



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

news

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

Nov. 13, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Robert McCallum
303-837-3633

1-800-888-0001 Ext. 633

robert.mccallum@judicial.state.co.us

National Adoption Day unites foster children with permanent families *More than 50 adoptions docketed for Nov. 16 in Denver Juvenile Court*

DENVER, Colo. – National Adoption Day will be celebrated in Denver Juvenile Court on Friday, Nov. 16, 2007, with judges and magistrates finalizing the adoption of more than 50 foster children with permanent families. In this third year of Denver’s participation in National Adoption Day celebrations, the occasion will be marked by adoption proceedings throughout the morning at the Denver City and County Building.

“This is truly a day for celebration as we are uniting so many children with permanent and loving families,” said Denver Juvenile Court Presiding Judge Karen Ashby. “National Adoption Day, and our participation in it here in Denver, not only celebrates the families who will be brought together, it heightens awareness of the thousands of other children in foster care waiting for a permanent family.”

The Denver event is being coordinated through Denver Juvenile Court and Denver Human Services in conjunction with other local and state child advocates and agencies. Activities will begin at 8:45 a.m. with welcoming remarks by Supreme Court Chief Justice Mary Mullarkey and Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper in the rotunda of the Denver City and County Building. Other speakers will include Judge Ashby, Denver Human Services manager Roxane White, and Denver Human Services caseworker and pastor Nathan O’Neal.

All of Denver’s Juvenile Court judges and magistrates are docketed to preside over the day’s adoption proceedings. They include Presiding Judge Ashby, Judge Donna Schmalberger, Judge Brett Woods, Magistrate Jeffrey English, Magistrate Melanie Gilbert, Magistrate Kathleen Janski and Magistrate Jennifer Torrington. Adoptions will begin at 10:00 a.m. in Denver Juvenile Court’s first, second and third floor courtrooms.

Colorado is currently home to more than 700 children waiting for permanent families. Forty-three of them are in Denver.

“This National Adoption Day celebration in Denver is just one small step in a much larger mission,” said Judge Ashby. “I sincerely hope that the message of the importance of adoption carries on throughout the community. We will work to continue to raise awareness for the fact that many more foster children need to be placed with loving permanent families.”

National Adoption Day, begun in 2000, is a collective national effort to raise awareness of the 114,000 children in foster care waiting to find permanent, loving families. For the last eight years, National Adoption Day has made the dreams of thousands of children come true through the cooperative work of courts, judges, attorneys, adoption professionals, child welfare agencies and advocates to finalize adoptions and find permanent, loving homes for children in foster care.

“We are grateful to families who step up and welcome children into their homes and add children to their families,” said Roxane White, manager of Denver Human Services. “These folks are all community heroes.”

National Adoption Day is celebrated every year on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. In 2006, for the first time, National Adoption Day was celebrated in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. That year, more than 250 events were held throughout the country to finalize the adoptions of more than 3,300 children in foster care, and to celebrate all families who adopt.

Editor's Note: For additional information please contact Barbara Bosley, Family Court Facilitator, Denver Juvenile Court, 1437 Bannock Street, Room 157, Denver, CO 80202, 720-865-8236, 720-865-8270 Fax. Information on how to request cameras in the courtroom is available at <http://www.courts.state.co.us/exec/media/notices/cameras.doc>.

Denver Adoption Day Committee: Eve Anderson, Bethany Christian Services; Barbara Bosley, Denver Juvenile Court; Deborah Gans, Attorney at Law; Jamie Glennon, DDHS; Linda Greene, Child Advocates; Jay Jones, Attorney at Law; Stacy Keller, Adoption Exchange; Shana Kloek, Denver Juvenile Court; Rob McCallum, State Court Administrator's Office; Laurel Moore, CDHS; Tammie Raatz, DDHS; Renee Romero, Denver Juvenile Court; Tammy Rula, DDHS; Gretchen Russo, Denver Juvenile Court; Lizbeth rustad-Ponder, DDHS; Benilda Samuels, DDHS; Jon Sarche, State Court Administrator's Office; Amanda Tin, Adoption Alliance; Connie Vigil, CDHS; Rachel Yarbrough, Adoption Exchange.

This information is provided as an e-mail service of the Colorado State Judicial Branch, Office of State Court Administrator, 1301 Pennsylvania Street, Suite 300, Denver, Colo. 80203. To discontinue this service or update your e-mail address, please respond to this message with your name, contact information and any comments.