



news

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

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Contact: Robert McCallum or Jon Sarché
303-837-3633
303-837-3644

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

Colorado courts service-improvement plan returns to Durango *Public surveys to be conducted July 20*

DURANGO, Colo. – After using public surveys in the past to gather information to help improve the way the courts of Colorado’s Sixth Judicial District (Archuleta, La Plata and San Juan counties) operate, court employees will collect more data this week in Durango.

On Wednesday, July 20, judicial officers, clerks and other court employees will spend time talking to people about their experiences as jurors, parties to a case or as recipients of other Judicial Branch services. Attorneys, law enforcement officers and anyone who does business with the courts will be encouraged to participate.

People leaving the La Plata County Courthouse will be asked whether they had business with the courts and are willing to fill out a brief anonymous survey. The survey forms will be available both in English and Spanish.

“These surveys proved their value the first time we used them, and we are looking forward to gaining new insight to help guide our continuing efforts to provide the best service possible to the public,” said Sixth Judicial District Chief Judge Gregory G. Lyman. “These are the people’s courts, after all, and they deserve the best.”

The survey is 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 judge or magistrate listened to them, whether they 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.

Beginning in 2008, the Judicial Department has conducted surveys at least once in each of Colorado's 22 judicial districts.

In Fiscal Year 2010, about 10,600 cases were filed in the courts of the 6th Judicial District. That number includes 3,019 cases filed in District Court and 6,038 in La Plata County Court.