



# news

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Nov. 25, 2013

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

[robert.mccallum@judicial.state.co.us](mailto:robert.mccallum@judicial.state.co.us)  
[jon.sarche@judicial.state.co.us](mailto:jon.sarche@judicial.state.co.us)

## **Colorado Springs court selected for juvenile justice project** *National group to provide tools to help reduce referrals to juvenile court*

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) has selected the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court in Colorado Springs as one of 16 sites around the country to receive training and technical assistance in a juvenile justice project.

The School Pathways to the Juvenile Justice System Project is intended to establish models for systemic change by reducing referrals of youth to juvenile courts for school-based misbehavior and to expand the use of positive disciplinary practices in schools.

“We are thrilled to have been chosen to participate in this visionary project,” said Magistrate Jessica Curtis, who initiated application for the project on behalf of the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. “We expect this is going to have a direct impact on how our juvenile courts interact with school districts, law enforcement, and other community partners in the Pikes Peak area for years to come.”

Local partners in the project include Harrison School District 2, Colorado Springs School District 11, GOAL Academy, El Paso County Department of Human Services, Teller County Department of Social Services, AspenPointe, Colorado Springs Police Department, 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney’s Office, 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Public Defender’s Office, 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Probation,

Joint Initiatives for Youth and Families, CASA of the Pikes Peak Region, and Colorado Springs Teen Court.

All services to the project in Colorado Springs and other selected locations will be supported through grants to the NCJFCJ from The Atlantic Philanthropies, Public Welfare Foundation, Open Society Institute and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

The project will begin with a visit from NCJFCJ professionals to help identify areas for improvement around school referrals to the court system and help with strategic planning to address those areas. The NCJFCJ also will help the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (El Paso and Teller counties) identify stakeholders and court partners to participate in the visit, and provide guidance in compiling data and a self-assessment to identify and confirm issues surrounding school referrals.

The project is based largely on successful efforts by Judge Steven Teske of Clayton County, Ga., and former Judge Brian Huff of Jefferson County, Ala., to address school-to-juvenile justice system issues in their jurisdictions, and who have helped other courts do the same.