



# news

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

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Contact: Robert McCallum or Jon Sarché  
303-837-3633  
303-837-3644

[robert.mccallum@judicial.state.co.us](mailto:robert.mccallum@judicial.state.co.us)  
[jon.sarche@judicial.state.co.us](mailto:jon.sarche@judicial.state.co.us)

## **Partnership promoting enhanced handling of juvenile cases to hold fourth annual multidisciplinary training program**

*Mock trial competition designed to enhance new attorneys' skills*

DENVER – The Colorado Supreme Court and Office of the Child’s Representative, in partnership with the Rocky Mountain Children’s Law Center at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law and University of Colorado School of Law Juvenile Law Clinic, announced today that the fourth annual multidisciplinary attorney training program will be held on Monday, Feb. 23, 2009.

The collaborative effort is designed to cultivate well-trained lawyers able to meet the complex legal needs of children and families. It was born from the Colorado Judicial Branch’s Court Improvement Program, which recognizes the importance of family law education.

“Children and families’ legal needs can be complex and multilayered, and Colorado’s communities need well trained, practice-ready lawyers able to meet those needs,” said Chief Justice Mary Mullarkey. “This program draws attention to the work of local law schools to prepare attorneys, and the commitment of the courts and local organizations to support the development of new attorneys trained in the field of juvenile law.”

The competition will consist of settlement conferences and a mock adjudicatory trial in a fictional case. The training for the competition begins with mock trial settlement conferences

beginning at 1:00 PM on Feb. 23, 2009. Chief Justice Mullarkey will open the event with remarks in the Supreme Court Courtroom in the Colorado Judicial Department Building at 2 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Ave. in Denver. The mock trial settlement conferences will be conducted at the Supreme Court.

The mock trials will take place at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law on March 2, 2009 and the University of Colorado School of Law on March 4, 2008. The settlement conferences will be conducted by court facilitators from around Colorado, and local district court and county court judges will run the trials. The competition will be judged by County Court Judge K.J. Moore and the Hon. Edward Richardson, a retired Florida judge.

“The Colorado judiciary has long been committed to improving the prompt handling of cases involving children,” Mullarkey said. “This partnership, with its innovative annual training programs, provides us with one more opportunity to expand our efforts to better serve children and families.”

For more information please contact Bill DeLisio at 303-837-3623 or [bill.delisio@judicial.state.co.us](mailto:bill.delisio@judicial.state.co.us).