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
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
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
On July 10, 1984 the third Judgeship was authorized by 98 Stat. 333.
Charles Nelson Pray  
(1924 - 1963)

William James Jameson  
(1957 - 1990)

James Franklin Battin  
(1969 - 1996)

Jack D. Shanstrom  
(1990 - 2013)

Richard F. Cebull  
(2001 – 2013)
Susan P. Watters  
(2013 - Present)  

Nominated by Barack Obama, and received commission on December 19, 2013.