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Colorado Judicial Branch
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Supreme Court Attorneys' Fund for Client Protection reimburses more than \$226,000 to former clients of disbarred Pueblo lawyer

DENVER, Colo. – The Colorado Supreme Court Office of Attorney Regulation today announced that it has distributed a total of \$226,241 to former clients of disbarred Pueblo lawyer Kirk Patterson Brown. The funds came from the court's Attorneys' Fund for Client Protection.

“In December 2007 alone, 57 of Mr. Brown's former clients were reimbursed a total of \$104,067 based on substantiated claims of misconduct,” said Attorney Regulation Counsel John Gleason. “Prior to that, the fund had reimbursed an additional \$122,241 to former clients of Mr. Brown.”

Following an investigation by the Office of Attorney Regulation and a sanctions hearing by Presiding Disciplinary Judge William R. Lucero and hearing board members Gail C. Harriss and John M. Lebsack, Brown, who had practiced law in Colorado for more than 30 years, was disbarred from the practice of law on May 25, 2007. Brown's disbarment came after it was found that he took approximately \$18,000 from six clients, completed little or no work for them, and failed to return their money when asked to do so.

“The court takes attorney misconduct allegations very seriously,” Gleason said. “Every complaint is investigated at some level, and the Attorneys' Fund for Client Protection is just one

way our office can work to rectify the damage suffered by clients who have been wronged by dishonest attorneys.”

The purpose of the fund is to promote public confidence in the administration of justice and the integrity of the legal profession. The fund was established to mitigate losses caused by those attorneys who engage in dishonest conduct and are admitted and licensed to practice law in Colorado’s courts. The fund does not receive any governmental monies or tax dollars. It is funded through an annual fee of \$20 that every active Colorado attorney pays as part of his or her annual registration fee.

Total fund reimbursement to clients across Colorado is estimated to reach \$670,000 by the close of 2007.

More information on the Supreme Court Office of Attorney Regulation, including the annual report of the Attorneys’ Fund for Client Protection, can be found at:

<http://www.coloradosupremecourt.com/Regulation/Regulation.asp>