



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

news

Colorado Judicial Branch
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Colorado Court of Appeals names new clerk *Judicial Branch budget analyst Chris Ryan to replace John Doerner*

DENVER – The Colorado Court of Appeals announced today it has named Chris Ryan of the State Court Administrator’s Office as its new clerk.

Ryan, a senior budget analyst at the SCAO, replaces John Doerner, who left the position this fall after six years as clerk to become a principal court management consultant with the National Center for State Courts.

“We were impressed with Chris’ credentials and are excited to bring him on board as our court’s head administrator,” said Court of Appeals Chief Judge Janice B. Davidson. “All the judges look forward to working with him in this exciting time of change and growth for the Court of Appeals. The court would also like to thank John Doerner for his dedicated service and commitment to court-improvement projects he oversaw during his tenure.”

Ryan, who has worked in several positions for the Colorado Judicial Branch since 1990, also has worked as a senior court-management analyst for the National Center for State Courts. A longtime Colorado resident, Ryan graduated from the University of Colorado at Denver with a bachelor’s degree in political science. He takes over his new responsibilities as clerk Dec. 3, 2007.

“I’m honored that the court chose me to help guide it in the coming years,” Ryan said. “All my life I have worked for a position of this nature. This is an exciting time for the Court of Appeals with many things moving the court in a new direction including an increase in resources and a shift to a new electronic filing system. We are in a great position to implement significant changes designed to make the court more efficient and more accessible to the public.”

As clerk, Ryan will direct administration of the state’s intermediate appellate court, which saw 2,548 cases filed in fiscal 2007. He also will serve as supervisor of the court’s staff, develop

and manage its budget, ensure proper management of the court's docket, and oversee implementation of policy changes from the Court of Appeals judges, the SCAO and Chief Justice Directives.

Ryan becomes clerk at a time of significant growth for the court. Under legislation enacted this year, the court will add a seventh panel of three judges next summer, for a total of 22 judges. Ryan also will participate in the design and implementation of computerized automation of the court's processes and proceedings.

The court also is working with the Supreme Court, the Legislature and other entities to plan for a potential replacement of the judicial building to consolidate Judicial Branch offices and provide adequate space for the branch's employees.

Doerner worked for the judicial department a total of 25 years and saw a great deal of change in his roles as an auditor, audit supervisor and clerk of the Court of Appeals. Doerner recently said he believes the most important legacy he leaves is a strong dedication to improving technology in the court's case management and to looking for improvement in all areas of court operations.

“The majority of people now are of the mindset that electronic filing and automation upgrades will bring a great deal of advantages to the Court of Appeals and it's the route we must go,” he said. “We need to be ready to take advantage of every opportunity to provide better service to the bar, the court and the public.”