



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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Contact: Robert McCallum
303-837-3633

1-800-888-0001 Ext. 633

robert.mccallum@judicial.state.co.us

Three judicial officers selected for excellence awards *Colorado Judicial Institute to recognize trio at annual event*

DENVER, Colo. – District Court Chief Judge Roxanne Bailin, Denver County Court Judge James R. Breese and Magistrate Dinsmore Tuttle have been selected to receive the *2007 Judicial Excellence Award* from the Colorado Judicial Institute. The presentations will take place during the institute’s annual Judicial Excellence for Colorado Dinner on Nov. 15, 2007, in Denver.

“These three judicial officers exemplify excellence in the judiciary and I am pleased to see they are being honored,” said Chief Justice Mary Mullarkey. “Their dedication is an inspiration to all of us who seek to be good public servants. Through the course of their careers they have touched the lives of thousands of people and have made a positive difference.”

Judge Bailin presides in the Twentieth Judicial District (Boulder County), Judge Breese sits on the bench in Denver County and Magistrate Tuttle is in the Nineteenth Judicial District (Weld County). One district court judge, one county court judge and one magistrate who exemplify the highest standards of excellence are selected annually to receive the award. Recipients were chosen for their management skills; control, innovation and creativity in the courtroom; extraordinary courage, energy and tenacity; and for respect and confidence expressed by other judges, court staff, lawyers and others.

Judge Bailin was appointed to the county court bench in 1983 and to the district court bench in 1987. She has served as Chief Judge since 1998. Judge Bailin is honored for her leadership, innovation in streamlining court processes, ability to establish collaborative partnerships among varied departments and agencies, and commitment to providing responsive justice to all who appear before her. She has spearheaded programs such as the Integrated Treatment Court and the Integrated Family Treatment Court to assist people and families involved with substance abuse and mental illness receive treatment while keeping them in an active and caring community. Working with the Boulder County Mental Health Task Force, Judge Bailin helped develop the PACE program – a specialized probation program that integrates mental health services, nursing, probation, and continuing life skill and professional education services.

Judge Bailin has served on the Supreme Court Committee on Civil Jury Instructions since 1994. She also has served as a member of the Chief Judges Council, the Judicial Branch Human Resources Standing Committee, Chief Judge Mentoring Committee and the Legislative Task Force for the Mentally Ill in the Criminal Justice System.

Judge Bailin has been honored by numerous organizations, receiving the State Judicial Branch “Outstanding Judicial Officer” award, the Colorado Women’s Bar Association “Judge of the Year” award twice, Voices for Children “Champions for Children” award, and most recently the Boulder County Public Health “Healthy Community Award” for “exemplifying the Boulder County Public Health mission and values of improving the health and well being of the people and environment of Boulder County.”

Judge Breese was appointed in 1987 and is being honored for his successful efforts to improve the justice system through understanding, education and cooperation. He created the Court/Sheriff Committee to address conflicts between the agencies to create more uniform and efficient procedures to handle inmates. In the Denver City and County juvenile court, Judge Breese developed new programs to more effectively help juveniles appearing before him and their families navigate court processes successfully. Judge Breese met with middle and high school principals to encourage early detection of potential problems with students. Judge Breese is an active speaker about the court system, lecturing before journalists, civic groups, law school classes and his fellow judges.

Judge Breese is a Trustee of the Denver Bar Association and serves on the DBA Bench-Bar Committee. As co-chair of the committee, Judge Breese developed pamphlets to help defendants representing themselves understand their rights and obligations as well as the sometimes confusing processes of the courts. Judge Breese improved the jury service system by streamlining contact processes, encouraging participation by securing perks for jurors, and updating the surroundings and entertainment options available to citizens waiting for jury service. Judge Breese serves on the Executive Council of the Colorado County Judges Association and the Supreme Court Jury Reform Committee. He is a Charter Member of the Marsh Inn of Court having served as President and chair of the program committee.

Judge Breese has received the DBA Judicial Excellence Award, the Marsh Inn Alfred Harrell Award for Distinguished Service, and the Faculty Humanist Award for Teacher Excellence from the University of Colorado Law School.

Magistrate Tuttle was appointed a District Court Magistrate in the 19th Judicial District in 1997. Whether in delinquency docket or serving in the family court, Magistrate Tuttle is dedicated to helping parties move through the judicial system efficiently and achieving the best possible outcome for all involved. Drawing together a number of community stakeholders, she participated in the establishment of the Weld County Family Treatment Court which addresses the methamphetamine crisis and the impact on families. The court uses an intensive, multidisciplinary approach to actively involve parents in setting and achieving goals to best address their strengths and work on recognized weaknesses.

Magistrate Tuttle serves on the Supreme Court Standing Committee on Family Issues as well as the Respondent Parents' Counsel Task Force. She worked to establish Rule 16.2, mandating the less combative disclosure of information during a simplified dissolution of marriage action.

The Colorado Judicial Institute was established in 1979 as a nonprofit citizens' group committed to excellence in Colorado's courts. CJI strives to improve the public understanding of and trust in the state court system, ensure the appropriate use of the state court system, and explore alternatives to the judicial process. Proceeds from the dinner will benefit CJI's Judicial Education Preservation Fund, established in response to the recent loss of state financial support for continuing education for judges and court personnel, and the Colorado Judicial Institute.

Editor's note: Additional information on the Colorado Judicial Institute is available at www.coloradojudicialinstitute.org.