



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

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## **Boulder County Justice Center Patrons Invited to ‘Be the Judge’** *Colorado Judicial Branch to conduct surveys Aug. 27-28 aimed at improving service*

BOULDER, Colo. – Patrons of the Boulder County Justice Center are being invited to be the judge to help the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District gather information it needs to ensure it is providing the best possible service to the public.

On Aug. 27 and 28 from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., 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 Colorado Judicial Branch services.

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

Besides the general public, attorneys, law enforcement officers and anybody else who does business with the courts will be encouraged to participate in a brief, anonymous survey as they exit the Justice Center at 1777 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

Questionnaires 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 and made to understand what was happening in their case. Respondents also 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.

“Our courts are committed to ensuring efficient access to justice and fairness to everybody who comes through the doors,” said 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Administrator Amy Waddle. “Without taking an objective look at our work, we can’t be sure we’re doing the best we can.”

Regular follow-up surveys will be conducted to gauge the effectiveness of any changes implemented as a result of the initial survey.

Similar surveys are in use by several other state court systems including Arizona, the District of Columbia and Utah as part of a program developed by the National Center for State Courts.

Colorado’s 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, comprising Boulder County, saw 27,731 county-court and 9,618 district-court cases filed in fiscal 2006, the latest year for which complete statistics are available.

This is the third judicial district in Colorado to participate in the pilot survey program, which could be expanded to other districts around the state. The 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District (Mesa County) and the 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (Adams and Broomfield counties) also have conducted CourTools surveys.