



news

Colorado Judicial Branch
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Colorado probation officers honored during national recognition week *“Yesterday, today and tomorrow” celebrated July 15-21*

DENVER – *Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week*, celebrating professionals who help ensure public safety and provide services to crime victims while holding offenders accountable, is July 15-21. The national week-long observance, begun in 2000, recognizes probation and parole officers as an essential part of the criminal justice system.

“Probation serves a crucial role as a community-based sentencing option for the courts, using Evidence- Based Practices to ensure offenders placed on probation are safely integrating into society and compensating their victims,” said Eric Philp, director of the Division of Probation Services. “Additionally, significant cost savings for the state is achieved by successfully keeping some offenders out of prison while they are supervised by probation officers in the community.”

Philp went on to say that the theme of this year’s recognition week, “Yesterday, today and tomorrow” reminds us that 2012 marks the 109th anniversary of Probation in Colorado.

“Starting in 1903 in the Denver Juvenile Court and in 1931 being codified in statute and connected to the criminal courts, Colorado probation has established a proud history of effectiveness and service to the citizens of our state,” he said. “The future holds great promise as

we continue to find and integrate more effective practices designed to encourage positive long-term behavioral change.”

In Fiscal Year 2011, Colorado’s probation system supervised an average daily population of 51,628 adult and juvenile offenders; monitored 7,420 adults convicted for DUI/DWAI; and was responsible for 19,746 adults on private probation. Success rates increased again last year and recidivism rates decreased for those completing probation, with 68 percent of adults and 74 percent of juveniles successfully completed regular probation by fulfilling their court orders and terms of probation. Colorado probation also notified 16,482 victims of crime of their right to receive notification of certain critical stage events with seventeen percent of those victims asserting their rights and being signed up for notification.

Under the Office of the State Court Administrator, the Division of Probation Services provides programmatic, policy, research, legislative, budgetary and training support to all of the 23 Probation Departments in the state. During Fiscal Year 2011, more than \$25 million in restitution was collected by the Judicial Department and distributed to victims, with an additional \$29 million collected for victim assistance and compensation funds. The Judicial Department also collected more than \$8.8 million in fees and surcharges designated for helping probationers with limited financial means to complete court-ordered treatment and to meet other court ordered obligations.

For more information, visit the Colorado Division of Probation Services at <http://www.courts.state.co.us/Administration/Division.cfm?Division=prob> or the American Probation and Parole Association at <http://www.appa-net.org/eweb/>.