



media alert

Colorado Judicial Branch
Mary J. Mullarkey, Chief Justice
Gerald Marroney, State Court Administrator

Feb. 19, 2010

Fourth Judicial District, Colorado Springs, El Paso County officials to introduce Veteran Trauma Court

Thursday, Feb. 25, 2010, at 1 p.m. at El Paso County Judicial Bldg.

Chief Judge Kirk Samelson, Judge Ronald Crowder, Chief Probation Officer Jack Ruszczyk, Probation Supervisor Kurt Runge, District Attorney Dan May, Public Defender Sheilagh McAteer, Colorado Division of Behavioral Health Project Director Laura Williams, Rep. Marsha Looper, Sen. Josh Penry and Sen. Suzanne Williams will join representatives of health and human services agencies to announce the official opening of Colorado's first Veteran Trauma Court at a news conference at 1 p.m. at the El Paso County Judicial Building.

The Veteran Trauma Court will directly link eligible U.S. military veterans involved with the criminal justice system to treatment services that will support their recovery from a range of trauma disorders connected to their military service. The court is based on the model of mental health courts, which have proved their value in providing treatment to eligible offenders while diverting them from expensive jail or prison placements.

Who: Chief Judge Kirk Samelson
Judge Ronald Crowder (Maj. Gen., Army National Guard, retired)
Chief Probation Officer Jack Ruszczyk
Probation Supervisor Kurt Runge
District Attorney Dan May
Public Defender Sheilagh McAteer
Colorado Division of Behavioral Health Project Director Laura Williams
Rep. Marsha Looper (invited)
Sen. Josh Penry (invited)
Sen. Suzanne Williams (invited)

What: Announcement of the official launch of Colorado's first Veteran Trauma Court

When: 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25

Where: Courtroom 406 (South Tower), El Paso County Judicial Building, 270 S. Tejon, Colorado Springs

Contacts: Rob McCallum, State Court Administrator's Office, 303-435-7164
Kathleen Walsh, 4th Judicial District Attorney's Office, 720-810-4139
Laura Williams, Colorado Division of Behavioral Health, 303-519-1648

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