



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Stanley L. Garnett, District Attorney

March 27, 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 Norma Sierra

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 20th Judicial District. As I have mentioned many times, Colorado has an excellent judiciary and the 20th 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 of the Judicial District.

Judge Norma Sierra was appointed to the criminal bench in January 2011. Judge Sierra has been an excellent addition to the Boulder County Court bench. She undertook the bench without extensive experience of the criminal trial process and her learning curve about trials, evidence and procedure, initially, was somewhat steep. However, as she has increasingly become comfortable with trials and criminal dockets, she has been terrific. She works hard, is timely in her rulings and her courtroom functions quite smoothly. Moreover, she has a courtroom demeanor that is courteous, dignified and firmly in control, but also warm, particularly towards

Helen Stone, Chair
20th Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission
March 27, 2014
Page 2

jurors and members of the public. Judge Sierra is a strong addition to the County Court bench.
She should be retained.

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

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Stan Garnett', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Stan Garnett

SLG/psm

cc: The Honorable Norma Sierra
The Honorable Maria Berkenkotter