



news

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

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Chief Justice Mary Mullarkey announces her retirement

DENVER – Colorado Supreme Court Chief Justice Mary Mullarkey, who was appointed to the bench in 1987 by Gov. Roy Romer and selected by her colleagues to serve as Chief Justice in 1998, announced her retirement, effective Nov. 30, 2010, at an afternoon news conference.

After 23 years serving the people of Colorado from the Supreme Court bench, Chief Justice Mullarkey, 66, decided now was the right time to step down and pursue other interests.

The Supreme Court Nominating Commission later this summer will interview applicants for the upcoming vacancy and nominate three candidates to the governor, who then will appoint a new associate justice. Members of the court will select a new chief justice.

Chief Justice Mullarkey thanks every current and past member of the Judicial Department for their commitment to improving the administration of justice for the citizens of Colorado and asks for their continued support and dedication to the mission of the department, and is grateful for the opportunity to serve the public.

“The highest calling for any attorney is public service,” she said. “I feel lucky I have had the opportunity to serve, and have greatly enjoyed not only the work of a Supreme Court justice, but also the relationships I’ve formed with my colleagues and others in the Judicial Branch.”

Before joining the court, Chief Justice Mullarkey practiced law for 19 years, including as head of the Colorado Attorney General Office's Appellate Section and as Colorado's Solicitor General. She also served as legal advisor to Gov. Richard D. Lamm and held legal positions with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Department of the Interior.

Judicial Department accomplishments under Chief Justice Mary Mullarkey's leadership:

- After nearly a decade of working with the General Assembly and Colorado Historic Society, helped create legislation authorizing construction of a new state judicial complex to house the Judicial Department, the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals and other judicial-related agencies.
- Improved the statewide system for the equitable allocation of resources to the court systems throughout the state, and maintaining the equity through budget cutbacks.
- Strengthened the judicial performance review system.
- Improved the delivery of probation services by developing probation as a restorative justice program.
- Made Colorado a leader in information technology for the court system through development of a statewide case-management system, establishment of an e-filing system for trial courts, and development of the Colorado Integrated Criminal Justice Information System linking five state criminal-justice agencies and enabling them to track offenders from arrest and prosecution to adjudication and incarceration.
- Established the Problem Solving Court Advisory Committee, which helps manage issues of compliance to the key components of problem solving courts. There are more than 50 such courts operating in Colorado, including adult drug courts, juvenile drug courts, mental health courts, family/dependency and neglect courts, truancy courts, prostitution drug courts and DWI courts.
- Established the Colorado Supreme Court's Water Court Committee to review the water court process, identify ways to achieve efficiencies in water court cases while protecting the quality of outcomes, and to ensure the highest level of competence in water court case participants.