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Chief Judge Stephen Schapanski names Carolyn Pannell new district court magistrate for Larimer County

Judge thanks nominating commission, citizens for assistance in the selection process

FORT COLLINS – Chief Judge Stephen Schapanski announced today that he has selected Carolyn Pannell to join the 8th Judicial District (Jackson and Larimer counties) as a district court magistrate for Larimer County. Pannell will replace the Honorable Susan J. Winfield whose retirement is effective Oct. 1, 2011.

“I am pleased to welcome Ms. Pannell to the Larimer County bench and look forward to working with her,” Chief Judge Schapanski said. “She is dedicated to the importance of family law, and will undoubtedly bring this dedication and passion for her work to the bench. I am confident that she will be an excellent district court magistrate.”

Since March of 2009 Pannell has been a staff attorney with the Bringing Justice Home Project providing legal representation to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking in Larimer, Weld, Routt, Grand and Moffat counties. Previously, she was a sole practitioner in family law matters in Fort Collins since 1995. Her law degree is from the University of Florida.

Ms. Pannell will take the bench Oct. 3, 2011. Her docket will be a mix of dependency and neglect, child support enforcement and contempt hearings in family and juvenile cases.

Chief Judge Schapanski thanked the members of the 8th Judicial District Nominating Commission and citizens of Larimer County for assisting him in the selection process.

“I was very pleased with the process of using the Judicial Nominating Commission to assist with selecting the finalists and the commission members appreciated being asked to participate in the process,” Chief Judge Schapanski said. “I received approximately 60 emails from the public about the finalists during the open comment period. These comments were very helpful in choosing the magistrate and several members of the public thanked me for the opportunity to comment. We had three very qualified finalists and I thank them all for their time and interest in serving Larimer County.”

Chief Judge Schapanski added that he plans to continue using the public input process when selecting future magistrates.