



FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
CLEAR CREEK, EAGLE, LAKE, AND SUMMIT COUNTIES
P.O. BOX 597
EAGLE, COLORADO 81631

CHIEF JUDGE
PAUL DUNKELMAN

COURT EXECUTIVE
MICHAEL A. PISCIOTTA

January 3, 2023

Office of the District Attorney
Office of the Public Defender
Continental Divide Bar Association
Local Bar Members
5th Judicial District Community

To all Members of the Bar and the 5th Judicial District Community:

As most of you are aware, Judge Thompson has announced his retirement effective January 13, 2023. The Judges and staff of the 5th Judicial District have been working hard to ensure that there is no interruption in the critical judicial services that is our obligation and duty to provide.

The Judicial Nominating Committee will be meeting on January 24, 2023 to select the names of the candidates to be considered by Governor Polis. We anticipate a new District Court Judge being appointed by Governor Polis in mid-February and hope to have the new Judge take the bench in early March.

To best meet the needs of the Judicial District, Judge Owens will be assigned to sit in Summit County and the newly appointed District Court Judge will be assigned to sit in Eagle County. This transition will occur in early March. In the meantime, Judge Owens will continue with his Eagle County docket. The vacated Summit County docket will primarily be covered by the current 5th Judicial District bench. At times, there may be coverage provided through the Senior Judge program; however, it is anticipated that this need will be limited. We do not anticipate that any court dates will need to be continued due to coverage issues.

It is our honor to serve the 5th Judicial District community.

Sincerely,

Paul R. Dunkelman
Chief Judge, 5th Judicial District