

# **Adams County Citizen's Evaluation Committee For Retention of Judges**

17th  
Adams

Front Range Community College  
3645 West 112th Avenue, Westminster, CO 80030

October 20, 1986

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ed Harshbarger, Jr.  
Chairperson

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Frank Sullivan  
466-8811, ext. 282

Elaine Valente  
Vice-Chairperson

Edwin Harshbarger, Jr.  
659-4964

Betty Graves  
Secretary

ADAMS COUNTY JUDICIAL POLL COMPLETED

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Robert Greer  
Willard Nielsen  
Mary Padilla  
Ulysses Parker  
Yvonne Parker  
Annie Pasquale  
Dan Sullivan  
Harlan Sutherland

The Adams County Citizen's Evaluation Committee for Retention of Judges, under the auspices of the Colorado Judicial Institute (CJI), has completed its task of evaluating judges in the 17th Judicial District (Adams County). CJI is a non-profit organization created to promote public education regarding the court system, communication between the courts and the public, and discussion of judicial system issues. Five judges are up for retention on the November 4 ballot.

**FRONT RANGE  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
LIAISON**

Frank Sullivan

Under Colorado law, judges do not run for office as politicians do. They are appointed by the governor. And after a person has been a judge for at least two years, voters answer "yes" or "no" as to whether that judge should be retained.

The Committee sent survey forms to jurors, courthouse employees, several law enforcement agencies and attorneys. Based on information received and from personal interviews, the Committee has reached the following conclusions:

JUDGE RICHARD M. BORCHERS received the highest marks in the

evaluation process, and the Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the voters that he be retained on the bench. Many respondents in the groups polled felt that he was sensitive to the needs of people and is especially concerned with youth. He has received awards for his work in juvenile justice.

JUDGE THOMAS R. ENSOR received the mean score of the five judges on the ballot. His retention on the bench was unanimously endorsed by the Committee. He is recognized as a hard worker who is good at juvenile work and who attempts to help individuals in the judicial process to understand the function of the court. The Committee discerned weaknesses in his judicial temperament and legal background.

JUDGE EMIL A. RINALDI is recommended for retention by the Committee. He was perceived to be a judge who realizes compassion is an important attribute of a good judge. He was rated below the mean score by the evaluation process because he still needs to broaden his knowledge of the law and to improve his judicial decorum. Some concern was expressed about the inconsistency of statements made before the Committee.

JUDGE ROBERT J. STEINBORN scored lowest of the five judges evaluated in the group up for retention. The Committee was unable, even after considerable debate, to come to a consensus as to whether to recommend retention or non-retention of this judge; therefore, the Committee has no recommendation. It appears that he is a hard worker who seems able to move his docket. However, he was viewed by some of those polled as being unsympathetic, rude and possessing a poor sense of justice. This temperament was of concern to the Committee.

JUDGE PATRICK D. WILLIAMS was rated highly by each of the groups polled. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend his retention on

the bench. He was impressive during his interview with the Committee. He is a good communicator who apparently understands the problems faced by various parties in a lawsuit. He was judged to be fair, objective and a good manager of the courtroom.

The Adams County committee is one of five citizen's committees in CJI's judge evaluation program this election year. Members of the committee evaluating the judges in the 17th Judicial District are: Annie Pasquale, Dan Sullivan, Elaine Valente, Bob Greer, Mary Padilla, Yvonne Parker, Ulysses Parker, Betty Graves, Willard Nielsen, Harlan Sutherland and Edwin Harshbarger, Jr.

Front Range Community College provided secretarial, clerical and other support services to the Adams County group. Dr. Frank Sullivan, college liaison, and Ellen Mueser, college resource coordinator, worked with the Committee.