

U. S. District Court Judges District of Montana 1889 - 2016

Under Article III of the United States Constitution, the President appoints United States District Judges, with the advice and consent of the United States Senate. The U.S. District Court for the District of Montana has grown from its original one Judge in 1889 to its current three Judges and two Senior Judges.

Judgeship #1

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On February 22, 1889 Congress organized Montana as one Judicial District, authorized one judgeship for the U.S. District Court and assigned the District of Montana to the Ninth Circuit.

Judgeship #2

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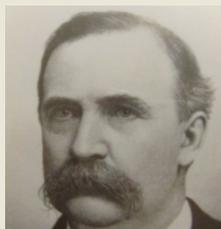
September 14, 1922, one temporary Judgeship was authorized by 42 Stat. 837. This Judgeship was made permanent by 52 Stat. 584 on May 31, 1938.

Judgeship #3

Judgeship #3

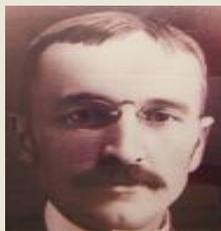
On July 10, 1984 the third Judgeship was authorized by 98 Stat. 333.

DISTRICT OF MONTANA - JUDGESHIP #1 (1889)



Hiram Knowles
(1890 - 1904)

Nominated by Benjamin Harrison, and received commission on February 21, 1890. Service terminated due to retirement on April 15, 1904.



William Henry Hunt
(1904 - 1910)

Nominated by Theodore Roosevelt, and received commission on April 19, 1904. Service terminated due to appointment to another judicial position on March 30, 1910.



Carl L. Rasch
(1910 - 1911)

Nominated by William H. Taft, and received commission on May 2, 1910. Service terminated due to resignation on October 15, 1911.



George M. Bourquin
(1912 - 1958)

Nominated by William H. Taft, and received commission on March 8, 1912. Assumed Senior status on March 9, 1934. Service terminated upon death, November 15, 1958.



James Harris Baldwin
(1935 - 1944)

Nominated by Franklin D. Roosevelt, and received commission on June 4, 1935. Service terminated upon death, October 29, 1944.

JUDGESHIP #1 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE . . .



Robert Lewis Brown Sr.
(1945 - 1948)

Nominated by Franklin D. Roosevelt, and received commission on April 7, 1945. Service terminated upon death, April 2, 1948.



William Daniel Murray
(1949 - 1994)

Nominated by Harry S. Truman, and received commission on May 9, 1949. Served as Chief Judge, 1957-1965. Assumed Senior status on December 31, 1965. Service terminated upon death, October 9, 1994.



Russell Evans Smith
(1966 - 1990)

Nominated by Lyndon B. Johnson, and received commission on March 26, 1966. Served as Chief Judge, 1968 - 1978. Assumed Senior status on May 12, 1979. Service terminated upon death, March 29, 1990.



Paul Gerhart Hatfield
(1979 - 2000)

Nominated by Jimmy Carter, and received commission on May 10, 1979. Served as Chief Judge, 1990 - 1996. Assumed Senior status on February 9, 1996. Service terminated upon death, July 3, 2000.



Donald W. Molloy
(1996 - Present)

Nominated by William J. Clinton, and received commission on August 1, 1996. Served as Chief Judge, 2001 – 2008. Assumed Senior status on August 16, 2011.



Dana L. Christensen
(2011 - Present)

Nominated by Barack Obama, and received commission on December 6, 2011. Served as Chief Judge, 2013 - present.