

news

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

July 13, 2000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sherry Patten
303/837-3621
1-800-888-0001 Ext. 621

CUSTER COUNTY JUDGE TAYLOR RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

The National Judges Association has recognized Custer County Judge Harold Taylor as the Outstanding Non-attorney Judge of the United States. The Kenneth L. MacEachern Memorial Award was presented to Taylor at the association's annual education conference at the University of Nevada in June.

Taylor was appointed to the bench in 1992 after a career as a mathematics teacher where he was a leading national expert in mathematics education. He was appointed to President Reagan's National Commission for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics and Science in 1983 and 1984. He was the California Mathematics teacher of the year in 1989. President George Bush presented Taylor with the President's Award for Excellence in teaching.

Taylor and his wife, Loretta, are Ph.D. mathematicians and have co-authored 25 books used to instruct math.

Before being named county judge, Taylor was the assistant municipal judge in Westcliffe and served on the Custer County Board of Education. He is a past president of the National Judges Association and has taught at the National Judicial College.

-more-

As a county judge, Taylor handles about 480 cases in Custer County annually, the majority of which are misdemeanors, small claims and traffic. County judges serve a four-year term and must be retained by voters before serving an additional term. In the 1998 election, Taylor's retention approval percentage was the highest of any judge in Colorado.

Nationwide there are approximately 25,000 non-attorney judges. In Colorado, several counties have non-attorney judges where the population and number of practicing attorneys are small.

#####