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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Water Court Committee of Colorado Supreme Court to hold public hearing
on March 10 at the Colorado Judicial Building**
Requests to be added to the meeting agenda due by March 5

DENVER, Colo. – The Colorado Judicial Branch announced today that the Water Court Committee of the Colorado Supreme Court will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 10, 2008, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. on the 5th floor of the Colorado Judicial Building (2 E. 14th Ave., Denver, CO 80203).

“The purpose of this meeting is to solicit public input on the ways in which the water court process may be improved,” said Committee Chairman Justice Greg Hobbs. “We are seeking creative ideas for ways in which the expense and burden of the water court process may be reduced and how emergency procedures for review of water court applications may be improved.”

The Water Court Committee hopes to gather input from agricultural, municipal, business, environmental and recreational groups, as well as all other interested persons and organizations. The committee is especially interested in hearing from persons who have had actual experience with the Water Court process in the past. Oral presentations at the March 10 hearing will be limited to 5 minutes per person. In order to make an oral presentation, you must submit a written request by 5:00 p.m. March 5 and include the substance of your experience and views in writing, so that the committee can refer to it later in its deliberations.

The Water Court Committee was formed, and its 21 members appointed, under the order of Chief Justice Mary Mullarkey. The committee is charged with reviewing the water court process; identifying possible ways through rule and/or statutory change to achieve efficiencies in water court cases while still protecting quality outcomes; and ensure the highest level of competence in water court participants. Under the Chief Justice's order, the committee cannot alter or impair existing water use rights of any public agency or private person.

The Chief Justice's order requires the committee to make its recommendations to the Chief Justice by Aug. 1, 2008. The Chief Justice will then make the report available to the Colorado General Assembly and Governor Bill Ritter. The public input gathered at the March 10 meeting will be taken into consideration in the development and finalization of the committee's report.

Any member of the public with an interest in the issues being addressed by the Water Court Committee 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 e-mail at robert.mccallum@judicial.state.co.us no later than Wednesday, March 5, 2008.

Summaries must include a disclosure indicating whether the commenter 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. If you intend to make a presentation and have a case pending in any of the state's water courts, or if you have a case that is on appeal or may be appealed to the Colorado Supreme Court, you are asked to refrain from discussing the specifics of that case.

Presentation times will be announced via email no later than 5:00 p.m. Friday, March 7, 2008.