



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Stanley L. Garnett, District Attorney

April 21, 2016

Graham Billingsley, Esq.
Chair, 20th Judicial District
Office of Judicial Performance Evaluation
Ralph L. Carr Judicial Center
1300 Broadway, Suite 220
Denver, Colorado 80203

Re: Periodic Evaluation of 20th Judicial District Judge John Stavely

Dear Mr. Billingsley,

In the 20th Judicial District, we are fortunate to have an excellent bench. Due to the experience that my 32 deputies have in front of the three judges up for retention this year, day in and day out, I will be communicating directly with the Judicial Performance Commission at a public hearing and in writing. The District Attorney develops a unique understanding of each judge's skill level and docket management expertise and it is in the public interest for me to take the time to lay out my office's observations to the Performance Commission during the evaluation process. Virtually every significant event in court is reported to my office and my senior staff, often within moments, giving us a unique perspective on the strength and weaknesses of each judicial officer.

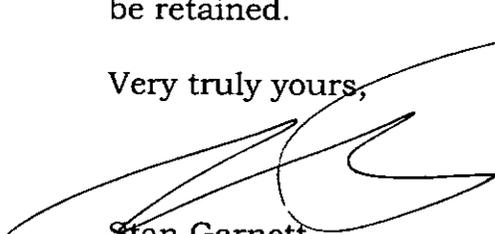
Every judge will occasionally issue rulings that my office believes are legally incorrect. We do not hesitate where we think it is in the interest of the People to raise legal issues on appeal, which will continue to be our practice. However, the focus of this evaluation is not on legal issues but on day to day performance and management of the courtroom.

I have solicited opinions from all of the Deputy DA's who have appeared in front of Judge Stavely, and have personally known Judge Stavely for many years, including when he was in practice prior to taking the bench. I have tried jury trials in front of him, handled hearings in front of him and watched him handle many proceedings over the last eight years. Judge Stavely routinely handles a heavy case load of criminal and other matters. I can say without reservation that Judge Stavely is one of the best county court trial court judges

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I've ever seen. He is efficient, fair and dignified in the way that he runs his courtroom. He understands the law and applies it fairly to both sides and always maintains an appropriate demeanor towards litigants and the lawyers appearing in front of him and towards members of the jury. The People of Boulder County are fortunate to have the services of Judge Stavely. He should be retained.

Very truly yours,



Stan Garnett

SLG/psm

cc: Honorable John Stavely
Honorable Maria Berkenkotter