



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

news

Colorado Judicial Branch
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Jessie Kuhns recognized as state's *Outstanding Trial Court Employee* *Eighteenth Judicial District division clerk honored with Judicial Branch award*

The *Outstanding Trial Court Employee* in the Colorado Judicial Branch is Jessie Kuhns of the Eighteenth Judicial District (Arapahoe, Douglas, Elbert and Lincoln counties). The Colorado Judicial Branch annually recognizes a handful of employees for exemplary work contributing to the high quality of services provided throughout the state's 22 judicial districts.

"Jessie helps ensure that our district functions smoothly in order to protect the constitutional and statutory rights of those we serve," said Chief Judge William B. Sylvester. "Jessie helps ensure that our courts meet the needs of our citizens and litigants by coordinating staff coverage, assisting with pro se litigants and attorneys as much as she is permitted to do so to help them gain access to our courts."

Chief Judge Sylvester nominated Kuhns for the award and also selected her to be his division clerk when he took the reins as chief judge of the Eighteenth Judicial District in October 2006. Chief Judge Sylvester said he relies on Kuhns to be the "go to person" for his court and the Eighteenth Judicial District staff and said she can always be depended on to do so.

"Jessie has an unfailing willingness to help others even when it is demanding upon her to do so," Chief Judge Sylvester said. "She always has a smile on her face and a wonderful sense

of humor that is infectious to those she comes into contact with, making them feel enthusiastic about whatever they are currently working on.”

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 800 probation officers. The department’s officers are responsible for supervising approximately 7,600 juvenile offenders and 61,000 adult offenders. As of July 1, 2008, the Colorado Judicial Branch employed approximately 3,600 employees, which includes 304 justices, judges and magistrates. In fiscal year 2007, the latest for which full statistics are available, there were 551,197 cases filed statewide at the County Court level, 189,235 cases filed in District Court, 2,548 in the Court of Appeals and 1,534 in the Supreme Court. There were 1,220 cases filed in the water courts.