



news

Colorado Judicial Branch
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4th Judicial District probation officer wins Judicial Department Award *Colorado Judicial Department recognizes outstanding employees*

DENVER – The 2010 Colorado Judicial Department *Probation Employee of the Year* award went to Karoline Borega-Kern, an officer in the Female Offender Program in the 4th Judicial District (El Paso and Teller counties) Probation Department. 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.

“She has done an outstanding job over the last 11 years, but I felt it was necessary to note what I consider an officer going above and beyond her normal duties,” 4th Judicial District Probation Supervisor Leif Strunk wrote in a nomination letter. “In spite of all the extra work she takes on, Karoline consistently maintains a positive outlook at work and in her private life. Karoline is a role model to junior officers and a great representative for our department.”

Borega-Kern’s direct supervisor, Charles F. Clark, noted in a separate letter that she works hard to ensure women in the Female Offender Program are able to take advantage of resources such as housing, treatment and clothing to help them successfully complete their probation terms, and lauded her as a “serious advocate for the adult female offenders on her caseload.”

“Her compassion, honesty, her caring, and at times having to be stern is what makes this program successful,” Probation Supervisor Ronald Wilkins wrote in a separate letter. “She really

cares for these females and works with all the problems that they were dealt or were brought on by themselves. She pulls no punches, but if someone wants help she gives 100 percent.”

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.