

Chief Judge, Twelfth Judicial District

**Order Appointing Acting
District and County Judges**



**CHIEF JUDGE
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

2014-02

**Replacing 2013-05;
Amended 01-14-2020;
Amended 12-1-2021;
Amended 6-6-2022;
Amended 1-18-2023**

Chief Justice Directive 95-01 provides the Chief Judge of a judicial district with the authority to assign a county court judge to duties as an acting district judge when necessary and when funds are available. Such appointments may be made by Chief Judge Administrative Order rather than by individual orders in individual cases. In re the Marriage of Glenn, 60 P.3d 775 (Colo. App. 2002). It is necessary for the efficient operation of the 12th Judicial District that the County Judges be authorized to act as a District Judge when all District Judges are outside the Judicial District or otherwise unavailable, as well as in extradition cases. Each of the current County Judges: Ruth Acheson, Mineral County Judge; Jason Kelly, Conejos County Judge; Craig Schuenemann, Saguache County Judge; John Stenger, Rio Grande County Judge; Daniel Walzl, Alamosa County Judge; and Tamara Sullivan, Costilla County Judge, is qualified to act as a District Court Judge.

In addition, on occasion a County Judge of a particular county within the Twelfth Judicial District may be absent or unavailable to fulfill his or her duties as County Judge and a County Judge from one of the other counties in the district must act for the absent County Judge.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that

1. Each of the County Judges is appointed as an Acting District Judge for any extradition case that is filed in his or her respective county; and
2. Each of the County Judges is appointed as Acting District Judge whenever all of the District Judges are outside of the jurisdiction of the 12th Judicial District or otherwise unavailable; and
3. When the need for a County Judge to act in the capacity of a District Judge arises under paragraph 2, above, the Clerk of the Court where the need arises should contact the Court Executive or her designee to arrange the appointment of an appropriate and available County Judge to handle the District Court matter; and
4. Each of the County Judges is authorized to act as a County Court Judge in any other county within the Twelfth Judicial District while serving as the On-Call Judge or upon the

written or oral assignment by the Chief Judge or a judge acting in the place of the Chief Judge;
and

5. In addition, each of the County Judges is authorized to act as a County Court Judge in any other county within the Twelfth Judicial District when asked by the County Judge of the other county or the Court Clerk for the other county to handle a specific case and the requested County Judge is available. This provision does not apply when the original County Court Judge must recuse or disqualify; in that circumstance substitution of a judge must occur pursuant to Colo. Crim. P. 21(b)(3) and Colo. Rules of County Court Civ. P. 397.

So Ordered this 18th day of January 2023.

BY THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Gonzales', written over a horizontal line.

Michael A. Gonzales
Chief Judge, 12th Judicial District