



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

Weld County DUI Court celebrates first graduation

GREELEY, Colo. – The Weld County DUI Court will celebrate its first graduation with a ceremony July 7, when two participants are slated to complete their obligations with the court.

Weld County Judge Michele Meyer will preside over the graduation ceremony, set for 11:30 a.m. in Division 17. A reception will follow.

The problem-solving court was opened in early 2010 with the mission of promoting public safety by providing intensive court supervision and prompt treatment for qualifying DUI offenders. The court's participants receive help in maintaining sobriety through education, incentives, encouragement for individual responsibility, and sanctions for violations from a network of agencies including the 19th Judicial District, District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Sheriff's Office, counseling and treatment providers, and private legal counsel.

Among the court's current 19 participants are Alberto Herrera-Antuna, who became the first person accepted into the program on Feb. 4, 2010, and William Bourassa, both of whom are scheduled to graduate July 7.

"We're extremely proud of Alberto and William as our first graduates," Judge Meyer said. "They have done very well in a difficult, demanding program that has proved in other

jurisdictions to provide a very valuable alternative to incarceration, giving participants the tools to maintain sobriety and contribute to their community.”

The program’s five phases of treatment take a minimum of 18 months to complete.

More than 60 problem-solving courts are in operation in 17 of Colorado’s 22 judicial districts. Problem-solving courts in the state include adult and juvenile drug courts, family/dependency and neglect courts, DUI courts, adult and juvenile mental health courts, a veteran trauma court, and truancy courts.

Editors note: Interviews with the graduates may be scheduled upon request. For details, please contact Corie Douglas at 970-351-7300.