



News Release

Colorado Judicial Branch

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Montezuma County Court judge finalists selected *Governor to appoint new county court judge*

The Twenty-second Judicial District Nominating Commission has nominated three candidates for a Montezuma County court judgeship created by the appointment of the Hon. JenniLynn E. Lawrence to the 21st Judicial District Mesa County District Court bench, effective September 28, 2024. Nominees Joseph (Joe) William Hardy Jr. of Tucson, AZ, Drew Pepper Buffington of Cortez and Ian James MacLaren of Dove Creek were selected in a meeting September 30, 2024, at the Montezuma Combined Courts.

Under the Colorado Constitution, the governor has 15 days from October 1, 2024, within which to appoint one of the nominees as county court judge for Montezuma County.

Comments regarding any of the nominees may be sent via e-mail to the governor at gov_judicialappointments@state.co.us

Editor's Note: Contact information for the three nominees

- Drew Pepper Buffington. 77 W. Main St., Ste. C, Cortez, CO 81321. 970-565-7640
- Joseph (Joe) William Hardy Jr. Tohono O'odham Nation Justice Center, P.O. Box 761, Sells, AZ 85634. 770-310-6243

- Ian James MacLaren. 109 W. Main St., Room 135, Cortez, CO 81321. 970-564-4174

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