

**JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION
STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

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December 22, 2025

Notice of Judicial Vacancy

TO: All Active Members of the State Bar of South Dakota

FROM: Cheryle Gering, Secretary, Judicial Qualifications Commission

The Hon. Michael W. Day has announced his retirement effective June 8, 2026. His retirement will create a vacant Circuit Court Judge position (Position B) in the Fourth Judicial Circuit. The duty station for this position will be located in Belle Fourche, SD. As of July 1, 2025, the salary for a circuit court judge position in South Dakota is \$183,694.13. In addition, circuit court judges and their dependents are eligible to participate in the State of South Dakota's health insurance plan; circuit court judges participate in the State's defined benefit retirement plan. The Judicial Qualifications Commission is now taking applications for this position.

All lawyers and judges interested in applying should obtain the application form at <http://ujs.sd.gov/>, or contact Lori Grode at the State Court Administrator's Office. The application must be returned to the Administrator's Office and must be postmarked no later than **5:00 PM on February 13, 2026**. Applicants should make sure the application submitted is the 2018 revision.

You may also obtain the application form by writing or telephoning:

Lori Grode
State Court Administrator's Office
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
Telephone: 605-773-3474
Email: lori.grode@ujs.state.sd.us

Or, visit <http://ujs.sd.gov/> for current job openings.

The Fourth Circuit is comprised of the following counties: Butte, Corson, Harding, Dewey, Lawrence, Meade, Perkins and Ziebach.