

TWENTY-FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OVERVIEW

January 2014

The Twenty-first Judicial District encompasses all of Mesa County and includes the cities of Grand Junction, Fruita, Clifton, Palisade, Collbran, Mesa, DeBeque, Gateway, Loma, and Mack.

The Twenty-first Judicial District serves a population of over 146,000 people, which produces a large and increasing caseload. During fiscal year 2013, 8,111 district court cases and 15,973 county court cases were filed. In district court we received a very high number of filings that were foreclosures and state tax liens (distrain warrants). Both take very little or no judge time. When the foreclosures and distrain warrants are removed from the total, our district court caseload was close to the same as the previous fiscal year. In county court, our number of new filings represents a 10% decrease over the previous fiscal year. The largest decrease was in traffic infraction cases, -19.10% followed by criminal traffic cases, -12.85%. This caseload is the responsibility of five district court judges, three county court judges, and three magistrates.

The district employs three full-time magistrates. Magistrates are non-elected judicial officers who are responsible to the district's chief judge. The magistrates handle a variety of caseloads including domestic relations, juvenile, dependency and neglect, traffic infractions and juvenile delinquency.

There are three county court judges who are responsible for the initial advisement in felony cases, for all misdemeanor cases, all traffic matters, all civil matters that do not reach the jurisdictional limit of the district court, and small claims.

There are five district court judges. All handle a mixed caseload of domestic relations, criminal and juvenile matters.

In addition to judges and the magistrates, there are 100 support staff positions. These positions include division clerks, deputy clerks, court reporters, bailiffs, and probation department employees. Approximately one-third of the employees are assigned to the probation department.

For further information please contact Sandra Casselberry, Judicial Administrator, Mesa County Justice Center, P.O. Box 20,000-5030, Grand Junction, Colorado 81502, telephone number (970) 257-3632. Court proceedings are open to the public. Visitors are welcome. Our daily dockets can be viewed on our web site; www.mesacourt.org.

Twenty-First Judicial District Nominating Commission

(Mesa County)

Updated: January 1, 2014

Name	Party	Atty. or Non-Atty	Term of Office		County of Residence
			Beginning	Ending	
Ivan Geer	R	Non-Atty	05/17/12	12/31/17	Mesa
Scott Burrill	U	Attorney	01/01/14	12/31/19	Mesa
Amy Hand	R	Attorney	01/01/14	12/31/19	Mesa
Catherine Green	D	Non-Atty	01/28/10	12/31/15	Mesa
Eric Sandstrom	D	Non-Atty	01/01/14	12/31/19	Mesa
Marna Lake	D	Attorney	01/01/10	12/31/15	Mesa
Beverly Sewell	R	Non-Atty	05/17/12	12/31/17	Mesa

Rules of Procedure for Twenty-First Judicial District Nominating Commission

I. Notification and Proposals of Names.

- A. When a judicial vacancy occurs, the Commission Chair shall notify each Commission member of the vacancy and shall call a meeting of the commission. (Nothing herein shall prevent the Chair 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 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 at law 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 Twenty 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. The nominee's integrity and moral courage.
 - 2. The nominee's legal ability and experience.

3.The nominee's intelligence and wisdom.

4.Will the nominee be deliberate and fair minded in reaching decisions?

5.Will the nominee be industrious and prompt in performing the duties as a judge?

6.Are the personal habits and outside activities of the nominee compatible with judicial office?

7.Will the nominee be courteous and considerate on the bench?

- H. All Commission records, proceedings and business, including the names of all proposed nominees and EXCEPT FOR the names of nominees forwarded to the Governor, shall be confidential and shall not be discussed outside Commission meetings except among Commission members or as made necessary by II(D) above or as required by law.

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.

Revised: 9/12/94