



news

Colorado Judicial Branch
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Colorado court service-improvement program coming to Otero County *Surveys to be conducted Thursday at La Junta courthouse*

LA JUNTA, Colo. – People with business at the Otero Combined Court on Thursday, Sept. 9, 2010, will be asked to participate in a program designed to help ensure the Colorado Judicial Branch is providing the best possible service to the public.

Throughout the day, court employees will ask people exiting the courthouse at 13 West Third to fill out brief, anonymous survey forms – in English or in Spanish – asking about their experiences as jurors, parties to a case or as recipients of other Judicial Branch services.

Attorneys, law enforcement officers and anyone else who does business with the courts also will be encouraged to participate.

Data from survey responses will be used to measure public opinion about access to and fairness of the courts. People will be asked whether they had problems finding the court building, whether they could easily understand the forms they needed, whether they felt safe in the building and other related questions.

The survey forms also will ask people whether their case was handled in a fair manner, whether the judge or magistrate listened to them and had all the necessary information before making a decision, and whether they were treated with courtesy, understood what was happening in their case and were given clear information about the next step in their case.

“These are the people’s courts,” Supreme Court Chief Justice Mary Mullarkey said.

“Coloradans deserve the best the Judicial Branch can possibly offer them.”

The surveys have been used in 18 of Colorado’s 22 judicial districts during the past three years; this will be the first time they have been used in the 16th Judicial District (Bent, Crowley and Otero counties).

“The 16th Judicial District appreciates our customers’ participation in the survey and will consider the results in seeking to improve our service to the public,” said Chief Judge M. Jon Kolomitz.

In Fiscal Year 2009, Colorado’s 16th Judicial District saw 1,362 district-court cases filed, 878 of which were in Otero County; and 4,921 county-court cases filed, 3,276 of which were in Otero County.