



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

news

Colorado Judicial Branch
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Denver Adult Probation Officer honored with *Innovation Award* *Steven Rael recognized by Colorado Judicial Branch for exemplary service*

The Colorado Judicial Branch's *Innovation Award* has been given to Steven Rael, a probation officer for Denver Adult Probation in the Second Judicial District (Denver County). The Colorado Judicial Branch annually recognizes a handful of outstanding employees for exemplary work contributing to the high quality of service provided throughout the state's 22 judicial districts.

Rael was nominated for the award by Peter Bryan, a fellow probation officer in the Second Judicial District. Rael was commended by his colleague for developing the probation "Tracker Program," which was designed to foster communication among law enforcement agencies working cooperatively with probationers.

"Steve communicated well with all law enforcement agencies and treats them with respect," Bryan said. "He developed the 'Tracker Program' from the start and continues to look for new ways to improve it with the goal of reducing probation absconders."

The Colorado Judicial Branch includes the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, as well as the state's district and county trial courts. The branch is also home to the Department of Probation Services, which employs more than 1,100 people including 800 probation officers. The department's officers are responsible for supervising approximately 7,600 juvenile offenders and 61,000 adult offenders. As of July 1, 2008, the Colorado Judicial Branch employed approximately 3,600 employees, which includes 304 justices, judges and magistrates. In fiscal year 2007, the latest for which full statistics are available, there were 551,197 cases filed statewide at the County Court level, 189,235 cases filed in District Court, 2,548 in the Court of Appeals and 1,534 in the Supreme Court. There were 1,220 cases filed in the water courts.