



news

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Colorado courts service-improvement program returning to Trinidad *Surveys to be conducted Monday at the Las Animas County Courthouse*

TRINIDAD, Colo. – People with business at the Las Animas County Courthouse on Monday, Oct. 28, 2013, will be asked to participate in a program designed to help ensure the Colorado Judicial Branch is providing the best possible service to the public.

Throughout the day, court employees at 200 E. 1st St. in Trinidad will ask people exiting the building to fill out brief, anonymous survey forms asking about their experiences as jurors, parties to a case or as recipients of other Judicial Branch services. Survey forms will be available in English and Spanish.

In addition, attorneys, law enforcement officers and anyone else who does business with the courts is encouraged to participate.

Similar surveys were conducted in the 3rd Judicial District (Huerfano and Las Animas counties) in Trinidad in 2011. Since 2007, these surveys have been conducted at least once in each of Colorado's 22 judicial districts.

“Surveys like these are one of the best tools we have to measure our success in serving the public,” said the Hon. Claude W. Appel, chief judge of the 3rd Judicial District. “The public deserves the best possible service from its courts, and we’re looking forward to hearing this direct feedback.”

The surveys are designed to measure public opinion about access to and fairness of the courts. Questions include whether people felt safe in the building, whether they could easily understand the forms they needed, and whether they felt their case was handled in a fair manner. Participants also are asked whether they felt the judicial officer listened to them and had all the necessary information before making a decision, and whether they felt they were treated with courtesy and given clear information about the next step in their case.

During Fiscal Year 2012, 6,001 cases were filed in the 3rd Judicial District, including 1,076 in District Court in Las Animas County, and 3,017 in Las Animas County Court.