



news

Colorado Judicial Branch
Michael L. Bender, Chief Justice
Gerald Marroney, State Court Administrator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 12, 2013

Contact: Robert McCallum or Jon Sarché
720-625-5815
720-625-5811

robert.mccallum@judicial.state.co.us
jon.sarche@judicial.state.co.us

Denver Youth Development Court to celebrate 10th anniversary

DENVER – The 2nd Judicial District (Denver County) Youth Development Court will celebrate its 10th anniversary on Tuesday, April 16, marking a decade of helping qualified juvenile offenders defeat substance-abuse problems.

The court, which provides eligible juveniles from 12 to 17 years old an alternative to detention, requires offenders to submit to substance-abuse monitoring and to make frequent court appearances to update the presiding magistrate on their progress, similar to an adult drug court.

During the court's 10 years of operation, 164 clients have graduated from the program. Twenty-eight are currently enrolled.

"I am so proud to be involved with a program that gives young people who get involved with drugs, alcohol or other substances a good chance at rehabilitation," said presiding Magistrate Howard V. Bartlett. "It is so gratifying to be part of a program that can help kids straighten out their lives and get on a track toward continuing their education and becoming productive members of society."

Besides making frequent court appearances, the court's clients are offered treatment, coaching and mentoring during their involvement with the court, which averages about a year.

Similarly to an adult drug court, clients are offered incentives for successful completion of a milestone, and may be sanctioned for violations. Sanctions can include community service, with detention a last resort.

Potentially eligible juvenile offenders are screened for the program by representatives of the court, the probation department, and the offices of the district attorney and public defender.

The Youth Development Court is one of more than 70 problem-solving courts operating in 17 of Colorado's 22 judicial districts. Colorado's problem-solving courts include adult and juvenile drug courts, family/dependency and neglect drug courts, DUI courts, adult and juvenile mental health courts, veteran trauma courts and truancy courts.