



# news

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## **Law Day 2013 brings recognition to Weld County volunteer mediators** *Volunteers help Small Claims court operate efficiently*

GREELEY, Colo. – To help celebrate Law Day 2013 as well as the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Weld County Bar Association, the Weld County Small Claims Court recognizes and thanks its volunteer mediators.

In 2012, the group of about 20 volunteers who work with self-represented litigants have helped resolve nearly 200 small-claims and eviction cases before their scheduled trials.

“Without them, I would need to hold small-claims trials five days a week, and even then, I don’t think that would be enough,” said Magistrate Randall C. Lococo, who presides over the Small Claims Court. “The program serves the public well by helping parties resolve their own disputes without trial, conserving court resources.”

The program depends on members of the Weld County Bar Association and non-lawyers. In 2012, 290 small-claims and eviction cases were set for trial. Of those, 258 cases were sent to mediation, and 156 of them resulted in a stipulation, eliminating the need for trial. An additional 36 cases did not go to trial because parties resolved the cases on their own either before or after mediation.

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