



# news

Colorado Judicial Branch  
Michael L. Bender, Chief Justice  
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## **New chief judge appointed in 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

DENVER – Colorado Supreme Court Chief Justice Michael L. Bender has appointed the Hon. Pattie P. Swift as the new chief judge in the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande and Saguache counties), effective Oct. 1, 2011.

Judge Swift will replace Chief Judge O. John Kuenhold, who is retiring as of Oct. 1.

“Chief Judge Kuenhold has served Colorado with distinction since he was appointed to the District Court bench in 1981, and his knowledge and experience will be missed,” Chief Justice Bender said. “I feel confident Judge Swift will provide an equally high level of leadership to the courts of the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.”

Judge Swift began her judicial career when she was appointed to the Costilla County Court bench in 1989. She was appointed District Judge in 2002.

Colorado is divided into 22 judicial districts, each with a chief judge who serves as administrative head. Chief judges’ responsibilities include appointing the district administrator, chief probation officer and clerks of the court; assisting in the personnel, financial and case-management duties of the district; seeing that the business of the courts is conducted efficiently and effectively; and making judicial assignments within the district.

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