

news

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

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BOULDER PROBATION CHIEF JACK RAE RETIRES

Boulder's Chief Probation Officer John O. (Jack) Rae has seen many changes in probation programs over the past thirty years, from general supervision of probationers in 1970 to very specialized treatment in 2000. Rae will retire December 31 and leave the chief's job to Robert (Rob) Bresciani, a man Rae hired in 1981 as a Boulder probation officer.

Assuming the chief's job in 1980, Rae had joined the Boulder Probation Office as a supervisor in 1978 after spending six years as a probation officer in the Denver Juvenile Probation Office and one year as Clerk of the Boulder District Court. Boulder Adult and Juvenile probation combined has a staff of 10 in 1978. Two probation officers were located in the courthouse in Longmont. The remaining officers and staff were located in the Justice center in Boulder. Today 15 officers and staff are located in Longmont and 37 in Boulder. "The number of probationers has also increased five-fold during my tenure," said Rae.

"In 1978 two people operated the newly formed program for drunk drivers. Today the program performs over 200 drunk driver evaluations per month and supervises a caseload of almost 3000 offenders", Rae reported. Other specialized programs that

have been established are intensive supervision in the community for both adult and juvenile offenders who are diverted from prison and juvenile commitment; supervision of both adult and juvenile sex offenders; supervision of adult domestic violence offenders; a victim assistance program; and a special unit for the collection of restitution. The department also has an extensive volunteer program. The department also contracts with INTERVENTION, a private company that delivers services to low risk probationers.

“We have tried everything, Rae said.

The probation department has been instrumental in collaborative programs with other Boulder County agencies in delivering services to defendants. Among these are the Community Corrections half way house program for adults diverted from prison; a day reporting program for adult offenders with mental health problems; and IMPACT, a program that combines both financial and personnel resources to treat juvenile offenders. “One of the most gratifying aspects of working in Boulder County”, Rae said, “is the wonderful cooperation and esprit de corps among government and human service agencies”.

“I am proud of what we have been able to do here,” he said. “We have a diverse staff of very fine probation officers, support staff, and volunteers who thrive on the personal satisfaction this work brings.” Rae said he is particularly gratified by the work the department has done to improve services to Monolingual Spanish speaking probationers. “We’ve only begun to use restorative justice practices that heal our victims and communities,” Rae says. “I really would like to see it used more in the future.”

Rae has been a member of several countywide boards including Jail Over Crowding, The Human Service Coordinating Council, the Domestic Violence Certification Board, and the Community Corrections Board. Rae says he would now like to find work in the human services area to “give back to the community.” He and wife Diane have two children in college.

Bresciani has many years of experience as a probation officer, particularly in the area of juvenile and adult intensive supervision. He spent one year in Denver Juvenile Probation and 14 years in the Boulder Probation Office. Most recently, he has served as part of the statewide performance review team in the state’s Office of Probation Services. From 1995 to 1998, he was on loan to the National Institute of Corrections to design and implement a training program for managers in community corrections, jails and prisons.

A Boulder resident for the past 22 years, Bresciani was named Chief Probation Officer after a national search. He and wife Susie have three children between the ages of 10 and 15.

Chief Judge Roxanne Bailin will administer an oath of office, on Tuesday, January 2, 2001, at 8:30 a.m. Location is the Boulder County Justice Center, in courtroom L,

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