



**Colorado Justice: Celebrating 42 years of fair  
and impartial courts through merit selection**

# news

Colorado Judicial Branch  
Mary J. Mullarkey, Chief Justice  
Gerald Marroney, State Court Administrator

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## **The Honorable C. Vincent Phelps named as new chief judge in the Seventeenth Judicial District**

DENVER, Colo. – Colorado Supreme Court Chief Justice Mary Mullarkey has appointed District Court Judge C. Vincent Phelps, Jr., as the new chief judge in the Seventeenth Judicial District. Judge Phelps will assume the position on July 14, 2008, and takes over for Chief Judge Harlan R. Bockman, who will retire from the bench on July 31, 2008.

“I would like to thank Chief Judge Bockman for his effective leadership and commitment to the Seventeenth Judicial District,” said Chief Justice Mullarkey. “The entire Judicial Department has been fortunate to have him as a colleague and friend during the past 32 years. I wish him well in his retirement.”

The Chief Justice also commented on Judge Phelps’ qualifications to lead the Seventeenth Judicial District.

“I am confident that Judge Phelps’ wide breadth of experience on the bench and vision for the district will result in the continued effective administration of the Seventeenth Judicial District,” she said. “I am pleased he is willing to take on this extra responsibility and I look forward to working with him in this new role.”

Judge Phelps was appointed to the District Court bench in Adams County in February 1996. He has presided in all areas of the law including civil, criminal, probate, domestic and

juvenile. He presently presides over criminal matters. He was admitted to the practice of law in the State of Nebraska in August 1974 and in the State of Colorado in October 1974.

Before becoming a District Court judge, Judge Phelps served as a Municipal Court judge in the City of Brighton and was in private practice with an emphasis in civil, criminal and commercial litigation. Judge Phelps graduated from the Nebraska State University at Kearney in Kearney, Nebraska in 1966 with Bachelors of Arts Degree in Business Administration. He graduated from University of Nebraska College of Law in Lincoln, Nebraska in 1974.

Colorado is divided into 22 judicial districts, each with a chief judge. As chief judge in the Seventeenth Judicial District, Judge Phelps will serve as the administrative head of the district. He will be responsible for appointing the district administrator, chief probation officer and clerks of the court to assist in the personnel, financial and case management of the district along with seeing that the business of the courts is conducted efficiently and effectively. Other responsibilities include judicial assignments within the district.