



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Stanley L. Garnett, District Attorney

March 28, 2014

Via Email and Regular U.S. Mail

Helen Stone, Chair  
20th Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission  
4710 Table Mesa Drive, Ste. B  
Boulder, CO 80305

Re: Judicial Evaluation of Judge Noel Blum

Dear Ms. Stone:

It is my pleasure to provide observations and comments to the Judicial Evaluation Commission as part of the evaluation process of Judges of the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. As I have mentioned many times, Colorado has an excellent judiciary and the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, in particular, has an excellent set of judges dispensing justice in both civil and criminal matters. The intent of my office in providing written comments about each judge is to make certain that the point of view of my deputies who appear in front of many of these judges several times a day is included in the evaluation process undertaken by your Committee. Also, I believe, as District Attorney, part of my job involves providing input to the public about our judges and passing along helpful suggestions to the bench. Although, occasionally, every judge issues a legal ruling with which my staff does not agree, those are matters for the appellate courts, not for the Judicial Evaluations Committee.

This year, there are nine judges up for evaluation. We will provide separate, written comments on each one addressed to you, with copies to the reviewed Judge and to the Chief Judge.

Judge Blum was appointed to the criminal bench in January 2003. Judge Blum is without a doubt a smart and legally clear thinking County Court Judge. He works hard and manages jury trials efficiently and well. Judge Blum's most significant flaw is one of style and demeanor. Occasionally, Judge Blum appears to let personal matters and personal preferences overwhelm his conduct from the bench. On more than one occasion, he has been known to lapse into discourses, aimed usually at counsel, that can only be described as "ad hominem" criticisms. Additionally, there have been times where certain of my staff have felt that Judge Blum was unnecessarily ill-tempered towards participants in the process, even lay people such as witnesses, victims and jurors who had no role in whatever problems may have concerned him. Judge Blum

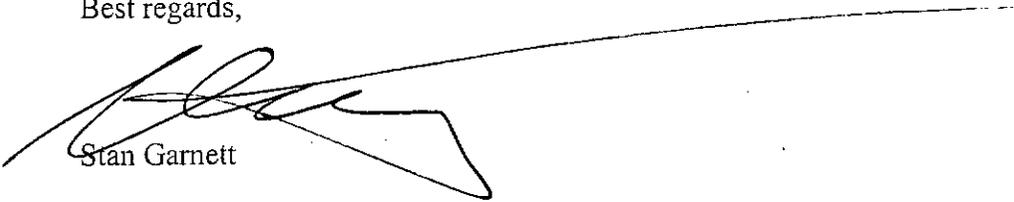
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is capable of effective docket management and thoughtful rulings; he should nurture a judicial self-awareness to make certain he presents as even-tempered and even-handed.

Judge Blum should be retained.

I look forward to appearing before your committee on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

Best regards,



Stan Garnett

SLG/psm

cc: The Honorable Maria Berkenkotter  
The Honorable Noel Blum