

Three classical columns, likely Corinthian or Composite, rendered in a light beige or tan color. They are positioned on the left side of the page, receding into the background. The columns have ornate capitals with scrolls and acanthus leaves.

# Tradition, Innovation and Progress



**Colorado Judicial Branch**

**Fiscal Year 2002  
Annual Report**

**Executive Summary**

This Executive Summary and the more detailed Annual Statistical Report are both available on the Judicial Branch website: [www.courts.state.co.us](http://www.courts.state.co.us).

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**A Message from the Chief Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court**

The Colorado Judicial Branch is proud to present its Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2002. As the state courts work in our ever-changing society, we track our achievements, providing an annual cornerstone for past comparisons and a benchmark for future planning. This report represents the efforts of the Judicial Branch to effectively



Mary J. Mullarkey

meet the expanding workload placed on us by agencies, organizations, and the public.

This executive summary, published as a supplement to the larger statistical report, provides an overview of the function and accomplishments of the Branch. The statistical report offers detailed data of court activities at the appellate, dis-

trict, and county court levels, and in probation services.

In FY 2002, the statewide bench was composed of 250 judges, following the appointment of six additional district court judges as authorized by the state legislature in FY 2001. In total, the authorization allows the addition of another six judges every year for the next three fiscal years, for a total of 24 new judges. The expansion of the judiciary adds depth to the Branch, enabling it to better respond to increasing caseloads, ongoing case management issues, and

increased case complexities. Supporting these judges are more than 3,000 judicial employees involved in a wide variety of duties related to the courts.

As Chief Justice, it is my responsibility to ensure the Branch is responsive to the needs of the public, and promote the public's understanding of and confidence in the judiciary. I hope the information contained in this report will help you explore the accomplishments of your courts in addressing the complex issues facing the Colorado courts.

**From the Desk of Colorado's State Court Administrator**

As Colorado's State Court Administrator, it is my pleasure and honor to share with you a brief summary of the accomplishments of the Colorado Judicial Branch. I am pleased to highlight the business of the courts from July 1, 2001, through June 30, 2002, in this report.

In a year marked by profound national tragedy, the courts in Colorado have reaffirmed their commitment to justice and the rule of law by providing innovation and progress built upon the foundations of tradition. Traditionally, our courts have many areas of strength, but especially a well-qualified judi-

ciary and a hardworking and dedicated staff in the courts and in probation. In matters such as customer service, collection systems, judicial selection processes, e-filing, Integrated Criminal Justice (CICJIS) systems, electronic public access, and many others, the Colorado courts have been seen as a national leader. During this year, we have maintained and enhanced those areas.

Where old methods of doing business have needed changing, we have looked to new,

exciting, and technologically advanced methods of doing court business, such as satellite tracking of sex offenders and privatizing public access to data on the Internet. Under the leadership of Chief Justice Mary Mullarkey and with the



Gerald A. Marroney

help of many citizens, legislators, attorneys, judges, and others who care about Colorado's families, the Commission on Families in the Colorado Courts finalized its official report this year with recommendations that will help streamline family cases and make them less contentious and less damaging to children and their parents.

We have tried to demonstrate proper public accountability of the courts, sought to obtain public trust and confidence in our courts, and attempted to make evident our good and responsible management of the funds we are given by the taxpayers and appropriated by the legislators — all to help assure that all Coloradans can have an effective "day in court."

I am proud of our Supreme Court justices for moving us forward, proud of our judges and their hardworking court and probation staff members for their day-to-day work, and proud of the work done by the dedicated employees of the Office of the State Court Administrator.

## Colorado's State Courts in FY 2002

### Colorado Supreme Court

In addition to its legal duties as the court of last resort in the Colorado court system, the Colorado Supreme Court has supervisory and administrative responsibility over the following bodies:

- Commission on Judicial Discipline
- Judicial Nominating Commission
- State Board of Law Examiners
- State Judicial Performance Commission
- Alternate Defense Counsel Commission
- Office of the Child's Representative Board
- Board of Continuing Legal Education
- Office of Attorney Regulation Counsel

- Appellate Discipline Commission
- Presiding Attorney Disciplinary Judge
- Public Defender Commission
- Public Defender

The chief justice, who is elected by the court from its membership, is the chief executive officer of the Colorado Judicial Branch.

### Colorado Court of Appeals

The Court of Appeals, Colorado's intermediate appellate court, sits in divisions of three judges to hear oral arguments in cases that have been appealed from the state trial courts. The court is also responsible for reviewing the decisions of several state administrative agencies. In

cases of first impression or where existing law is not dispositive, the Court of Appeals is a law-making court.

### Court of Appeals Judges:

*Chief Judge Claus Hume*  
*Judge James Casebolt*  
*Judge John Dailey*  
*Judge Janice Davidson*  
*Judge Raymond Dean Jones*  
*Judge Robert Kapelke*  
*Judge Jose D.L. Marquez*  
*Judge Karen Metzger*  
*Judge Peter Ney*  
*Judge Henry Nieto*  
*Judge Leonard Plank*  
*Judge Sandra Rothenberg*  
*Judge Arthur Roy*  
*Judge Edwin Ruland*  
*Judge Daniel Taubman*  
*Judge JoAnn Vogt*

### Trial Courts

The Judicial Branch consists of 127 district court judges, 102 county court judges, and more than 3,000 support staff working together to ensure timely and fair case resolution.

### District Courts

District courts in Colorado have authority to handle case types

*Front Row (left to right): Rebecca Love Kourlis, Chief Justice Mary Mullarkey, Gregory Hobbs; Back Row: Nancy Rice, Alex Martinez, Michael Bender, Nathan Ben Coats*

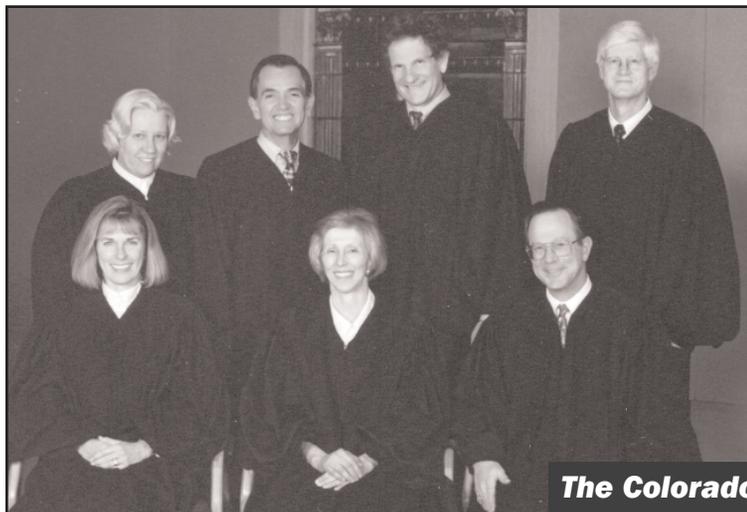
including domestic, civil, juvenile, probate, mental health, and criminal. There are 22 judicial districts in Colorado that encompass the state's 64 counties. The Denver District Court is the only court in Colorado with separate courts for juvenile and probate matters.

### County Courts

Each of Colorado's 64 counties has a county court with one or more county judges (the Denver County Court functions as a municipal and county court and is not part of the state court system). County courts handle traffic cases and minor criminal matters, as well as civil actions of no more than \$15,000. Small claims courts are divisions of county courts as well.

### Water Courts

Colorado has seven water courts, one in each of the major river basins in Colorado (South Platte, Arkansas, Rio Grande, Gunnison, Colorado, White, and San Juan rivers). Water rights and usage cases are heard by the water courts, which are divisions of their local district court. The Supreme Court appoints a district court judge from within the water division to act as water judge. There are no jury trials in water courts, and all appeals from water judges' decisions are filed directly with the Colorado Supreme Court.



**The Colorado Supreme Court**

**Visiting the Appellate Courts**  
Oral arguments in both the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals are open to the public, and members of the public are always welcome to visit the court. For more information, call Supreme Court Clerk of Court Mac Danford at (303) 861-1111, or Court of Appeals Clerk of Court John Doerner at (303) 837-3785.



## FY 2002 Budget Appropriations

The Judicial Branch's FY 2002 budget was \$219 million. This amount represented 1.7 percent of the state's total budget of \$13 billion.

This budget was an increase of \$9.5 million from the previous fiscal year (although the increase was partially offset by the transfer of \$6.8 million to the Office of the Child's

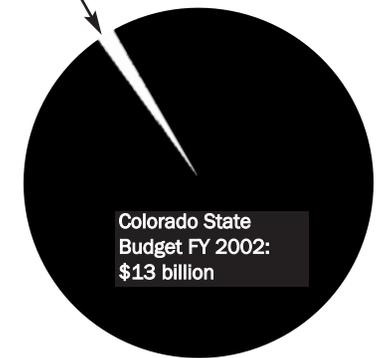
Representative). The increase was primarily due to:

- an increase of 6.0 new district court judges and accompanying staff (\$2.2 million);
- a county judge created for the new City and County of Broomfield (\$415,000);
- an increase in probation treatment cash funds (\$2 million);

- a judicial pay increase (\$1.9 million);
- 30.0 new case processing staff (\$1 million);
- 30.0 new probation officers (\$1.4 million).

The Branch budget was apportioned among the various divisions and programs of the Branch (excluding the Public Defender's Office, Alternate Defense Counsel, and Office of the Child's Representative) as shown in the charts below.

Judicial Branch Budget FY 2002: \$219 million



## Collections

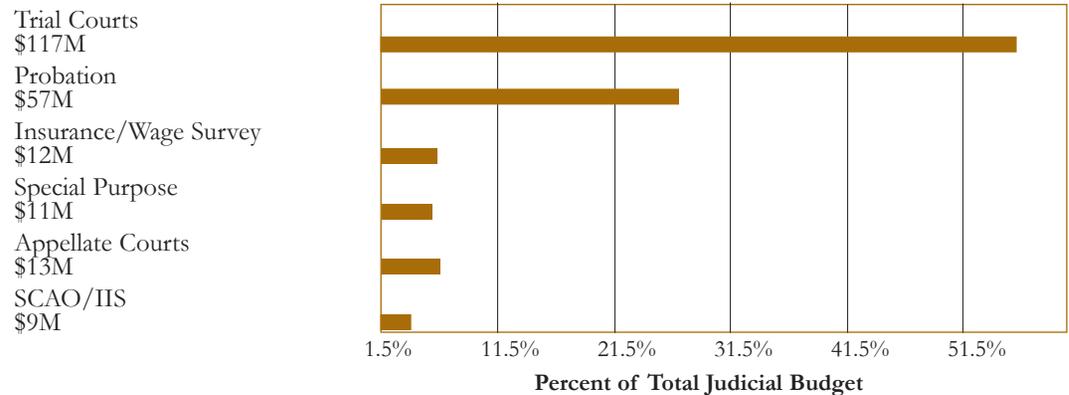
The Judicial Branch collections program took in nearly \$100 million in court-ordered payments from defendants. These monies were allocated to the following funds:

- State General Fund (\$23.3M)
- Restitution Owed to Victims (\$18.4M)
- Victims Assistance & Compensation Programs (\$19.6M)
- Highway Users Trust Fund (\$7.5M)\*
- Other Funds and Programs (\$30.8M)\*\*

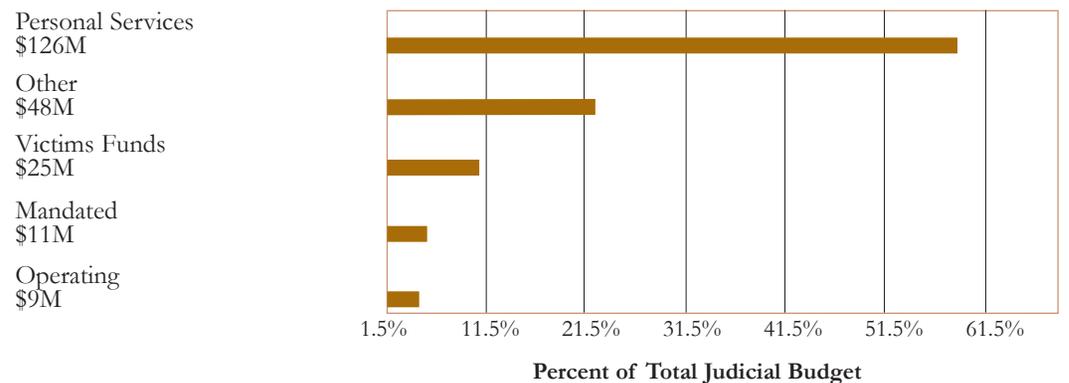
\* Collections of DUI and traffic fines.

\*\* Alcohol eval. & sup. fees, drug offender surcharges, law enforcement assistance fees, probation supervision fees, fines and fees earmarked for local governments, Supreme Court fees, other misc. collections.

## Judicial Branch FY 2002 Budget Appropriations



## Judicial Branch FY 2002 Budget Appropriation by Category of Expenditure



# FY 2002 Case Statistic Overview

## Colorado Supreme Court

During FY 2002, 1,368 cases were filed with the Colorado Supreme Court. The justices disposed of 1,415 cases through written opinions (121), without written opinion (1,287), and by transfer to the Court of Appeals (7).

As the chart below indicates, the majority of the court's filings were requests to review

decisions of the Colorado Court of Appeals. However, the Supreme Court also has jurisdiction over cases in which a statute has been held to be unconstitutional; cases involving decisions of the Public Utilities Commission; writs of habeas corpus; cases involving adjudication of water rights; summary proceedings initiated under the Election Code; and prosecutorial appeals concern-

ing search and seizure questions in pending criminal proceedings.

The court consists of seven justices who serve 10-year terms.

## Colorado Court of Appeals

The Colorado Court of Appeals saw 2,673 cases filed. The judges disposed of 2,463 cases through published opinions (291), unpublished opinions (1,330), dismissals (834), and transfers to the Supreme Court (8).

The Court of Appeals consists of 16 judges who serve eight-year terms. It is typically the first court to hear appeals of judgments and orders from the state's trial courts. In addition, the court has appellate jurisdiction over decisions made in several state administrative boards and agencies.

## District Courts

There were 164,237 cases filed at the district court level

(excluding water cases), and 165,895 cases terminated in the same time period. District court filings have increased by 28.6 percent over the past 10 years. The growth has primarily occurred in criminal and juvenile matters, including delinquency and dependency and neglect matters.

## County Courts

There were 469,993 cases filed in Colorado's county courts, and 476,713 cases were terminated in that same time period.

Over the past 10 years, county court filings have increased by 14.5 percent, primarily in civil and misdemeanor filings.

## Water Courts

Colorado's seven water courts saw 1,257 filings and 4,769 claims, while 1,300 cases were terminated in that same time period.

### Types of Cases Filed in the Supreme Court During FY 2002

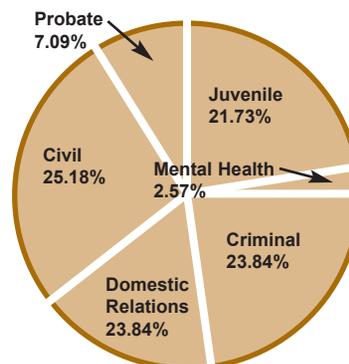
Death Penalty Appeals	3
Original Proceedings:	
Criminal	131
Civil	157
Petitions in Certiorari:	
Criminal	554
Civil	239
Child Welfare	31
Industrial Claims	45
Civil Appeals <sup>1</sup>	23
Statutory Reviews <sup>2</sup>	26
Interlocutories <sup>3</sup>	17
Habeas Corpus	17
Reapportionment	1
Rule 2.1	1
Unauthorized Practice	9
Original Proceedings	
In Discipline	15
Continuing Legal Education	69
Multi-District Litigation	30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,368</b>

1. Includes PUC decisions, water cases, and constitutional questions.

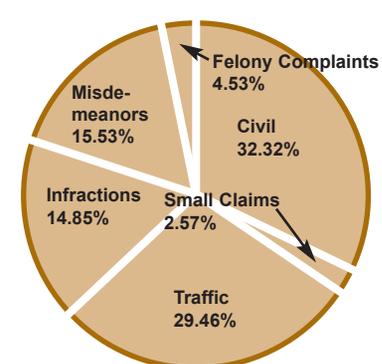
2. Includes ballot title reviews.

3. Appeals by the prosecution in criminal cases after a motion to suppress evidence was granted.

District Court Filing Distribution



County Court Filing Distribution



This executive summary provides a basic overview of the state courts' 2002 statistics. Detailed charts and comparative tables are included in the annual statistical report, available on the Judicial Branch website: [www.courts.state.co.us](http://www.courts.state.co.us).

## One-Year Comparisons in Trial Court Filings by Judicial District

### District Court Filings and One-Year Percent Changes

<i>District</i>	<i>FY 01</i>	<i>FY 02</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
1	16,516	16,468	-0.3%
2	17,097	17,825	4.3%
2nd Juvenile	5,838	5,850	0.2%
2nd Probate	2,860	2,980	4.2%
3	1,142	1,317	15.3%
4	19,641	21,819	11.1%
5	3,117	3,296	5.7%
6	2,060	2,047	-0.6%
7	2,947	3,210	8.9%
8	7,085	7,699	8.7%
9	2,497	2,418	-3.2%
10	6,843	6,998	2.3%
11	3,163	3,390	7.2%
12	2,206	2,217	0.5%
13	2,934	3,465	18.1%
14	1,928	1,906	-1.1%
15	1,012	967	-4.4%
16	1,493	1,572	5.3%
17	12,076	13,252	9.7%
18	20,611	22,477	9.1%
19	6,560	7,204	9.8%
20	9,453	9,496	0.5%
21	5,014	5,151	2.7%
22	1,127	1,213	7.6%
<b>State Total</b>	<b>155,220</b>	<b>164,237</b>	<b>5.8%</b>

### County Court Filings and One-Year Percent Changes

<i>District</i>	<i>FY 01</i>	<i>FY 02</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
1	47,838	51,432	7.5%
2*	197,094	190,091	-3.6%
3	5,095	5,328	4.6%
4	66,733	68,381	2.5%
5	14,970	13,275	-11.3%
6	7,503	6,784	-9.6%
7	11,645	10,455	-10.2%
8	29,607	27,016	-8.8%
9	8,350	9,323	11.7%
10	18,054	20,535	13.7%
11	11,740	11,338	-3.4%
12	7,624	7,642	0.2%
13	12,320	12,775	3.7%
14	6,733	7,258	7.8%
15	4,628	5,081	9.8%
16	6,331	6,417	1.4%
17	41,665	49,273	18.3%
18	75,537	85,873	13.7%
19	19,487	20,387	4.6%
20	30,969	30,943	-0.1%
21	14,002	17,107	22.2%
22	3,798	3,370	-11.3%
<b>State Total Without Denver County Court</b>	<b>444,629</b>	<b>469,993</b>	<b>5.7%</b>
<b>State Total</b>	<b>641,723</b>	<b>660,084</b>	<b>2.9%</b>

\* Denver County Court statistics are based on the calendar year.

## One-Year Comparisons in Water Court Filings and Claims by Water Division

<i>Division</i>	<i>FY 01</i>	<i>FY 02</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
<b>One: Weld County, Greeley</b>			
Filings	262	337	29%
Claims	1,432	1,346	-6%
<b>Two: Pueblo County, Pueblo</b>			
Filings	143	208	45%
Claims	793	1,785	125%
<b>Three: Alamosa County, Alamosa</b>			
Filings	39	57	46%
Claims	148	256	73%
<b>Four: Montrose County, Montrose</b>			
Filings	273	267	-2%
Claims	541	671	24%

<i>Division</i>	<i>FY 01</i>	<i>FY 02</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
<b>Five: Garfield County, Glenwood Springs</b>			
Filings	357	396	11%
Claims	1,406	1,498	7%
<b>Six: Routt County, Steamboat Springs</b>			
Filings	100	136	36%
Claims	311	240	-23%
<b>Seven: La Plata County, Durango</b>			
Filings	83	149	80%
Claims	138	616	346%
<b>State Total</b>			
<b>Filings</b>	<b>1,257</b>	<b>1,550</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>Claims</b>	<b>4,769</b>	<b>6,412</b>	<b>34%</b>

## Probation's Purpose and Statewide Statistics

The Judicial Branch's Division of Probation Services (DPS) administers adult and juvenile probation in the state's 22 judicial districts. DPS publishes guidelines and standards for regular probation supervision and all specialized probation programs. Within the limits of these state standards, each district is free to develop and structure programs that ad-

dress the needs of the local court and community.

DPS's probation philosophy continues to move from traditional offender management to a balance of risk management and principles of "restorative justice." This ongoing commitment to innovative practices requires probation to maintain quality offender assessment

and supervision methods and to extend the interest of community and victims into the planning of effective probation programs. Specialized programs offered by the division include the Intensive Supervision Probation Program for both adults and juveniles, Specialized Drug Offender Program, Female Offender Program, Sex Offender

Intensive Supervision Probation, and Drug Court.

The statistics below and in the Annual Statistical Report reflect DPS's commitment to providing improved outcomes, protecting the public, reducing the overall cost of the correctional system, and increasing services to the victims of crime.

### Probation Supervision and New Case Investigations: FY 1998 to FY 2002

	<u>FY 1998</u>	<u>FY 1999</u>	<u>FY 2000</u>	<u>FY 2001</u>	<u>FY 2002</u>
<b>ADULT</b>					
On Supervision July 1	33,754	36,529	35,513	36,635***	37,259***
New Clients	21,013	21,762	19,188	19,859	22,665
Terminations	15,863	16,121	17,419	18,092	18,506
On Supervision June 30	36,529	35,513	36,635***	37,259***	39,751
Total Investigations	13,960	13,680	13,305	14,318	15,257
<b>JUVENILE</b>					
On Supervision July 1	9,933	9,490	8,722	9,041	8,524
New Clients	8,694	8,607	7,650	7,164	7,600
Terminations	7,364**	6,533	7,024	6,856	6,321
On Supervision June 30	9,490	8,722	9,041	8,524	8,558
Total Investigations	6,219*	6,022	5,727	4,887	4,917
<b>ADULT &amp; JUVENILE COMBINED</b>					
On Supervision July 1	43,687	46,019	44,235	45,676	45,783
New Clients	29,707	30,369	26,838	27,023	30,265
Terminations	23,227	22,654	24,443	24,948	24,827
On Supervision June 30	46,019	44,235	45,676	45,783	48,309
Total Investigations	20,179	19,702	19,032	19,205	20,174

\* As of FY 1998, Denver Juvenile Probation no longer provides Detention Investigations. These are completed by the S.B. 94 program.

\*\* Figures reflect the numbers reported in the Annual Report Summary in each fiscal year and not the detailed numbers. The differences in numbers reflect missing data.

\*\*\* This total is the number of state-supervised clients and the number of transfers to private probation for supervision. This number does not include direct sentences to private probation.

Detailed statewide probation statistics are included in the accompanying Annual Statistical Report, available on the Judicial Branch website: [www.courts.state.co.us](http://www.courts.state.co.us)

## Administrative Highlights from Fiscal Year 2002

The Colorado Judicial Branch is centrally administered by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The court appoints the State Court Administrator to help in this responsibility.

The State Court Administrator's Office (SCAO) provides administrative support and services to the trial and appellate courts, in addition to supporting the management of probation services. In executing its constitutional and statutory duties, the office has the following functions:

- to provide administrative and technical support to the appellate courts, trial courts, and probation;
- to provide centralized policy guidance;
- to develop and implement standards and guidelines for the courts and probation;
- to serve as an advocate for the entire Judicial Branch in obtaining necessary resources from the legislature; and
- to provide services in an accurate, timely, and equitable manner.

The SCAO and the judicial districts constantly evaluate innovative business techniques and new procedures for possible introduction throughout the Branch in order to improve efficiency and to make the courts more accessible to Colorado citizens.

The following sections highlight the various SCAO divisions, including their roles, personnel, and accomplishments during FY 2002.

### SCAO Divisions/Division Heads During FY 2002

- *Executive: Gerald A. Marroney (State Court Administrator)*
- *Court Services\*: Nancy E. Rutledge*
- *Financial Services: Mary Flanigan Otto*
- *Human Resources\*: James G. Benway*
- *Integrated Information Services: Robert T. Roper*
- *Planning & Analysis: Robert L. Bernard*
- *Probation Services: Vern Fogg*

\* After FY 2002, the Court Services and Human Resources Divisions were combined to form the Court and Human Services Division.

### Executive Division

**Function:** The SCAO Executive Division works to ensure equality of distribution of resources throughout the Judicial Branch. It combines the various tools of administrative guidance and standards, audit services, legal support, legislative liaison services, communications, and public education services to assist other SCAO divisions, the judicial districts, and the public. It attempts to improve accessibility to the courts and to increase accountability throughout the system. The division also administers the Senior Judge programs, and the State Court Administrator sits on the Information Management

Commission (IMC) and Colorado Integrated Criminal Justice Information System (CICJIS) executive board.

**Staff:** During FY 2002, the Executive Division included the State Court Administrator and 12 staff members.

### Programs

**Senior Judge Program:** This program allows for judges who have retired from the Branch to serve as highly experienced "substitutes" on the bench. It is an important resource in addressing backlog issues, ensuring continuous docket coverage, and assisting judges involved in complex litigation, such as cases involving the

death penalty and complicated civil cases. This program is also helpful in providing independent judges in cases where the local trial judge may have a conflict of interest. Participants can work up to 90 days per year.

### Public Education and Communications

The Executive Division promotes access to and understanding of the Branch through a variety of media resources and communications services. It produces staff publications, plus a series of brochures and handbooks, some of which are distributed in both English and Spanish. It also manages the Branch's website. One unique outreach

program, called "Courts in the Community," allows the Supreme Court justices and Court of Appeals judges to hear the oral arguments of actual cases in high schools across the state. Each of the courts generally travels to one school per semester.

**Management of Overall Branch Activity:** The Division is responsible for implementation of Supreme Court priorities, policy, and directives Branchwide.

**Legal Services:** Legal Services provides for the review of contracts and forms, as well as personnel actions. The unit also acts as general counsel for the Judicial Branch.

## Court Services Division

**Function:** The Court Services Division provides services to courts to assist them in the performance of their duties, including alternative dispute resolution options for litigants, programs to help self-represented litigants, access to forms through the Branch website, and programs related to the improvement and successful functioning of the state's jury system.

**Staff:** In FY 2002, the Court Services Division included the division head and 18 staff members.

### Programs

**Office of Dispute Resolution:** Created by the Colorado Dispute Resolution Act in 1983, the ODR's mission is to establish or make available dispute resolution programs and services throughout the state. The goals of the office include increasing access to justice in the form of affordable, effective, appropriate, and humane methods of dispute resolution; providing an alternative to protracted or bitter litigation; and decreasing inappropriate methods of dispute resolution, including physical or psychological violence.

**Pro Se Effort:** The Branch's Pro Se Committee was organized during FY 2002 at the request of the Supreme Court to devel-

op programs that will help self-represented parties in their understanding of the court system and the filing of their cases. In its first year, the committee began revising instructions for various forms with a step-by-step educational approach; developed a brochure entitled "Representing Yourself in Court" that is available in courthouses and on the Branch website; and redesigned the forms page on the Branch website into a more user-friendly and thorough Self-Help Center.

### Child Support Worksheets

**Online:** Colorado's child support worksheets were added to the Branch website, completing the set of dissolution of marriage forms online. The worksheets are in a format that allows them to be calculated online or downloaded to individual computers. They also include comprehensive instructions that make them more user-friendly.

### Addition of Electronic Manuals:

An electronic Clerks Manual and electronic Manager's & Probation Manager's Manual were added to the Judicial Branch intranet. The manuals provide the districts with information such as case models, personnel rules, case procedural information, facilities information, fiscal procedures, and statistical and data integrity information in real time. Adding

this information to the intranet eliminated the need to mail bulk information to 23 court locations and enabled staff to update information statewide immediately.

**Facilities:** The Branch's facility planner helped eight judicial districts with design and construction issues in the expansion, renovation, and new construction of courthouse and probation-related projects. Ongoing facilities work includes the review and maintenance of the Facilities Manual, as well as the creation of security-related guides such as the Emergency Procedures Manual and the Colorado Courthouse Security Manual.

**Judicial Performance:** This program evaluates judicial performance in order to provide fair and objective information to members of the public who are voting on the retention of judges. The process also provides feedback for self-improvement to the evaluated judges. The evaluations are conducted by 23 citizen volunteer commissions, one in each judicial district and one state commission for appellate evaluations and oversight of the program. During FY 2002, 115 judges were evaluated. Of the 104 judges on the final retention ballot, two were given a "do not retain" recommendation, and 102 were given a "do retain" recommendation. New

in the 2002 process were performance plans that were developed by the commission for four of the judges to address areas of weakness identified by the evaluation process.

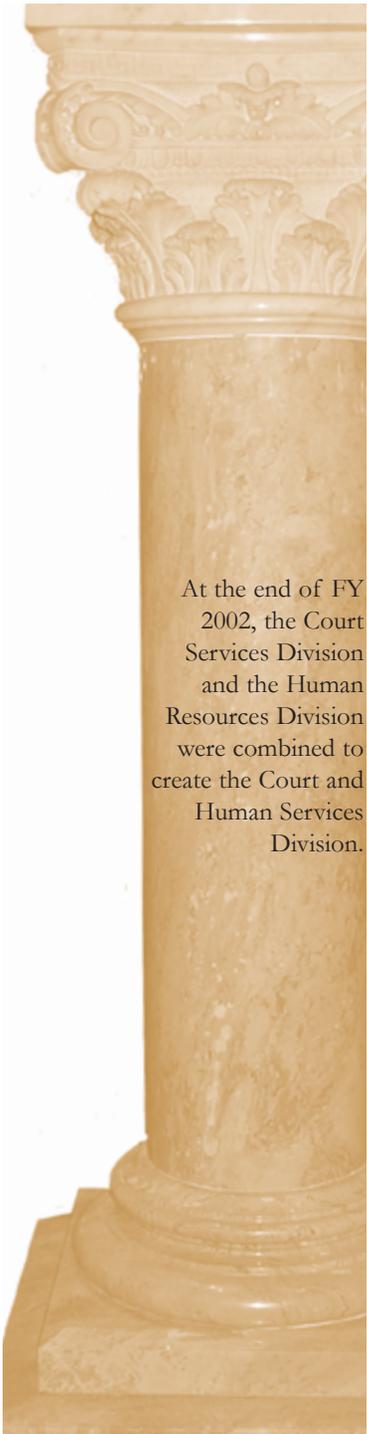
## Human Resources Division

**Function:** The Human Resources (HR) Division provides services in human resources functions related to recruiting, hiring, performance issues, discipline, employee morale, benefits, equal employment and diversity, and assistance in the application of the many federal employment regulations. The division also provides training and education for judicial officers and staff statewide.

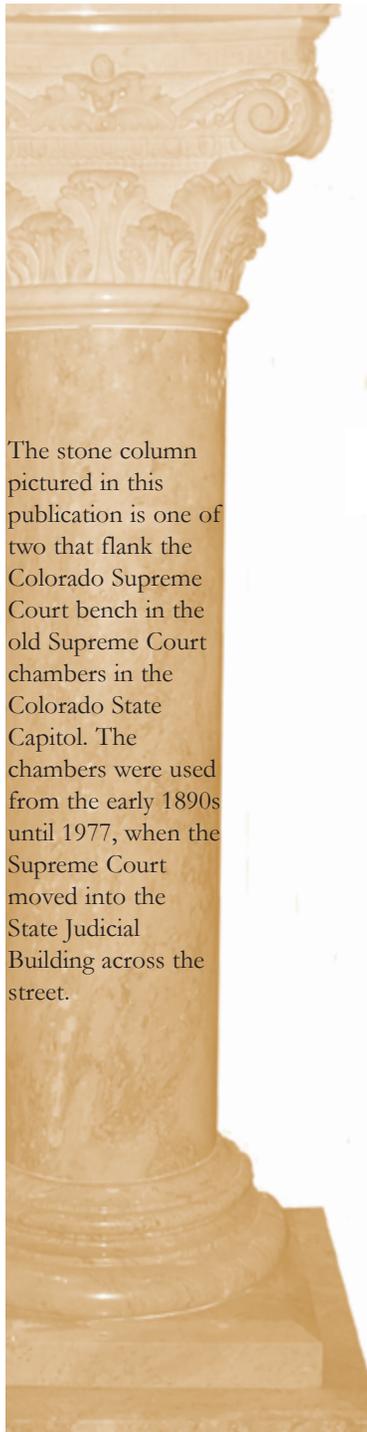
**Staff:** In FY 2002, the Human Resources Division included the division head and 12 staff members.

### Programs

**Interpreter Program:** The Judicial Branch's interpreter program attempts to ensure the availability of qualified interpreters for those who use our courts. The program includes orientation and testing of interpreters; training is provided to prospective interpreters through the HR Division and through an extended studies program offered in coopera-



At the end of FY 2002, the Court Services Division and the Human Resources Division were combined to create the Court and Human Services Division.



The stone column pictured in this publication is one of two that flank the Colorado Supreme Court bench in the old Supreme Court chambers in the Colorado State Capitol. The chambers were used from the early 1890s until 1977, when the Supreme Court moved into the State Judicial Building across the street.

tion with the University of Colorado at Denver. FY 2002 saw the launch of the first 10-week “Interpreter Skills” program, which provides 30 hours of course instruction on interpretation methods and skill-sets. Twenty-five students, including interpreters working for the Branch, completed this training module during the 2002 pilot.

**Employee Performance:** The division assists employees in being as efficient and effective as possible by providing a variety of training and education programs, establishing expectations and providing feedback through a 360-degree performance appraisal process, and encouraging personal growth and enhanced job skills through pay for performance and professional development programs.

### Planning and Analysis Division

**Function:** The Planning and Analysis (P&A) Division works to ensure efficient use of resources throughout the Judicial Branch. This division does so by working with local courts and other agencies, leading efforts to plan for future efficiencies while analyzing the impacts of various programs. The division assists in budget preparation and responds to legislative initia-

tives. Other division responsibilities include caseload management, family issues, compilation of statistical information, and data integrity issues.

**Staff:** During FY 2002, the Planning and Analysis Division included a division head and 10 staff members.

### Programs

**Caseflow Management:** P&A works on development of caseflow models in all districts to provide justice in a fair, timely, and economical manner. Division staff provided training and status reports to courts and assisted four districts with planning and implementation of caseflow models.

**Family Issues:** The division staffed the Commission on Families in the Colorado Courts, which during FY 2002 reviewed and made recommendations on how to improve court services in cases involving families. An oversight committee will assist in implementing the 77 recommendations made by the commission’s final report. P&A staff members also are developing methods to improve court functions within areas such as restraining orders, domestic violence, and self-represented litigants.

**Statistical Information:** P&A provides statistics throughout the year, as well as the Branch’s Annual Statistical Report (available on the Branch

website: [www.courts.state.co.us](http://www.courts.state.co.us)). The detailed Annual Report, which is a companion piece to this Executive Summary, provides the public with information on trial and appellate court filings and terminations, and probation division oversight statistics. The information is evaluated internally to determine judicial officer and trial court support staff needs.

**Data Integrity:** The P&A Data Integrity Unit establishes coding definitions and standards for the Integrated Colorado Online Network (ICON). The unit also helps in development of policies regarding public access to court data.

### Financial Services Division

**Function:** The Financial Services Division (FSD) comprises accounting, budget, collections, payroll, purchasing, and mandated costs, including court-appointed counsel contracting and payments. The division is responsible for development of Branch strategies, policies, and procedures within these assigned areas.

**Staff:** During FY 2002, FSD included a division head and 14 staff members.

### Programs

**Accounting, Budget, and Payroll:** FSD staff allocated,

monitored, and accounted for a statewide budget of \$219 million, including \$166 million General Fund, \$51 million Cash Funds, and \$2 million Federal Funds. Staff members processed about 26,000 invoices, including approximately 20,000 payments to court-appointed counsel. They also processed payroll and tracked sick and annual leave balances for employees of the State Court Administrator’s Office.

**Legislation:** In cooperation with staff from the Planning and Analysis Division, FSD staff prepared the Branch’s 2003 budget request, and also reviewed more than 200 versions of proposed legislative bills for their fiscal impact on the Judicial Branch.

**Collections:** FSD staff tracked and monitored revenue of nearly \$100 million. Of this amount, approximately \$46 million supported the Branch’s general and cash-funded programs and operations; \$38 million supported victims of crime (restitution, victim compensation, and victim assistance); and \$16 million supported other governmental activities (such as highways and law enforcement).

**Purchasing:** FSD staff provided technical assistance with the preparation, review, and evaluation of a variety of solicitation projects, including such items as furniture, copiers, the print-

ing of jury summonses, and janitorial services.

## Division of Probation Services

**Function:** The Division of Probation Services (DPS) works to improve the quality of probation services in Colorado by providing leadership and assistance to local probation departments in the areas of probation programs, training, and statistical needs. DPS staff members develop and provide direction in the areas of probation programming, offender assessment, research, evaluation, statistical reporting, training, and technical assistance. Additionally, the division supports local probation departments through involvement in legislative initiatives regarding probation concerns.

DPS is divided into three units: Programs, Research and Evaluation, and Training. The Probation Advisory Committee, which includes probation staff of all levels, judges, and citizen members, provides direction to the division and approves all new initiatives and product revisions undertaken by division staff.

**Staff:** During FY 2002, the Division of Probation Services included the director and 15 staff members.

## Programs

### Probation Academy and Trainings:

Fifty-three new probation officers received comprehensive training in the two probation academies held during FY 2002. Each two-week academy addressed basic skills for probation officers, including leadership, restorative justice, victim empathy, communication, adult and juvenile assessment, pre-sentence investigation, case planning, supervision, officer safety, and case management documentation.

DPS staff offered 81 courses in addition to the probation academy and completed a new self-directed course on testifying in court. This course, available on CD-ROM, is the first interactive training package developed by DPS for probation officers.

### Program Evaluation and Individual Officer Assessment Instruments:

DPS staff developed two instruments for use by local districts that allow the districts to review and assess case work locally: the first addresses pre-sentence investigation reports and processes, while the second can be used to assess an entire department, a unit within a department, or an individual officer for performance appraisal.

### Drug Court Report and Support:

The final report on a two-year evaluation of the Denver Drug Court was com-

pleted. Drug courts offer a method of case management and supervision that combines active judicial involvement and probation case management for drug-dependent offenders. Results from the Denver evaluation were generally positive, indicating higher success rates for probationers in drug court, compared to a similar group managed more traditionally.

In addition to the Denver Drug Court, seven adult and three juvenile drug courts are operating across the state. DPS has provided directional and evaluation support to these programs.

### Sex Offender Management:

DPS collaborated with the Division of Criminal Justice to review, revise, and develop a plan to retrain probation officers and judges on the Sexually Violent Predator Assessment Instrument. DPS also participated in the design of new procedures and the implementation plan for new sex offender registration procedures and protocol. Finally, the division pilot-tested the use of global positioning satellite technology with six judicial district probation departments. That project indicated that this technology is useful, and the technology has been added to the DPS list of supervision options.

**Mental Health Assessment:** As directed by legislative man-

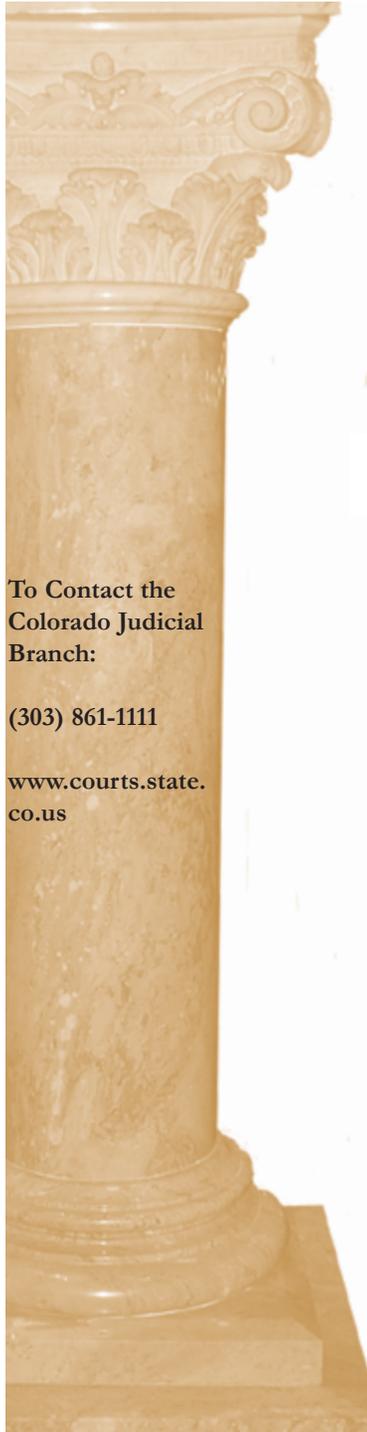
date, DPS worked with the Interagency Committee on Adult and Juvenile Correctional Treatment to develop and pilot test the use of a mental health screening instrument to be completed pre-sentence. These instruments are designed to better identify the mental health needs of offenders prior to sentencing to allow for more effective management in both incarceration populations and in the community.

**DUI Offenders:** The Alcohol Drug Driving Safety (ADDS) Program conducts alcohol evaluations for offenders convicted of driving under the influence. Statewide, the ADDS program has succeeded in decreasing the average length of time an offender is on the waiting list for an evaluation to less than 30 days from judicial order to evaluation. This decrease allows for quicker case processing in the courts and decreases the time from initial court date to reception of appropriate services.

## Integrated Information Services Division

**Function:** The Integrated Information Services Division is designed to respond effectively to customers' technical concerns and needs; to be proactive in the evaluation, development, implementation, and maintenance of technical appli-





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cations for the Judicial Branch; and to focus on the Branch's needs in sharing data and information with other state agencies and departments.

IIS is headed by the Branch's Chief Information Officer and is divided into three teams: technical support staff who maintain the Branch's computers, ensure data security, and maintain the servers and telecommunications network; information system specialists who staff the software help desk, design and test new software applications, and train employees on these applications; and programmers who support the maintenance and development of the Branch's ICON (court/probation case management system), CICJIS (statewide criminal integrated information system), and jury system software applications.

IIS is advised by the IIS Standing Committee, which meets monthly and is composed of a cross-section of Branch representatives from around Colorado, including judges, district administrators, clerks of court, chief probation officers, supervisors, and line staff.

**ICON:** The Integrated Colorado Online Network (ICON) is the primary case management system. It consists of several modules, including courts, probation, financial, attorney registration, Office of Dispute Resolution, and drug court. During

FY 2002, IIS supported the development and deployment of two releases of this program. ICON, with its integration with the CICJIS project (discussed below), was recently rated the #1 application of its kind in the nation by *Government Technology Magazine*.

**CICJIS:** The Colorado Integrated Criminal Justice Information System (CICJIS), implemented in 1998, allows for the electronic transfer of information among the five primary criminal justice agencies in Colorado: courts/probation, district attorneys, adult corrections, youth corrections, and local law enforcement through the Colorado Bureau of Investigation. During FY 2002, the project

successfully focused on sending criminal dispositions from the courts to the statewide criminal history repository.

**Electronic Filing:** The Judicial Branch has partnered with LEXIS/Courtlink in designing and deploying the only statewide electronic filing system in the United States. This system allows attorneys in Colorado to file their pleadings electronically with the trial courts through an Internet application. On average, the courts are now receiving approximately 3,500 new documents every week in general jurisdiction civil, domestic, probate, and water cases. Although this still represents a small percentage of the actual

filings, the number of new filings is growing consistently.

**Jury Management System:** The Jury Management System is responsible for the creation of the jury pool each year from voter registration, driver's license, and Department of Revenue lists. The system is then used to summon jurors for service, process the jurors when they arrive at the courthouse, and provide the courts with management reports to better utilize jurors during their service. Considerable effort was spent this year making the juror lists more efficient by removing bad addresses from the lists.

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