



# news

Colorado Judicial Branch  
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## **Magistrate Carolyn McLean named *Outstanding Judicial Officer* 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District magistrate receives Colorado Judicial Branch award**

The *Outstanding Judicial Officer* in the Colorado Judicial Branch is Magistrate Carolyn McLean of the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (Boulder County). The Colorado Judicial Department 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.

“Having observed Magistrate McLean in court and having engaged in a full evaluation of her performance recently, I can say without reservation that she creates a warm but firm atmosphere in her courtroom,” 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Chief Judge Roxanne Bailin wrote in a nomination letter. “She balances compassion with accountability. She is able to foster a positive, non-adversarial atmosphere that is unparalleled. She is universally well-respected. Rarely does a judicial officer achieve such a level of respect and appreciation from everyone with whom she interacts.”

Magistrate McLean also was nominated for the award by fellow 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District magistrates Lisa Hamilton-Fieldman, Kristina Hansson, Fred Clifford and Tijani Cole, as well as Treatment Court Coordinator Harry McCrystal and Boulder County Attorney Peggy Wallis.

Magistrate McLean oversees a dependency and neglect docket and was praised by Chief Judge Bailin for co-developing the Family Integrated Treatment Court (FITC). Built from a drug

court model, the FITC specialty court involves bi-weekly judicial interaction with parents, intensive substance abuse and mental health services and intensive case management through the Department of Housing and Human Services.

“Magistrate McLean manages a very difficult docket with grace and energy,” Magistrate Hansson said. “She has an outstanding judicial demeanor and is very creative in helping parents overcome their drug and alcohol problems so they can be reunited with their children. She controls her courtroom with a firm but gentle hand even when the cases have very difficult emotional issues.”

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.