



Colorado Justice: Celebrating 40 years of fair  
and impartial courts through merit selection

# news

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

July 3, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jon Sarche  
303-837-3644  
1-800-888-0001 Ext. 644  
[jon.sarche@judicial.state.co.us](mailto:jon.sarche@judicial.state.co.us)

## **Chief Justice Mary J. Mullarkey honored for 20 years of service on Colorado Supreme Court**

DENVER, Colo. – On the occasion of her 20-year anniversary as a member of the Colorado Supreme Court, friends and colleagues gathered last Friday at the Governor’s Mansion to celebrate Chief Justice Mary J. Mullarkey and her accomplishments.

Chief Justice Mullarkey was lauded for her tenure as an associate justice and for being the first female chief justice, for her collegial openness and vision for the court and for her more than 350 written opinions. To memorialize those accomplishments and the anniversary, Senior Supreme Court Justice Greg Hobbs wrote and read a poem dedicated to the chief justice entitled “Seal of a Faithful Heart.”

Supreme Court Associate Justice Michael Bender presided over the event.

“She had a vision of making our system of justice better,” Justice Bender said. “I think that her commitment and desire to serve the public has overwhelmed all of us; it has made an impact.”

Governor Bill Ritter was also in attendance and praised Chief Justice Mullarkey for her commitments to the legal community and to the court.

“It has been my honor to know you, Chief Justice Mullarkey, and to work with you,” Governor Bill Ritter said. “Thank you for all of your public service, and what a public servant you are and continue to be. God bless you.”

“What has made this so worthwhile are all of the wonderful people I get to work with,” Chief Justice Mullarkey said. “I feel incredibly fortunate to have had this opportunity to work on this court and to be entrusted with these decisions.”

Chief Justice Mullarkey also noted that she is looking forward to serving the people of Colorado and the court in the future.

Chief Justice Mullarkey was appointed to the seven-member Colorado Supreme Court by Governor Roy Romer in 1987 and was sworn in on June 29, succeeding Justice Jean Dubofsky, the first woman appointed to the Colorado Supreme Court. On August 3, 1998, she was selected by her fellow justices to serve as chief justice, taking the place of retiring Chief Justice Anthony F. Vollack and becoming the first woman to serve as Colorado’s Chief Justice.

Chief Justice Mullarkey has received several honors and awards including the 2002 Mary Lathrop award from the Colorado Women’s Bar Association and the 2003 Judicial Excellence award from the Denver Bar Association.

“The leadership of the Chief Justice is felt throughout the Judicial Branch,” said State Court Administrator Jerry Marroney. “All of us in the branch appreciate the Chief’s willingness to become personally involved in all of the issues that affect the courts. I think I speak for the entire branch in stating that we are all very proud to work for Chief Justice Mullarkey and appreciate all that she does for the branch.”

Prior to her appointment to the bench, Justice Mullarkey practiced law for 19 years in a variety of settings. From 1975 to 1982, she specialized in appellate practice, first while heading the Appellate Section in the Colorado Attorney General’s Office and later while serving as Colorado’s Solicitor General. She has also served as the legal advisor to Governor Richard D. Lamm, held legal positions with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Department of the Interior, and engaged in the private practice of law.

The Chief Justice graduated from college in her home state of Wisconsin at St. Norbert College and from the Harvard Law School. She has been a resident of Denver since 1973.

# **The Honorable Chief Justice Mary J. Mullarkey**

## **Colorado Supreme Court**

**Position:** Chief Justice from August 3, 1998 – Present  
Associate Justice from June 29, 1987 – August 2, 1998

**Education:** Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA, 1968, Bachelor of Law  
St Norbert College, De Pere, Wisconsin, 1965 B.A. Math

**Honors:** Cum Laude

**Admitted:** Wisconsin, 1968  
Colorado, 1974  
U.S. Court of Appeals 10th Circuit, 1975  
U.S. District Court Eastern District of Wisconsin  
U.S. District Court District of Colorado, 1974  
U.S. Supreme Court, 1972

**Affiliations:** Colorado Bar Association, Member  
Denver Bar Association, Member  
Colorado Women's Bar Association, Member  
American Bar Association, Member  
Colorado Bar Foundation, Fellow  
American Bar Foundation, Fellow

**Honors:** Recipient, St. Norbert College Alumni Award for Distinguished Achievement in the Humanities, 1980  
Recipient, Colorado Women's Bar Association's Recognition Award, 1986  
Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree, St. Norbert College, 1989  
Alma Mater Award, St. Norbert College, 1993

**Previous:** Mullarkey & Seymour, Partner, 1985 - 1987  
Governor Richard D. Lamm, Denver, Colorado, Legal Advisor, 1982 - 1985  
Department of Law, Denver, Colorado, Solicitor General, 1979 - 1982  
Appellate Section, Department of Law, Denver, Colorado, First Assistant Attorney General, 1975 - 1979  
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Denver, Colorado, Assistant Regional Attorney, 1973 - 1975  
Civil Rights Branch, Office of the Solicitor, Department of the Interior, Washington, District of Columbia, Attorney-Advisor, 1970 - 1973  
Water and Power Resources Division, Office of the Solicitor, Department of the Interior, Washington, District of Columbia, Attorney-Advisor, 1968 - 1970  
Office of the Solicitor, Department of the Interior, Washington, District of Columbia, Law Clerk, 1967