

news

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

April 1, 2002

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jury duty calls

The Colorado State Judicial Branch has stepped up its efforts to ensure that jurors are available when duty calls. The mobility of the state's citizens and implementation of the 10-year driver's license law are two major factors having a tremendous impact on the Branch's ability to find Colorado citizens who have been randomly selected to receive jury summons.

The 2002 Master Jury List is now fully implemented throughout the state. This year a major effort went into the process to update the standard sources of information used to compile the list because of the challenges the Judicial Branch faces in locating would-be jurors.

"The jury system is a critical element of Colorado's judicial process," says Jerry Marroney, Colorado State Court Administrator. "We want citizens to understand how important they are to us and this process, and that we greatly appreciate they are taking time out of their busy day to serve as jurors. We are making every effort to make their service a good experience."

This year a national change-of-address database was used in addition to traditional updates received through driver's licenses, voter registration records and non-

driver identification cards. The database provided the state with the most current addresses of state residents. The resulting master list purged nearly 400,000 names with invalid information.

“We expect there to be a sharp decrease in the number of summonses that are returned as undeliverable,” notes Marroney. “We hope that this will ultimately allow jury commissioners to issue a smaller number of summonses per trial resulting in reduced printing and mailing costs for the state, and less inconvenience for would-be jurors.”

A bill to further supplement the master juror registration list has passed the Senate and is being considered in the House. Senate Bill 054 authorizes the Colorado Department of Revenue to release relevant information to the State Court Administrator to use in compiling the state’s master juror list.

Since 1990, Colorado law has made jury service more convenient by using a one day/one trial system. This means that, in a 12-month period, persons summoned for jury service must serve only one day, or if selected for a trial, for the length of that trial.

For information about jury reform in the Colorado courts system, visit www.courts.state.co.us/supct/committees/juryref/juryref.htm.

This information is provided as an e-mail service of the Colorado State Judicial Branch, Office of State Court Administrator, 1301 Pennsylvania Street, Suite 300, Denver, Colo. 80203. To discontinue this service, or update your e-mail address, please respond to this message with your name, contact information and any comments.