



news

Colorado Judicial Branch
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 25, 2011

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19th Judicial District administrator wins Judicial Department Award *Colorado Judicial Department recognizes outstanding employees*

DENVER – The 2010 Colorado Judicial Department *Manager of the Year* award went to Karen Salaz, district administrator of the 19th Judicial District (Weld 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.

“Of all the attributes that make Karen an outstanding district administrator, what sets her apart is how much she truly cares about the people she works with, and the many things she does to show her appreciation to her coworkers,” Chief Judge James F. Hartmann wrote in a nomination letter.

Judge Hartmann and Clerk of Court Cathi Walker both wrote about Salaz’ work after hours and on weekends to work with representatives from Weld County and contractors on a recent construction project to add five courtrooms. She was responsible for purchasing the furnishings and equipment for the courtrooms, and was known to help assemble furniture and move judges’ belongings and office equipment to their new chambers, and even help clean up after work crews.

“Karen is always aware of where the staff shortages are and volunteers her time to help in any way she can,” Walker wrote. “She has been observed assisting with jury check-in, filing in

the file room, and answering phones. She is a role model for each employee. Karen understands the needs of her staff. She is not afraid to ask the hard questions and strives to make decisions based on fairness.”

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.