



Colorado Justice: Celebrating 40 years of fair  
and impartial courts through merit selection

# news

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

---

April 4, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Robert McCallum  
303/837-3633  
1-800-888-0001 Ext. 633  
[robert.mccallum@judicial.state.co.us](mailto:robert.mccallum@judicial.state.co.us)

## **Judge Chris Melonakis named 2007 National CASA Judge of the Year** *Judge to receive award June 10 at CASA National Conference*

DENVER – Judge Chris Melonakis, District Court Judge in the 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, was recently named the 2007 National Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Judge of the Year. He will receive the award officially at the National CASA 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference on June 10, 2007, in Orlando Florida.

“It is truly an honor to be recognized in this manner,” Judge Melonakis said. “I will continue to hold the system accountable and establish best practices in collaborative environment that works for the best interests of all abused and neglected children.”

The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program is a nationally supported non-profit organization that recruits, trains, supports and supervises community volunteers who serve as advocates for abused and neglected children involved in the court system, through no fault of their own. Judge Melonakis has long been a supporter of the CASA volunteer’s role in ensuring children’s safety while advocating for their best interests in court.

“Judge Melonakis is a champion for all the children that come before him,” Chief Justice Mary Mullarkey said. “His leadership and innovation in promoting and supporting CASA within the judicial community and beyond make him most deserving of this recognition.”

Judge Melonakis was the Adams County Presiding Juvenile Judge in the 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial District from 2002-2006, and currently serves as the 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court Judge for the City and County of Broomfield. He also serves on the Colorado Supreme Court Improvement Program, which works to improve the handling of dependency and neglect cases and increase collaborative efforts of courts, local departments of social services, attorneys and other stakeholders involved in serving the needs of children and families.

Judge Melonakis has also received the CASA of Adams and Broomfield Counties Judge of Year award in 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006. He was awarded the Colorado CASA Judge of the Year award in 2003 and was the Model Court Lead Judge for the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges in 2005 and 2006.

In 2006, Judge Melonakis was named “Outstanding Judicial Officer” by the Colorado Judicial Branch for his exemplary work contributing to high quality of service provided to the children of the 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.

For more information about CASA of Adams and Broomfield Counties, please call (303) 654-3378 or visit [www.casa17th.org](http://www.casa17th.org). For more information about CASA programs statewide, contact Colorado CASA at (303) 623-5380 or visit [www.coloradocasa.org](http://www.coloradocasa.org).

###