



news

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Feb. 2, 2011

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Eleventh Judicial District Probation Department announces staff changes

CANON CITY, Colo. – The Eleventh Judicial District Probation Department recently announced several staffing changes with a new chief probation officer, two new probation supervisors and two new probation officers. The Eleventh Judicial District includes Chaffee, Custer, Fremont and Park counties.

Michael O'Rourke was hired as the district's new chief probation officer and takes over for Chris Gastelle who accepted the chief probation officer position in the Eighth Judicial District (Jackson and Larimer counties). Before being named chief, O'Rourke worked for two years as a probation supervisor and in April 2011 will have served a total of 13 years with the Colorado Judicial Branch. He has also worked for the Colorado Department of Corrections, Fremont County Department of Human Services and the Mesa County Sheriff's Department.

Shortly after taking the new post, O'Rourke named Lisa Rowe and Katy Post as probation supervisors. Rowe has been with the branch for almost six years and has worked in adult and juvenile probation, victim services (including teaching victim empathy classes), and alcohol & pre-sentence evaluations. Rowe was employed for a short time with a private probation provider and also worked for the Canon City Police Department as their victim advocate coordinator. Rowe will be responsible for the Fremont County office.

Post, who oversees the Chaffee County office, has been with the Department of Probation Services for 10 years and began her career with judicial as a collections investigator in Salida. In her tenure, she has worked on every probation case type and most recently supervised sex offenders and juveniles. She is attending training to be an evaluator for the Evidence-Based

Practices for Implementation Capacity Project (EPIC). Prior to joining probation she was employed as a caseworker for a child advocacy center.

The department also announced that Cynthia Ziolkowski was hired in Park County and Denise Baldino in Chaffee County to fill two vacant probation officer positions. Both Ziolkowski and Baldino worked for the past 5 years for a private probation provider.

The Colorado Judicial Department administers adult and juvenile probation in the state's 22 judicial districts. This includes 23 probation departments with over 50 separate probation locations throughout the state. The Division of Probation Services develops and publishes guidelines and standards for regular probation supervision and all intensive probation programs. Within the limits of statute and these state standards, each district is free to develop and structure programs that address the needs of the local court and the community. In all districts, offenders are assessed on risk and need factors. Based on this assessment, those placed on regular probation are put on minimum, medium or maximum supervision.

The number of adult offenders sentenced to probation in the Eleventh Judicial District in Fiscal Year 2010 was 535 and on June 30, 2010, there were 829 adult offenders on supervision. In Fiscal Year 2010, 72 percent of adults completed regular state probation successfully in the Eleventh Judicial District. An additional 2 adult offenders were sentenced to an intensive program and 310 were sentenced to private probation supervision. In Fiscal Year 2010, 94 juvenile offenders were sentenced to probation in the Eleventh Judicial District and on June 30, 2010, there were 121 juvenile offenders on supervision. In Fiscal Year 2010, 71 percent of juveniles completed regular state probation successfully in the Eleventh Judicial District.

Statewide, the number of adult offenders sentenced to probation in Fiscal Year 2010 was 26,336 and on June 30, 2010, there were 41,107 adult offenders on supervision. In Fiscal Year 2010, 66 percent of adults completed regular state probation successfully. An additional 2,125 adult offenders were sentenced to an intensive program and 15,625 were sentenced to private probation supervision. In Fiscal Year 2010, 4,746 juvenile offenders were sentenced to probation and on June 30, 2010, there were 5,946 juvenile offenders on supervision. In Fiscal Year 2010, 73 percent of juveniles completed regular state probation successfully. An additional 508 juvenile offenders were sentenced to Juvenile Intensive Supervision Probation (JISP).