

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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JUDICIAL BRANCH EMPLOYEES RECEIVE AWARDS

The tireless **Steve Brittain** and the dedicated **Judge Roxanne Bailin** were awarded two of the Branch's highest honors May 19 at the annual Employee Recognition dinner at Baby Doe's Restaurant in Denver.

Brittain was named employee of the year. The title should have been "employees of the year" since Brittain is both the district administrator and chief probation officer in the 6th Judicial District and the chief probation officer in the adjacent 22nd Judicial District. Brittain is noted for "his innovations in utilizing very limited resources and his dedication to training."

Judge Bailin was named the outstanding judicial officer of the year. She was recognized for her involvement in a Boulder community effort to build public understanding of the stigma society attaches to mental illness. She also was acknowledged for coordinating a district-wide coalition formed to meet the needs of the Boulder Spanish-speaking population.

Mary Ellen Hamblet was given an honorary service award for long-term contributions to the Colorado Judicial Branch. When she retires May 31, she will have served 30 years.

Gustavo Heredia and Irene Carr-Rollitt received the distinguished special achievement award for their "How to Live in America" program that provides instruction in laws, customs and mores of American society to newly arrived immigrants.

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Judy Coleman, clerk of the court in the 1st Judicial District, was named outstanding clerk of court. Coleman was acknowledged for her efficiency and particularly for her performance and dedication handling the increase in Gilpin County court cases when gaming was instituted in Black Hawk and Central City.

The outstanding community service award went to Karen DeMello, division clerk for the 19th Judicial district. DeMello is a trained advocate for suicide survivors and works closely with the Greeley Police Victims Service Program and the Victim Advocate for Weld County. Through a victim empathy program, DeMello speaks to convicted criminals about how their crimes affect victims.

Karen Ecker was named the outstanding clerk's office employee. Ecker is a court clerk III in the 1st Judicial District. She has the huge responsibility of processing all warrants for county court. She was nominated by all the judges in the 1st Judicial District, the Chief Probation Officer and the Sheriff of Jefferson County.

Galen Kirchmer was named probation office employee of the year. Kirchmer is a probation officer III in the 8th Judicial District. The nomination noted he is "extremely supportive and helpful to the many new officers while still maintaining a large caseload of SOISP, AISP and regular sex offenders."

Janele Trowsell, division clerk in the 18th Judicial District, was named outstanding confidential employee. She is credited with handling 15,000 child support and paternity cases, 500 post decree matters for a pilot project and another 500 truancy matters while maintaining a bright and professional attitude.

The outstanding supervisor/administrative employee is Sherry Kester, management analyst for the State Court Administrator's Office. Kester is known for her ability to motivate employees and to work with a number of programs, including legal aid, dependency and neglect, guardians ad litem, and development of "best practices" in the domestic relations area.

Also recognized was the Performance Appraisal Committee, comprised of people from various districts statewide. Among those recognized were **Ted Bradshaw**, probation supervisor in the 20th Judicial District; **Karen Whitely**, unit supervisor in the 4th Judicial District; **Sabra Millett**, unit supervisor in the 2nd Judicial District; **Linda Vaughn**, division clerk in the 18th Judicial District; **Lila Cooper**, unit supervisor in the 4th Judicial District; **Robert Bernard**, district administrator in the 20th Judicial District; **Dart Woodruff**, court clerk IV in the 20th Judicial District; **Linda Starr**, unit supervisor

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in the 18th Judicial District; **James Benway**, director of human resources; **Mindy Masias**, human resources specialist II; **Jack Lutes**, former chief probation officer; and **Jon Kvale**, staff assistant.

A special customer service award was presented by Chief Justice Mullarkey to Tammy Hill of the 7th Judicial District and Belinda McKay-Johnson of the 19th Judicial District. Both have served as customer service liaisons for the past two years and have dedicated themselves to improving customer service in their districts.

The dinner attracted more employees and their families than ever before and in spite of a scheduling conflict with the National Hockey League Western Division Finals just across the Platte Valley.

State Court Administrator Jerry Marroney was master of ceremonies for the presentation with Chief Justice Mary Mullarkey handing out the awards. As always, the dinner and ceremony were planned and orchestrated by **Larry T. Davis** of the Division of Human Resources.

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