

6th Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission

Terms of three of the ten Commissioners on the Sixth Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission will expire this fall. The terms expiring are those of *two attorneys and one non-attorney*. The Sixth Judicial District includes La Plata, Archuleta, and San Juan counties.

As a Commission member I am interested in having dedicated and qualified citizens serving on the Commission, and as a woman I am interested in having some more of them be women. We currently have 7 men and 3 women. The Commission is made up of 4 attorneys and 6 non-attorneys. Appointments are for 4-year terms and are made by state government heads as follows:

Chief Justice:	1 attorney & 2 non-attorneys
Governor:	1 attorney & 2 non-attorneys
Speaker of the House:	1 attorney & 1 non-attorney
President of the Senate:	1 attorney & 1 non-attorney

The purpose of the Commission is to provide voters with fair, responsible and constructive evaluations of judges and justices seeking retention. The results also provide judges with information to help improve their professional skills as judicial officers. The Commission's evaluations appear in the blue book received by voters before each general election. The work is unpaid and voluntary.

There are only 6 judges in this district and of course their terms are staggered. There are only a handful of meetings to attend from spring to early summer every two years plus some courtroom observations to be made. The evaluations are based on questionnaire results, courtroom observation, group interview with the judge and a self-evaluation from the judge. In 2006 we evaluated the two county court judges for La Plata and Archuleta. In 2008 we will evaluate the county court judge in San Juan County and one of the 3 district judges.

Please feel free to act on this information yourself or to pass it on to others you may know in your organizations or anywhere in the district. More information is available (including the commission application) on the Colorado Judiciary website at www.courts.state.co.us. Click on Performance Commissions on the marble column on the left side. I would be glad to visit with anyone who may be interested by phone at 884-9722 or via email at Lcarpen557@aol.com. While political connections might possibly help, they are not necessary. Remember, the judiciary is strictly nonpartisan in Colorado and so are the Performance Commissions

Lois Carpenter

League of Women Voters of La Plata County and member, 6th Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission