

PRESS RELEASE

13<sup>th</sup>

NORTHEAST

(For release 10/21/86)

Report to the voters released by Committee for Evaluation of Judges in District 13.

The Citizens Committee for the Evaluation of Judges in the 13th Judicial district of northeastern Colorado have recently completed its seven-months investigation into the judicial performance of the six district and county judges who are up for retention election on the November 4th ballot. The committee represents the seven counties of Morgan, Logan, Yuma, Washington, Sedgwick, Phillips and Kit Carson who make up the 13th Judicial District. Evaluation information on the Judges was obtained from surveys and questionnaires sent to the police and sheriffs departments, state game and fish officers, employees of social service departments, court room personnel, jurors, members of the bar association, citizen input, and committee interviews conducted with each judge.

The committee has determined that the Judges are all educationally qualified, intelligent, emotionally stable and that each has a deep appreciation of the courtroom process. They all appear to be dedicated to staying physically and emotionally fit for their challenging task.

*Haddon*  
*Stutz*  
NEWS RELEASE:

"Citizens Committee for Evaluation of Judges Meets at  
Northeastern Junior College"

The Citizens Committee for Evaluation of Judges who serve the people of the 13th Judicial District of northeastern Colorado met on May 3rd at Northeastern Junior College in Sterling. Members who serve on this committee were chosen because of personal integrity and previous community service. They represent the six counties of Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington and Yuma who form the 13th Judicial District.

Tom Pilkington of Sterling was chosen as chairman of the citizens committee. Committees were designated to send questionnaires to area judges, court room personnel, jurors, law enforcement officers and voting citizens. These questionnaires will be followed up with personal interviews by committee members.

This process of evaluation for judges follows a pilot project which was designed to evaluate judges, <sup>and</sup> ~~which~~ was conceived and designed by the Colorado Judicial Institute prior to the 1984 general election. This is a non-profit non-partisan organization to promote better understanding and communication between the courts and citizens. The 13th is one of ~~four~~ <sup>five</sup> judicial districts in Colorado who have now implemented this procedure for evaluation of judges and reporting their findings to the community prior to elections. Through this committee every voter with concerns will have an opportunity to offer suggestions for constructive improvements in the professional performance of judicial candidates.

Prior to the organizational meeting in Sterling committee personnel attended a Colorado Judicial Institute workshop in Westminster at the Front Range Community College. Participants were given background information on the procedures for conducting a judicial evaluation.

Those attending the meeting in Sterling were Jon Bailey, Tom Pilkington and Sally Schaefer of Logan County, Suzanne Snyder and Ginger Hamil of Morgan County, Alice Bamford of Phillips, Lea Holtorf, Jeannie Lambertson, Ed Miller and Lola Prussman of Washington County and Herbert Oman of Yuma County.

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