



news

Colorado Judicial Branch
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19th Judicial District drug court coordinator wins Judicial Department Award *Colorado Judicial Department recognizes outstanding employees*

DENVER – The 2009 Colorado Judicial Department *Court Employee of the Year* award went to Marci Hoffman, for her role in establishing the now 2-year-old drug court in the 19th Judicial District (Weld County). Through its Judicial Excellence Awards, the Colorado Judicial Branch annually recognizes a handful of outstanding employees for exemplary work contributing to the high quality of service provided throughout the state’s 22 judicial districts.

Hoffman, the district’s Adult Drug Court coordinator and court services specialist, helped create the court, which had its first proceeding in September 2008. Like other drug courts, the Weld County Drug Court holds participants accountable through integrated substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, intensive supervision and judicial oversight, and helps them develop skills to attain long-term sobriety.

“When Marci is complimented for her work with Drug Court, she is quick to comment that it is a stakeholder cooperative project,” District Administrator Karen Salaz wrote in a nomination letter. “Admittedly, however, we have a bias that without her playing a key leadership role in the project its challenges would be greater, the rewards less visible and the heart and soul she brings to participants diminished significantly.”

In support of the nomination, District Judge Gilbert Gutierrez, who presides over the drug court, said the court would not exist without Hoffman's efforts.

"Her administrative skills, her technological prowess and her communication skills are exceptional," he wrote. "However, they pale in comparison to her genuine concern and caring for each person we have accepted into drug court. Marci demands and expects integrity of all the participants in drug court – defendants as well as members of the drug court team. ... She is not a sentimental cheerleader. She is a consummate professional and dedicated advocate for justice."

The Colorado Judicial Branch includes the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, as well as the state's district and county trial courts. The branch is also home to the Department of Probation Services, which employs more than 1,100 people including nearly 900 probation supervisors and officers. The department's officers are responsible for supervising approximately 7,300 juvenile offenders and 58,000 adult offenders. As of July 1, 2009, the Colorado Judicial Branch employed approximately 3,400 employees, which includes 311 justices, judges and magistrates. In fiscal year 2009, the latest for which full statistics are available, there were 561,374 cases filed statewide at the County Court level, 188,537 cases filed in District Court, 2,809 in the Court of Appeals and 1,643 in the Supreme Court. There were 1,268 cases filed in the water courts.