



news

Colorado Judicial Branch
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Excellence in Practice Awards recognize child-welfare professionals

DENVER – Six individuals and one multidisciplinary team have been recognized as winners of the 2010 Excellence in Practice Awards for their efforts to promote the welfare of children throughout Colorado.

The awards, presented during a June 25 ceremony, were established in 2000 to salute county employees who demonstrate excellence and a commitment to safety, permanency and well-being, the core goals at the heart of each client's Child and Family Service Plan.

The awards program was expanded in 2008 to include attorneys, judicial officers, judicial staff members and multidisciplinary court teams, and expanded again in 2009 to include workers at the Colorado Department of Human Services' Child Welfare and Administrative Review divisions and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).

This year's honorees, chosen by a multiagency committee, are:

- Juvenile Law Attorney Award, recognizing a guardian *ad litem*, a respondent parents' counsel and a city or county attorney who have provided exceptional representation and/or other advocacy efforts, giving their clients a meaningful voice in the courtroom or outcome of the case: Coleen Flynn Robinson (guardian *ad litem*),

Consuelo Williams (respondent parents' counsel) and Laura Rhyne-Johnson (city/county attorney).

- Judicial Officer Award, recognizing a judge or magistrate who has created a legal environment that provides equal and effective representation to all parties and who promotes best practices, demands high standards, convenes multidisciplinary meetings and implements a district's plan for dependency and neglect cases: Chief Judge J. Steven Patrick, Seventh Judicial District.
- Spirit of the Summit Award (multidisciplinary team), recognizing a team that demonstrates effective collaboration among a child welfare agency, attorneys, providers, community and court in developing programs that provide for the safety, permanency and well-being of children: Boulder Best Practice Court Team (Magistrate Carolyn McLean, Peggy Wallis, Dea Schantz, Elizabeth Brodsky, Ann Baldwin, Marsha Caplan, Sharon Plettner, Coleen Flynn Robinson, Debra Thomas, Jesseca McDonald, Mariann Stanley, Cathy Bolton, Deb Riccioli, Terrie Ryan-Thomas and Audrey Simpson).
- Key to Judicial Success Award, recognizing a non-judge judicial staff member who has created an environment leading to effective collaboration among a child welfare agency, attorneys, providers, community and court to help provide for the safety, permanency and well-being of children: Bill DeLisio.
- Court Appointed Special Advocate Award, recognizing a CASA volunteer or staff member who has created an environment leading to effective collaboration among a child welfare agency, attorneys, providers, community and court to help provide for the safety, permanency and well-being of children: Joy Raney.