



Colorado Justice: Celebrating 42 years of fair  
and impartial courts through merit selection

# news

Colorado Judicial Branch  
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## **Colorado Judicial Branch Continues Service-Improvement Program** *Fifth Judicial District survey to be conducted October 1 and 2*

EAGLE, Colo. – Colorado’s Fifth Judicial District is inviting you to be the judge in a program designed to help the Colorado Judicial Branch gather needed information to ensure it is providing the best possible service to the public. The survey will be conducted Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 1-2 at the Eagle County Justice Center (885 Chambers Ave) in Eagle.

On those days, judges, clerks and other court employees will talk to people – in English and Spanish – about their experiences as jurors, parties to a case or as recipients of other Judicial Branch services. Attorneys, law enforcement officers and anyone who does business with the courts also will be encouraged to participate. The judicial employees will be stationed outside the court building asking people if they had business with the courts and are willing to participate in a brief anonymous survey.

The data will be used to measure public opinion about access to and fairness of the courts. People will be asked whether they had problems finding the court building, whether they could easily understand the forms they needed, whether they felt safe in the building and other related questions.

Surveyors also 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, understood what was happening in their case and were given clear information about the next step in their case.

“These are the people’s courts,” Supreme Court Chief Justice Mary Mullarkey said.

“Coloradans deserve the best the Judicial Branch can possibly offer them.”

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

“CourTools has provided us with valuable insight that has allowed us to strengthen the courts’ effectiveness while at the same time becoming more transparent,” said Dan Becker, Utah’s state court administrator.

Colorado’s Fifth Judicial District, comprising Clear Creek, Eagle, Lake and Summit counties, saw 3,332 district-court cases filed, 1,507 of which were in Eagle County; and 17,878 county-court cases filed, of which 7,116 were in Eagle County. These statistics reflect filings from FY 2007, the latest year for which complete statistics are available.