

**SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
STATE OF COLORADO  
January 2014**

The 7th Judicial District is made up of six (6) counties in west-central Colorado. The counties of the district include: Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel. There are combined court clerk's offices (district court and county court) in the county seat of each of these counties and an associate county court for Montrose County located in Nucla in the western part of Montrose County. The geographical area of the district is approximately 10,000 square miles of mostly high mountain valleys. This area is about the same size as the state of Vermont or Connecticut, Rhode Island and Delaware combined. The distance between Lake City in the eastern part of the district and Nucla in the west is approximately 200 miles one-way. The County seats of Gunnison (Gunnison County), Lake City (Hinsdale) Ouray (Ouray County) and Telluride (San Miguel County) have elevations of over 7700 feet. The population of the district as estimated by Colorado Department of Local Affairs for 2013 is 103,137.

The 7th Judicial District has five (5) District Court Judges who handle diversified dockets. The current district judges have offices located in Delta, Gunnison and Montrose. The average traveling distance for district judges is 74 miles one way to the other court locations from their home office. The District Judges cases include domestic relations, criminal, juvenile, mental health, probate, and civil filings that exceed the county court jurisdictional amount of \$15,000. There are seven (7) County Judges who are responsible for handling traffic, misdemeanor, and civil cases under the jurisdictional limit of \$15,000. In addition to the Judges, the Seventh Judicial District has a District Court Magistrate. The Magistrate handles Dependency/Neglect, Domestic Relations and emergency Protective Orders cases in Delta and Montrose counties generally.

E-filing became mandatory for various District Court and County civil cases in the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District in 2009. The 7th Judicial District has averaged 10,604 county court cases and 5,057 district court cases filed for FY 2010-FY 2013. The district has 70 full or part-time employees as judicial officers, in the clerk's offices or in administrative positions in support of court operations. The probation department has 27 employees in four (4) locations in the district. The district's payroll and operating budget is approximately \$4.8 million.

The largest towns in the district are Delta, Gunnison and Montrose. Delta County is the location for a Department of Corrections facility just outside the City of Delta. Gunnison is home to Western State Colorado University. Gunnison County (Crested Butte Ski Area) and San Miguel County (Telluride Ski Area) each boast one of the largest ski resorts in western Colorado. Montrose is in the center of the district, and region, and is the location of many state and federal government offices. Montrose is the site of Colorado Mesa University – Montrose Campus. It is also a center of retail business for the region with large retailers like Target, J. C. Penney, Wal-Mart, Home Depot, PetsMart, Sports Authority, Office Depot and restaurants chains like Chili's, Applebee's, Rib City Grill, Starbucks (3) and Heidi's Deli all with locations in the City of Montrose. Gunnison County and Montrose County also boasts the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. This former National Monument was designated a National Park in October 1999. This National Park is a large tourist attraction thus promoting retail and service related business growth in the area. Hinsdale, Ouray and San Miguel Counties are within

national historic districts and have many recreational sites popular with tourist and sportsmen alike. Tourism/recreation, agri-business, retail and government are the main employers of the area. Some new light industry and retail businesses have filed intention to put stores in the area which could affect population, employment and the need for government services including courts.

The Seventh Judicial District is continually striving to respond to changing concerns and circumstances of the courts. 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 Seventh Judicial District has instituted a number of measures to process our cases and manage the workloads. These include a centralized Jury Commissioner who manages the jury operations for all courts; a centralized Account Clerk who takes care of the regular reporting and management processes for all the courts in the district; and centralized records management personnel who are striving to reduce the paper by scanning appropriate records to be held electronically and response to public requests for review and copies of records. A .50 FTE Self-Represented Litigant Coordinator (SRLC) was hired in October 2012 and increased to full time in July 2013 in the district's effort to assist all litigants who are not represented by an attorney navigate and understand the judicial system and the rules and procedures. We have implemented the operation of specialty courts (drug/alcohol abuse) in Delta, Gunnison, Montrose and San Miguel Counties to specifically deal with this seemingly ever increasing problem in our district. Other innovative programs to meet the every changing needs and efficiency of the courts and probation Department are being considered for implementation in the future.

Contact us at [WWW.7thjudicialdistrictco.org](http://WWW.7thjudicialdistrictco.org) or Colorado Courts at  
[WWW.COURTS.STATE.CO.US](http://WWW.COURTS.STATE.CO.US) As of 02/05/2010

# Seventh Judicial District Nominating Commission

(Delta, Gunnison, Montrose, Ouray, San Miguel and Hinsdale Counties)  
Updated: January, 2013

Name	Party	Atty. or Non-Atty	Term of Office		County of Residence
			Beginning	Ending	
Andrew Mueller	U	Attorney	01/01/12	12/31/17	Ouray
Kevin Geiger	U	Attorney	01/01/10	12/31/15	San Miguel
David Masters	D	Attorney	01/01/13	12/31/18	Montrose
Tina McGuiness	D	Non-Atty	01/01/10	12/31/15	Gunnison
Pamela Montgomery	U	Non-Atty	01/01/10	12/31/15	Gunnison
Erin Cavit	U	Non-Atty	01/01/13	12/31/18	Hinsdale
William Raley	R	Non-Atty	01/01/11	12/31/16	Delta

# Rules of Procedure for Seventh Judicial District Nominating Commission

## I. Notification and Proposals of Names.

- A. 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 thirty days after the vacancy occurs. (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. The Chair shall publish the vacancy by distributing press releases and applications to the district administrator, the clerk of the county court in which the vacancy exists (for public posting), and the presidents of the local bar associations. The Chair shall send press releases to local newspapers, radio stations, and television stations within the district and shall post the vacancy on the Colorado Courts Web Page. The Chair shall also direct the district administrator to post the vacancy on community bulletin boards.
- 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 applicant 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 applicants.
- 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 Seventh 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 applicant:
  - 1. Integrity and moral courage.

2. Legal ability and experience.
  3. Intelligence and wisdom.
  4. Will the applicant be deliberate and fair minded in reaching decisions?
  5. Will the applicant be industrious and prompt in performing duties as a judge?
  6. Are the applicant's personal habits and outside activities compatible with judicial office?
  7. Will the applicant be courteous and considerate on the bench?
- H. All commission records, proceedings and business, including the names of all applicants and 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. The names of the nominees shall be made public after they have been submitted 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 the information which the commission concluded also to submit to the Governor), 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 four members of the Commission and not less than three members shall agree upon any answers otherwise submitted to the Governor.

Revised: 11/17/99