts will be a collaborative effort between many agencies, including the First Judicial District, the Jefferson County District Attorney's Office and Office of the Public Defender, law enforcement, the Veterans Administration, and community-based treatment providers.

Court proceedings are open to the public and observers of court processes are welcome in any magistrate, county or district courtroom. Information on specific scheduling of court dockets may be obtained from the individual court divisions or from the Colorado Court's web page.

For additional information contact: Caren L. Stanley, District Administrator
Jefferson County Court and Administration Facility
100 Jefferson County Parkway, #3030
Golden, CO 80401-6002
(303) 271-6199

First Judicial District Nominating Commission

(Jefferson and Gilpin Counties)

Updated: January 1, 2014

Name	Party	Atty. or Non-Atty	Term of Office		County of Residence
			Beginning	Ending	
Dennis Brown	U	Attorney	01/01/12	12/31/17	Jefferson
Franz Frechette	R	Attorney	06/14/10	12/31/15	Gilpin
Thomas Overton	D	Attorney	01/01/14	12/31/19	Jefferson
Marie Wheatley	D	Non-Atty	01/01/14	12/31/19	Jefferson
David Bock	D	Non-Atty	01/01/13	12/31/18	Jefferson
Heather Lipp	R	Non-Atty	01/03/13	12/31/18	Jefferson
Scott Hutchings	D	Non-Atty	01/01/11	12/31/16	Jefferson

Rules of Procedure for First Judicial District Nominating Commission

Adopted April 11, 1967
(Amended August, 2004)

Scope Note: These rules are intended to state simple, minimum guides for the Nominating Commission.

I. Notification and Proposals of Names.

- A. The Chairman shall issue a press release containing the following information:
 - 1. That a vacancy has occurred or is imminent.
 - 2. That 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 that the nominations will be kept confidential).
 - 3. The applicant must submit the names of not fewer than three nor more than five individuals from whom a reference letter is requested. Letters of reference shall be strictly confidential and sent directly to the Ex-Officio Chair of the Commission. Those writing such letters shall be instructed not to provide a copy of such letters to the respective applicants.

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. The Commission may make the names of interviewees public with the express permission of interviewee. Oral or written communications, and the contents thereof, which are received by the First Judicial District Nominating Commission shall not be disclosed by the Commission except to its members and as part of information provided to the Governor about the three nominees sent to the Governor. Specifically, and not by way of limitation, copies of written communications or evaluations shall not be provided to the applicants.
- E. The secretary shall keep a record of the Commission's official actions and shall maintain a list of names considered for each vacancy. 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 "E" above. The Clerk shall maintain these materials as a confidential record, to be opened only upon order of the First 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/her integrity and moral courage.
2. His/her legal ability and experience.
3. His/her intelligence and wisdom.
4. Will he/she be deliberate and fair-minded in reaching decisions?
5. Will he/she be industrious and prompt in performing his/her duties as a judge?
6. Are his/her personal habits and outside activities compatible with judicial office?
7. Will he/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 may not be discussed outside Commission meetings except among commission members, or as made necessary by II (D) above, II(I) below, or as provided in III (c) below.

I. The names of the nominees, listed in alphabetical order shall be made public.

III. Transmittal to the Governor.

- A. Within thirty days after a vacancy occurs, the Commission shall submit to the Governor the names of nominees for such vacancy in the number required by the Constitution.
- B. The names of the nominees, listed in alphabetical order, shall be hand delivered to the Governor or sent to him by registered or certified mail.
- C. No other information shall be forwarded to the Governor, except that the Commission through a majority of its voting members may be consulted about any nominee by the Governor at his request, and the Commission may furnish to the Governor, at his request, copies of the nominees' questionnaires and other information gathered by the Commission during its investigations.