



# news

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## **Colorado courts service-improvement program returns to Prowers County** *Surveys to be conducted Oct. 9 at the Prowers County Combined Court*

LAMAR, Colo. – People with business at the Prowers County Combined Court the morning of Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2013, will be asked to participate in a program designed to help ensure the Colorado Judicial Branch is providing the best possible service to the public.

Court employees at 301 S. Main Street in Lamar will ask people exiting the building to fill out brief, anonymous survey forms asking about their experiences as jurors, parties to a case or as recipients of other Judicial Branch services. Survey forms will be available in English and Spanish.

In addition, attorneys, law enforcement officers and anyone else who does business with the courts is encouraged to participate.

These surveys were last conducted in fall 2010 in the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (Baca, Cheyenne, Kiowa and Prowers counties). Since 2007, these surveys have been conducted at least once in each of Colorado's 22 judicial districts.

“We need this kind of public feedback to ensure we’re providing the best service possible,” said Chief Judge Stanley A. Brinkley. “We’re looking forward to this new round of surveys to gauge how we’re doing.”

The surveys are 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 judicial officer listened to them and 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.

During Fiscal Year 2012, 5,699 cases were filed in the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, including 686 in District Court in Prowers County, and 3,242 in Prowers County Court.