



# News Release

## Colorado Judicial Branch

Monica M. Márquez, Chief Justice  
Steven Vasconcellos, State Court Administrator

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**November 21, 2024**

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### **18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District announces District Court vacancy** *Commission sets date to select nominees*

The Eighteenth Judicial District Nominating Commission will meet on Jan. 15, 2025, at the Arapahoe County Justice Center, 7325 S. Potomac St., Centennial, to interview and select nominees for appointment by the governor to the office of district judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District (Arapahoe County). This vacancy is a new district court judge position created by HB 20-1026, which changed the boundaries of the existing 18th Judicial District and established the new 23rd Judicial District, effective January 14, 2025.

To be eligible, the applicant must be a qualified elector of the Eighteenth Judicial District (**Arapahoe County**) at the time of investiture and must have been admitted to the practice of law in Colorado for five years. The current annual salary for this position is \$198,798.24. A district judge's initial term of office is a provisional term of two years; thereafter, the incumbent district judge, if approved by the voters, has a term of six years.

Application forms are available from the office of the ex officio chair of the nominating commission, Justice Carlos Samour, 2 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Ave., Denver, CO 80203, and the office of the court executive, Jenni Turnidge, 7325 S. Potomac St., Centennial, CO 80112. Applications are also available on the court's home page at [coloradojudicial.gov/careers/judge-opportunities](https://coloradojudicial.gov/careers/judge-opportunities).

The completed application must be emailed to the address listed in the instructions below by 4 p.m. on Dec 20, 2024. Only on-time applications will be considered. Any person wishing to suggest

a candidate to fill the vacancy may do so by letter to be submitted to any member of the nominating commission, with a copy to the ex officio chair, by 4 p.m. on Dec 13, 2024.

The members of the nominating commission for the 18th Judicial District as of January 14, 2025, are: M. Michael Cooke of Englewood; Emily Valdez and Hope Szypulski of Centennial; and Eric Nesbitt, Becky Hogan, MariaJose Delgado and Thomas Hernandez, all of Aurora.

**Editor's Note:** Contact information for the nominating commission members.

- M. Michael Cooke, [m.michael.cooke@gmail.com](mailto:m.michael.cooke@gmail.com)
- Emily Valdez, [emily.valdez@coloradodefenders.us](mailto:emily.valdez@coloradodefenders.us)
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- Thomas Hernandez, [thomas@triberecoveryhomes.com](mailto:thomas@triberecoveryhomes.com)

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*The Colorado Judicial Branch works to provide equal access to justice, contribute to public safety, and strengthen the rule of law across Colorado. Together, our courts and probation departments are committed to impartial and timely dispute resolution, support for families, litigants, and victims, client rehabilitation, and meaningful community engagement.*