



news

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Aug. 12, 2011

Contact: Robert McCallum or Jon Sarché
303-837-3633
303-837-3644
robert.mccallum@judicial.state.co.us
jon.sarche@judicial.state.co.us

Court service-improvement program returning to 7th Judicial District *Surveys to be conducted Aug. 16 at Montrose County Justice Center*

MONTROSE, Colo. – After using public surveys in the past to gather information to help improve the way the courts of Colorado's 7th Judicial District and the Montrose Combined Courts conduct their business; judges, magistrates, clerks and other court employees will collect more data this week.

On Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2011, 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 exiting the Montrose County Justice Center will be asked whether they had business with the courts and are willing to fill out a brief anonymous survey. Survey forms will be available in English and Spanish.

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. The new information will

be used not only to check the progress of changes initiated since the first round of surveys, but also to support the possibility of further improvements.

Since 2008, the surveys have been used at least once in each of Colorado's 22 judicial districts.

During the past three years, an average of 6,757 cases have been filed each year in the courts in Montrose County. That figure included 1,881 cases filed in Montrose District Court and 4,876 in Montrose County Court.