



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

news

Colorado Judicial Branch
Mary J. Mullarkey, Chief Justice
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Oct. 29, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Judicial members among those recognized by Colorado CASA *Judge J. Robert Lowenbach and William DeLisio receive awards*

DENVER, Colo. – Colorado CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates for children, recently presented its annual achievement awards. Two members of the Colorado Judicial Branch were among the 2007 recipients recognized on Oct. 19, 2007. They were District Judge J. Robert Lowenbach from the 19th Judicial District and William DeLisio, Court Improvement Coordinator for the State Court Administrator’s Office.

“Cases coming through our court system involving children are some of the most difficult we face,” says Chief Justice Mary Mullarkey. “Finding solutions takes a comprehensive, dedicated team of individuals who are compassionate and resourceful. It is rewarding for all of us when the contributions of our colleagues are recognized by their peers outside the judiciary.”

Judge Lowenbach received the *CASA Judge of the Year* award. DeLisio was recognized as the *Child Advocate of the Year*.

Colorado CASA advocates for the best interest of abused and neglected children by promoting and supporting the development, growth and continuation of quality CASA programs and services to benefit children throughout Colorado. Nationwide, the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program, created in 1977, has over 900 member agencies that train volunteers

to speak up for abused, neglected or abandoned children in the courts. CASA was instituted in Colorado in 1985. Currently, there are 14 CASA programs in Colorado.

Each year Colorado CASA recognizes a select group of individuals who make significant contributions to the program. Criteria considered in the selection include high levels of ethics, diligence, thoroughness and persistence in making the system responsive to the needs of children. Also considered are teamwork, leadership, enthusiasm and innovation in promoting the CASA mission.

Also recognized during the awards ceremony were Kevin Houck, *Volunteer of the Year*, Howard Bartlett, *Guardian ad Litem Attorney of the Year*, Laura Schaefer, *Caseworker of the Year*, and Justine Reves, *CASA Staff Person of the Year*.

Editor's Note: More information about Colorado CASA is available online at www.coloradocasa.org. Additional information is also available online for the Office of the Child's Representative at <http://www.coloradochildrep.org/Index.html>.