



news

Colorado Judicial Branch
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21st Judicial District judge wins Judicial Department Award *Colorado Judicial Department recognizes outstanding employees*

DENVER – The 2010 Colorado Judicial Department *Judicial Officer of the Year* award went to the Hon. David A. Bottger, chief judge of the 21st Judicial District (Mesa County). 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.

District Administrator Judy Vanderleest praised Chief Judge Bottger for his thoughtfulness and caring of the trial court employees and community in Mesa County.

“He makes time to meet with local attorneys when the need arises, solicits input on decisions that affect others, and responds personally to letters of complaint,” Vanderleest said.

“His door is always open and he is always willing to listen.”

Vanderleest went on to note that Chief Judge Bottger trusts his management team, doesn’t micromanage, but does hold each team member accountable for their decisions.

“Although he might not always agree with what we want or believe, he challenges us to consider different viewpoints and isn’t afraid to make a decision that might not be popular,”

Vanderleest said.

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 6,400 juvenile offenders and 55,500 adult offenders. As of July 1, 2010, the Colorado Judicial Branch employed approximately 3,400 employees, which includes 316 justices, judges and magistrates. In fiscal year 2010, the latest for which full statistics are available, there were 541,591 cases filed statewide at the County Court level, 236,671 cases filed in District Court, 2,890 in the Court of Appeals and 1,518 in the Supreme Court. There were 1,215 cases filed in the water courts.