



news

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

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Schapanski appointed to Eighth Judicial District chief judge position

DENVER, Colo. – Colorado Supreme Court Chief Justice Mary Mullarkey announced today that she has appointed District Court Judge Stephen Jon Schapanski as the new chief judge for the Eighth Judicial District (Jackson and Larimer counties). He replaces retiring Judge James H. Hiatt, who was appointed to the bench in April 1986 and has served as chief judge since January 2000. The appointment becomes effective August 1, 2009.

“Chief Judge Hiatt has served the people of Jackson and Larimer counties well over the past 23 years and his contributions to the judiciary have not gone unnoticed; he will be missed,” Chief Justice Mullarkey said. “I am confident Judge Schapanski will be a strong, effective leader for the Eight Judicial District and I look forward to working with him in this new role.”

Judge Schapanski, of Fort Collins, was appointed to the District Court bench in 2007 after serving since 1993 as a District Court Magistrate in the Eighth Judicial District. Prior to that, he was a partner at Smith, Rau & Schapanski, where he practiced from 1974 to 1993. The practice handled cases involving domestic relations, civil, juvenile, criminal defense, probate, estate planning, elder law, bankruptcy and real estate. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1971 and earned his law degree from Valparaiso University School of Law in Indiana in 1974.

Colorado is divided into 22 judicial districts, each with a chief judge. As chief judge in the Eighth Judicial District, Schapanski 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.

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