Hon. Maria Berkenkotter appointed 20th Judicial District chief judge

DENVER – Colorado Supreme Court Chief Justice Michael L. Bender announced today he has appointed the Hon. Maria Berkenkotter as the new chief judge for the 20th Judicial District (Boulder County).

Judge Berkenkotter replaces Chief Judge Roxanne Bailin, who is retiring from the bench, effective Aug. 31, 2013. Chief Judge Bailin was appointed to the District Court bench in 1987 after four years of service on the Boulder County Court bench, and has been chief judge of the district since 1998.

“Chief Judge Bailin will leave a distinguished legacy for the 20th Judicial District and Colorado,” Chief Justice Bender said. “I feel certain Judge Berkenkotter will be an excellent leader for court operations in Boulder County.”

Judge Berkenkotter’s appointment to chief judge becomes effective Sept. 1, 2013.

She was appointed to the Boulder District Court in July 2006. She joined the Colorado Attorney General’s Office in 1990, eventually running its Antitrust, Consumer Protection and Tobacco Litigation units.

Colorado is divided into 22 judicial districts, each with a chief judge. As chief judge, Berkenkotter will serve as the administrative head of the 20th Judicial District. She will be responsible for appointing the district administrator, chief probation officer and clerks of the court; assisting in the personnel, financial and case-management duties of the district; and seeing that the business of the courts is conducted efficiently and effectively. Other responsibilities include judicial assignments within the district.