



# news

Colorado Judicial Branch  
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## **Judicial Excellence Award given to April Bernard for State Court Administrator's Office *Employee of the Year***

The Colorado Judicial Branch's *Employee of the Year* award for the State Court Administrator's Office has been given to Legal Assistant April Bernard. 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.

"Because of April's duties, she is well versed in a variety of aspects of the court system," said Deputy State Court Administrator and Legal Counsel Carol Haller, who nominated Bernard for the award. "Often customers with problems that don't fit neatly into any one area are referred to April to either answer or redirect to the appropriate person. She is the staff support for many of the rules committees, which involves in-depth knowledge about many aspects of the court business, as well as good communication with the various committee members who are both internal and external to judicial."

Haller identified Bernard as a team member with a can-do attitude who often takes responsibility, without being asked, for tasks or projects she sees as needing attention. When the State Court Administrator's office moved office locations in the summer of 2009, Bernard volunteered to sit on the transition committee and was integral in developing office policies and procedures reflective of staff needs and desires.

“Although she worked in a district before coming to SCAO, April consistently strives to improve her knowledge of the court system by taking the time to attend court and observe the work of judicial assistants and other court personnel,” Haller said. “She reads the matters that come into the office and asks appropriate questions to increase her knowledge of the issues presented.”

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.