
MONTANA JUDICIAL BRANCH

Floating Law Clerk – NP 402

\$171,386 and 1.0 FTE

- Floating Law Clerk for the 4th Judicial District – Missoula and Mineral Counties:
 - If adopted by the 2025 Legislature, the new law clerk, who would provide support to all judges would be added in July 2025.

- Current District Court Details:
 - The 4th Judicial District has five District Court judges serving Missoula and Mineral Counties. In CY2024, the judges handled 6,701 cases.
 - Workload study data from 2024 demonstrates a need for 1.8 additional judges.
 - A judge was last added to the 4th Judicial District in January 2018.
 - The district also has 2.0 Standing Masters.
 - The five judges also manage five treatment court dockets designed to reduce recidivism among offenders and thereby reduce pressure on the District Court dockets.

- Need:
 - The 4th Judicial District needs about two new judges.
 - The Branch is not asking for new judges as all efforts are directed at the 13th Judicial District and Yellowstone County; instead the floating law clerk will work on civil cases for all five judges to alleviate workload and thus, delay the need to add a new judge.