



# news

Colorado Judicial Branch  
Nancy E. Rice, Chief Justice  
Gerald Marroney, State Court Administrator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Feb. 21, 2014

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)

## **Conejos County Courthouse moves to single point of entry** *Colorado Court Security Commission funds enhanced security measures*

CONEJOS, Colo. – The Colorado Court Security Commission recently awarded \$44,000 in grant funds for 2014 to the Conejos County Courthouse in Conejos. The funds have been used to implement a single point of entry for the courthouse and for one full-time deputy from the Conejos County Sheriff’s Office to staff the entrance during normal business hours.

“Over the past year, we have been moving to single point entrances at courthouses throughout the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District,” said Chief Judge Pattie Swift. “I applaud the Court Security Commission and counties for taking the steps necessary to provide safe and secure environments in all of our courthouses.”

Beginning Monday, March 3, 2014, all visitors to the Conejos County Courthouse will be required to enter through the main entrance at 6683 County Road 13 in Conejos. Visitors will also be screened by a metal detector and personal items will be scanned by an x-ray machine.

Since 2008, the Colorado Court Security Commission has awarded Conejos County \$248,343 to enhance security measures at the courthouse. The grant awards have been used to provide the metal detector, x-ray machine, duress alarms, sheriff’s deputies, training for personnel, and the infrastructure modifications necessary to move to the single point of entry.

“The Court Security Commission is pleased to make these funds available to Conejos County for these needed improvements,” said Steven R. Steadman, Court Security Specialist for the Colorado Judicial Branch. “I commend Chief Judge Swift, Sheriff Robert Gurule and County Commissioner John Sandoval for recognizing that court security is something that needs to be addressed every day.”

In 2007, the Colorado General Assembly passed Senate Bill 07-118, codified at Section 13-1-201 et seq., C.R.S. which provides supplemental funding for courthouse security. That bill created the Court Security Cash Fund and mandated that moneys from the Fund be made available to counties through grants for court security staffing, equipment, and training. Such grants are issued through the State Court Administrator's Office upon recommendation by the Court Security Cash Fund Commission. Funding under the program is available to Colorado Counties only.

More information on the Colorado Court Security Commission can be found at:

<http://www.coloradocourthousesecurity.com/>