

Foreword

The Colorado Judicial Branch joins the Legislative and Executive branches to form the government for the State of Colorado. The Judicial Branch is charged with two responsibilities: resolving disputes and supervising offenders on probation.

The Colorado Judicial Department Annual Statistical Report for Fiscal Year 2005 provides information about the Colorado State Courts. Profiled in this report are case load statistics for the Colorado Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, District Court, County Courts, Water Courts, as well as summarized financial information for the Judicial Department. The availability of Probation data is delayed due to programming changes to the probation management reports. Probation data will be available in an addendum to this report.

All references in this report reflect data gathered for Fiscal Year 2005 (July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005), unless otherwise specified. This report can also be viewed by accessing the Colorado Judicial Department website at www.courts.state.co.us. If you need additional information regarding this document, please contact the Office of the State Court Administrator, Division of Planning & Analysis or Division of Probation Services at (303) 861-1111.

On the Cover: FY 2004 marked a major milestone for jury reform in Colorado. It culminated nearly a decade of study and implementing improvements.

The jury system is an important component of the state court system. The opportunity to serve as a juror allows citizens to become better informed regarding courts and the law. About 95 percent of all jury trials in the world take place in the United States

In January of 1996, then Chief Justice Anthony Volland appointed the Colorado Supreme Court Committee on the Effective and Efficient Use of Juries. The objective was to improve the jury system – largely, for citizens who serve as jurors. The sweeping reforms put in place since the report was initially released in 1997 have been significant. Some of these include:

- Respecting the use of the juror's time by conducting court proceedings in a timely manner and minimizing unnecessary delays;*
- Respecting the personal privacy of jurors by limiting public access to individual juror information and sealing juror questionnaire forms;*
- Reducing the burden of jury service by using the one-day/one-trial method of jury service;*
- Expanding the composition of the jury pool by using additional sources of juror names;*
- Permitting juror questions, note-taking/trial notebooks, and pre-deliberation discussions in many cases; and*
- Communicating with the jurors in plain English.*

**Sculpture by Colorado Artist Joan C. Andrew on display in the Adams County Judicial Center.*