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news

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Protective Proceedings Task Force on probate to hold public hearing on September 28 at the Jefferson County Courthouse

The Colorado Judicial Branch today announced that the Protective Proceedings Task Force will hold a public hearing on Friday, September 28, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. in the Jury Assembly Room of the Jefferson County Courthouse.

“The purpose of this meeting is to solicit public input on the ways in which Colorado court proceedings related to conservatorships and guardianships may be improved,” said State Court Administrator Gerald A. Marroney. “Earlier this year we began to take a critical look at probate-related services provided by our courts. We acknowledged some weaknesses and we are now taking corrective action to fix those weaknesses. This is a very serious endeavor and we are committed to meeting the needs of the public we serve.”

The weaknesses noted by Marroney were uncovered in a September 2006 audit prepared by Clifton Gunderson LLP titled, “Oversight of Probate Cases – Colorado Judicial Branch Performance Audit.” The report focused on the courts’ monitoring and appointment of guardians and conservators.

As a result of the report, Chief Justice Mary Mullarkey established the Protective Proceedings Task Force in November 2006. Chief Justice Mullarkey empowered the task force to establish effective procedures and controls for administering and monitoring conservatorships,

guardianships, disability and special needs trusts, protective arrangements and single transactions, restricted accounts and personal injury and insurance settlements.

Any member of the public with an interest in the issues being addressed by the Protective Proceedings Task Force is invited to attend this hearing. To be considered for the agenda, a summary of the content of remarks must be filed in writing with the State Court Administrator's Office to the attention of Rob McCallum, public information officer, via email at robert.mccallum@judicial.state.co.us no later than Wednesday, September 26, 2007.

Summaries must include a disclosure indicating whether the requestor is or is not a party or interested person in a pending case. Summaries failing to include this disclosure will not be considered for the agenda. To be included on the agenda, remarks must be limited to systemic concerns. Complaints about particular active or inactive cases, matters, courts, or judicial officers will not be allowed. Redundant and repetitive agenda requests will be combined to provide maximum opportunity for presentations.