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Colorado senators appoint advisory panel to help find federal judges

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Colorado's U.S. Sens. Mark Udall and Michael Bennet Thursday announced formation of a 10-member advisory panel to help find applicants for two vacant federal judge positions.

The senators said in a joint statement that the panel is bipartisan and will use a "merit selection system endorsed by the American Bar Association" to fill vacancies on the U.S. District Court bench in Colorado.

"There is an urgent need to fill the vacancies because as long as they remain open, access to efficient, timely justice is impaired, and sitting judges are forced to deal with overwhelming dockets," the senators said.

Interested candidates should fill out applications and return them to either senators' office by April 14. Application forms are available at the lawmakers' websites, [markudall.senate.gov](#) and [bennet.senate.gov](#).

Those who applied to former U.S. Sen. Ken Salazar's judicial-appointment advisory committee last year can resubmit their applications after making any necessary updates and changes.

Here are the names and biographies of members of the advisory panel as provided by Senate aides:

Hal Haddon (co-chair) -- Haddon has been an Adjunct Professor of law at Denver University, and a Fellow with the American College of Trial Lawyers. He is currently a partner at the law firm of Haddon, Morgan, Mueller, Jordan, Mackey and Foreman, based in Denver.

Rebecca Kourlis (co-chair) -- Kourlis served as a justice of the Colorado Supreme Court for 11 years, resigning in 2006 to head the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System in Denver. Kourlis is a graduate of Stanford University Law School. She is also a Colorado native and daughter of former Governor John Love.

Joseph Garcia -- Garcia is president of Colorado State University-Pueblo. He has also served as the President of Pikes Peak Community College in Colorado Springs. Garcia has a diverse professional background that includes law, government and higher education. He has served as the regional administrator of the Department of Housing and Urban Development in the Clinton Administration, and before that as a member of the cabinet for Colorado Gov. Roy Romer. Prior to serving in the Romer cabinet, Garcia was a litigation partner with Holme Roberts & Owen, practicing in the Colorado Springs office.

Dale Harris -- Harris is of counsel with the law firm Davis, Graham & Stubbs, LLP. He is a fellow of the American College of Trial lawyers and a past president of both the Colorado and Denver Bar Associations. He has served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Mile High United Way and is a member of the Colorado Supreme Court Judicial Advisory Council. He has been president of the Colorado Association of Corporate Counsel and has extensive experience with complex business and commercial litigation. He is currently the chair-elect of the Board of Directors of the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation.

Diane King -- King is a partner in King & Greisen, LLP. She is a frequent lecturer on employment law and has served as a president and board member of the faculty of federal advocates, the Plaintiff's Employment Lawyers Association and is a founder and member of the Colorado AIDS Project Legal Referral Service. King is currently serving as the chair of the Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Panel for the U.S. District Court for Colorado.

Michelle Lucero -- Lucero is the Vice President of Employee Relations at Centura Health. Lucero served as the Deputy City Attorney for the City and County of Denver from 2003 to 2006. In that position, Lucero had oversight of all federal court matters. Lucero has served as a trustee for Metropolitan State College, the Littleton Public Schools Facilities Task Force and the Kroenke Sports' Hispanic Advisory Council.

Raymond Moore -- Moore is the Federal Public Defender for the Districts of Colorado and Wyoming. He serves on the Criminal Justice Act Standing Committee both for the District of Colorado and the Tenth Circuit. In prior years he was an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Colorado. Moore is a fellow with the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Lori Potter -- Potter is with Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell, based in Denver. She has served as an attorney for the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund. She was one of the founding directors of the Faculty of Federal Advocates and Chair of the Civil Justice Reform Act advisory committee for the District of Colorado.

Dan Reilly -- Reilly is a founding member of the trial firm Reilly Pozner LLP. He is a civil trial lawyer with extensive experience in the federal courts. Reilly has represented the ownership of the Denver Broncos and has handled a broad spectrum of civil litigation for both plaintiffs and defendants over 27 years.

Ken Spann -- Spann is a fifth generation Coloradan, a lawyer-rancher, and Vice President of Spann Ranches, Inc., one of the longstanding family-owned, great commercial cattle ranches in Colorado. Spann has also served on the Board of the Upper Gunnison

River Water Conservancy District and has extensive experience with the livestock industry, public lands management, water law and environmental law. Spann served on the Colorado Rangeland Reform Panel convened by former Colorado Gov. Roy Romer to advise the U.S. Department of the Interior on grazing regulations.

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