

## Federal jurist reputed to be no-nonsense intellectual

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The judge assigned to Joe Nacchio's case is known in legal circles as a dedicated intellectual with little patience for the ill-prepared.

U.S. District Judge Edward W. Nottingham, 57, is also no stranger to the spotlight. He garnered national attention two years ago when his ruling in favor of telemarketing companies temporarily halted implementation of a national no-call list.



His office phone rang incessantly following his ruling - which was later overturned - that it was unconstitutional for the government to regulate telemarketers differently from other groups that call people at home.

Judge Edward Nottingham was named to the bench in 1989 (Special to The Post)

Nottingham took the bench in 1989 after his nomination by then-President George H.W. Bush. A conservative Republican, Nottingham served as Western Slope coordinator for Bush's 1988 campaign.

Nottingham comes from an Eagle County sheep-ranching family that once owned most of the land that is now Avon and the adjacent resort community of Beaver Creek. His reputation among lawyers is that of a no-nonsense, if not irascible, jurist.

"He is truly an intellectual giant with a bit of a short fuse," said David Lane, a Denver criminal defense and civil-rights lawyer. "He understands the law. He applies it as it should be applied. He's certainly very independent. He has no ax to grind."

Lawyers who have tried cases before Nottingham say he demands that lawyers in his courtroom be prepared.

"If you're not prepared, he'll let you know that," Denver defense lawyer Dan Smith said.

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