

Justices of the Colorado Supreme Court

Nancy E. Rice                      Chief Justice  
Sworn Into Office:              August 31, 1998  
Sworn in as  
Chief Justice:                      January 8, 2014  
Term Expires:                      Second Tuesday in January, 2021

Gregory J. Hobbs, Jr.              Justice  
Sworn Into Office:              May 1, 1996  
Term Expires:                      Second Tuesday in January, 2019

Nathan B. Coats                      Justice  
Sworn Into Office:              May 25, 2000  
Term Expires:                      Second Tuesday in January, 2023

Allison H. Eid                      Justice  
Sworn Into Office:              March 13, 2006  
Term Expires:                      Second Tuesday in January, 2019

Monica M. Márquez              Justice  
Sworn Into Office:              December 10, 2010  
Term Expires:                      Second Tuesday in January, 2015

Brian D. Boatright              Justice  
Sworn Into Office:              November 1, 2011  
Term Expires:                      Second Tuesday in January, 2015

William W. Hood, III              Justice  
Sworn Into Office:              January 13, 2014  
Term Expires:                      Second Tuesday in January, 2016

**COLORADO SUPREME COURT**  
**January 2014**

Each year, approximately 1,500 new cases are filed in the Supreme Court. Approximately 1,400 of these cases are either petitions for certiorari asking the court to review decisions of the court of appeals or original proceedings asking the court to intervene in cases pending in the trial courts. In both types of cases, the court has discretion to choose which ones it will hear. The remainder of the new filings is direct appeals which the Supreme Court must review. Included in this category are attorney discipline cases, water cases, Public Utility Commission cases, prosecutorial appeals from trial court orders suppressing evidence, ballot title matters, and death penalty appeals.

The court hears oral arguments in most of the cases it decides. Arguments are scheduled seven times per year with approximately 12 to 18 cases heard in each one-week session. Unlike the court of appeals, which hears and decides cases in panels of three, all seven Supreme Court justices decide each case unless a justice is disqualified in a particular case. The Supreme Court writes between 75 to 100 opinion per year. Three-fifths are civil cases and two-fifths are criminal. The civil cases are varied and may include any type of case tried in the state courts. Many are matters of first impression which involve issues not previously decided in Colorado.

In addition to work directly connected with deciding cases, each justice participates in two or three committees which address particular matters related to the court system or the administration of the Judicial Branch. Examples include the Supreme Court Attorney Regulation Advisory Committee, Civil Rules Committee, Criminal Rules Committee, Judicial Advisory Council, Fairness Committee, and Probation Advisory Committee. Other duties include serving as ex officio chairs of judicial nominating commissions and speaking to legal and civic groups.

To perform successfully, a justice must be able to organize and comprehend a large and ever-increasing volume of written materials. Screening cases is a time-consuming process, but the heart of the court's work is its opinions. Although each justice has a small staff of three employees, the work of the justice is one of "hands on" personal responsibility and public accountability for each decision made. Each justice authors approximately 14 majority opinions per year, plus any concurring or dissenting opinions the justice chooses to write.

The goal of each opinion is to clearly and persuasively set forth the law, the facts, and the court's decision in order to provide guidance to the lower courts, lawyers and the public. Excellent research and writing skills, decisiveness and good judgment are essential qualities for every justice. Because the Supreme Court hears such a variety of cases, each justice must be able to move easily from one area of law to another on a daily basis. Finally, the justice must be able to make decisions collegially and to function effectively within the constraints of court.

For further information, please contact Christopher Ryan, Clerk of the Supreme Court, 2 East 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Denver, CO 80203; 720-625-5150 or [christopher.ryan@judicial.state.co.us](mailto:christopher.ryan@judicial.state.co.us)

Revised: January, 2014