



news

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

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Contact: Robert McCallum or Jon Sarché
303-837-3633
303-837-3644

robert.mccallum@judicial.state.co.us
jon.sarche@judicial.state.co.us

Eighteenth Judicial District set to launch drug court

First court session docketed for Oct. 14

CENTENNIAL, Colo. – The 18th Judicial District will officially launch a drug court program on Friday, Oct. 14, 2011, serving Arapahoe and Douglas counties. The program will be referred to as a “recovery court” and Arapahoe County Magistrate Bonnie McLean will preside over the court’s docket.

“As a group, we are keenly aware of the enormous toll, both financial and otherwise, that substance abuse takes on the criminal justice system,” Magistrate McLean said. “Addressing and conquering addiction not only benefits the individual addict, but society as a whole. When we are able to treat and maintain substance abusers in the community, as opposed to incarcerating them, we allow them to contribute to society while bringing a significant cost savings to the taxpayers.”

The recovery court is committed to an integrated and collaborative treatment model, which includes participation among the Court, Colorado State Public Defenders Office, 18th Judicial District Attorney’s Office, the 18th Judicial District Probation Department, treatment providers and the Arapahoe and Douglas county sheriffs’ offices.

The mission of the recovery court is to reduce recidivism of offenders with substance dependence in the criminal justice system while promoting public safety, ensuring participant accountability, supporting recovery and improving quality of life for participants and their families with a cost effective, integrated continuum of care through community resources.

“We believe that this collaborative approach involving the Court, district attorney, public defender, probation, law enforcement, and treatment teams, enables us to provide appropriate

treatment and accountability, while at the same time ensuring community safety,” Magistrate McLean said.

The 18th Judicial District Recovery Court is one of more than 60 problem-solving courts operating in 17 of Colorado’s 22 judicial districts. Colorado’s problem-solving courts include adult and juvenile drug courts, family/dependency and neglect drug courts, DUI courts, adult and juvenile mental health courts, veteran trauma courts and truancy courts.