

# ELEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

RURAL COURT COLUMN

BY HON. JIM C. SHIRLEY



The Eleventh Judicial District Court was created by the 2015 Nevada Legislature. The legislature created the district by realigning the Fifth

and Sixth Judicial Districts. Prior to the realignment, the Fifth Judicial District was comprised of Esmeralda, Mineral and Nye Counties. The Sixth Judicial District was comprised of Humboldt, Lander and Pershing Counties. The Eleventh Judicial District covers Lander, Mineral and Pershing Counties. The three counties encompass approximately 15,339 square miles of the State of Nevada and have a population of 17,218 people (less the Lovelock Correctional Center's population of roughly 1,500 people). The Eleventh Judicial District has only one district judge: Judge Jim C. Shirley.

The Lander County Courthouse is located in the county seat of Battle Mountain and was constructed in 2015. The Mineral County Courthouse is located in the county seat of Hawthorne and was constructed in the 1970s. The Pershing County Courthouse is located in the county seat of Lovelock, was constructed in 1919 and is a historic round courthouse. Lovelock is located 92 miles east of Reno on I-80. Battle Mountain is located 217 miles east of Reno on I-80. Mineral County is located 125 miles south of Lovelock and 70 miles south of Fallon. Battle Mountain and Hawthorne are 125 miles from Lovelock in different directions.

Because of the vast geographic area encompassed by the district, it became evident that there was a need to upgrade technology. Shirley, in cooperation with Tybera Software, is in the process of developing an e-filing system. The system will allow individuals and attorneys across the state to file documents and effectuate service on opposing parties instantaneously. The system is up and running, and currently allows all civil, divorce, probate and guardianship cases

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to be filed electronically. Soon, the system will also allow criminal and juvenile filings. The new system includes a more robust and data-intensive case management system that will allow the court to better implement case management goals to process cases more efficiently and effectively.

The court has implemented a program of Guardian ad Litem advocates for children, which assist in abuse/neglect cases and some divorce cases. Juvenile probation officers are assigned as Guardian ad Litem advocates to cases. The program is instrumental in assisting with and ensuring that children have a voice in the court proceedings and that the court has a neutral party monitoring children's situations.

Recognizing the travel issues for counsel and the parties, the court also frequently allows telephonic appearances in uncontested matters on cases to save on travel costs. The court is serious about trying to assist in getting the fact-finding and decision-making completed in important cases involving people's rights.

**JUDGE JIM SHIRLEY** was born in Caliente Nevada. He attended Creighton University Law School in Omaha, Nebraska, and he worked in a general private practice firm in Utah before moving to Lovelock, Nevada to work as a deputy district attorney. In 2015, he became a district court judge, starting in the Sixth Judicial District Court prior to the creation of the Eleventh Judicial District Court in the same year. He has four sons and two springer spaniels.

Spencer Hot Springs, Lander County, Nevada