



Colorado Justice: Celebrating 41 years of fair
and impartial courts through merit selection

news

Colorado Judicial Branch
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July 27, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Colorado Judicial Branch Expands Pilot Service-Improvement Program *17th Judicial District surveys to begin July 30 at the Adams County Justice Center*

BRIGHTON, Colo. – The 17th Judicial District is inviting you to be the judge in a pilot program designed to help the Colorado Judicial Branch gather needed information to ensure it is providing the best possible service to the public. The research project, which began this summer at the Mesa County Justice Center in Grand Junction, is aimed at helping courts know how well they are meeting the needs of the citizens they serve. The research project is currently being implemented in three of Colorado's judicial districts and may be expanded to include other courts in Colorado in the near future.

On July 30-31, judges, clerks and other Justice Center employees will volunteer their time to talk to people – in English and Spanish – about their experiences as jurors, parties to a case or as recipients of other Judicial Branch services. Attorneys, law enforcement officers and anybody else who does business with the courts will be encouraged to participate. The judicial employees will be stationed outside the Justice Center for this two-day period and will ask people exiting the building if they had business with the court and are willing to participate in a brief anonymous survey.

The data will be used to measure public opinion about access to and fairness of the courts. People will be asked whether they had problems finding the Justice Center, whether they

could easily understand the forms they needed, whether they felt safe in the building and other related questions.

Surveyors also will ask people whether they felt their case was handled in a fair manner, whether the judge or magistrate listened to them and had all the necessary information before making a decision and whether they felt they were treated with courtesy, understood what was happening in their case and were given clear information about the next step in their case.

“These are the people’s courts,” said Supreme Court Chief Justice Mary Mullarkey.
“Coloradans deserve the best the Judicial Branch can possibly offer them.”

“These surveys will be crucial to objectively test our perceptions and follow up in areas if needed for the citizens of Adams County,” said 17th Judicial District Chief Judge Bockman.

Adams County is one of many courts across the nation to participate in the CourTools survey which was developed by the National Center for State Courts in Denver.

Colorado’s 17th Judicial District is one of the fastest growing districts in Colorado, comprising Adams and Broomfield counties. There were 18,250 district-court cases filed and 70,614 county-court cases filed in fiscal 2006, the latest year for which complete statistics are available.