

DENVER COUNTY COURT

ANNUAL REPORT 2007



JUDGES & MAGISTRATES



JUDGES

Back Row (left to right): Court Administrator Matthew McConville, Judges Larry Bohning, Andrew Armatas, Doris Burd, Claudia Jordan, Robert Crew

Front Row (left to right): Judges James Breese, Andre Rudolph, Brian Campbell, Clarisse Gonzales, Raymond Satter, John Marcucci, Melvin Okamoto



Back Row (left to right): Judges Johnny Barajas, Alfred Harrell

Front Row (left to right): Judges Mary Celeste, Herbert Galchinsky, Aleene Ortiz-White



MAGISTRATES

Back Row (left to right): Court Administrator Matthew McConville, Magistrates Kathleen Boland, Phil James, Cyrus Callum, Alan Bucholtz, Donald Gentry, Paul Quinn, Elisabeth Fedde

Front Row (left to right): Magistrates John Hoffman, Randall Davis, Terry Tomsick, Howard Slavin, Catherine Cary, Mark Muller, Beth Faragher

Not shown: Magistrate Mollie Moul



Judge Andrew Armatas
Presiding Judge

Denver County Court

Presiding Judge's Office
1437 Bannock Street
Denver, Colorado 80202

May 1, 2008

Honorable John Barajas
Honorable Larry Bohning
Honorable James Breese
Honorable Doris Burd
Honorable Brian Campbell
Honorable Mary Celeste

Honorable Robert Crew
Honorable Herbert Galchinsky
Honorable Clarisse Gonzales
Honorable Alfred Harrell
Honorable Claudia Jordan
Honorable John Marcucci

Honorable Melvin Okamoto
Honorable Aleene Ortiz-White
Honorable Andre Rudolph
Honorable Raymond Satter

Dear Judges:

The new justice center is currently under construction, and scheduled for completion in 2010. The adjacent parking structure/post office building has been completed and is now in operation. The foundation of the courthouse itself is in place, and cranes silhouetted against the skyline are in constant motion as they build the framework of the courthouse and the new jail. Court administrative staff are in regular communication with the architects and stakeholders to ensure that the justice center is a legacy building that the city can be proud of well into the next century.

Discussion is now beginning on how best to renovate and 'back-fill' the space in the City and County Building once the justice center is operational.

The court's case management system, previously with separate modules for each division, was integrated into one comprehensive database. Additional features have been designed for implementation in the near future to ensure state-of-the-art technologies are available as we strive to meet the ever-changing needs of the court and the public in this electronic age.

In addition, the court administration has worked closely with the city's Career Service Authority to create a new Judicial Assistant classification for court employees. A newly-created Court Academy provides clerks with consistent training in all aspects of court management, and provides the foundation needed for advancement. The new classification structure allows the court to hire and train the best personnel, and also provides the clerks a clear promotional path.

I want to thank the judges and magistrates, as well as Court Administrator Matt McConville and all the hardworking employees of the court, for a successful 2007.

Whenever I attend meetings throughout the state or beyond, invariably I am complimented on the efficiency of our court's operations. The Denver County Court enjoys an excellent reputation among its peers because of the excellence of our staff. Therefore, our most valuable resource is featured on the cover of this year's report.

Sincerely,

Andrew Armatas
Presiding Judge

MILESTONES

CRIMINAL

- The criminal division has seen a 50% increase in case filings over the past two years. The division joined forces with other areas of the court to create an additional arraignment court using only existing resources. Benefits of this effort include smaller crowds in the courtroom, improving safety for citizens as well as court staff, and improved case flow management, allowing matters to be adjudicated at the lowest level possible (for example, immediate sentencing on DUI, and many matters normally scheduled into the Trial Courts are now sentenced in the arraignment court.)

TRAFFIC

- Reorganized supervisory staff duties. Completed 10 distinctive employee evaluation plans to cover all employee classifications within the traffic division, satellite offices and photo radar section for personnel spread out over 5 shifts and at 5 separate locations.
- Purged 16 years worth of files with liens against drivers' licenses that were no longer enforceable by the State. Updated retention schedule and organized over 500,000 closed case files which must be retained for statutory reasons.
- Completed the Photo Red Light Request for Qualification (RFQ) & Request for Proposal (RFP) process, selecting Redflex as vendor. Target date for red light implementation is June of 2008. Began the Photo Radar RFP process; slated for completion in early 2008.
- Photo Radar: Only 300 of more than 66,000 photo enforcement violations captured in 2007 were scheduled for final hearing. On average, photo enforcement final hearings were heard within 56 days from the date of the not guilty plea and no cases were continued at the time of the final hearing.

GENERAL SESSIONS

- The protective orders court, which issues restraining orders, was moved from courtroom 124D to courtroom 11S, located at 1351 Cherokee Street. The general sessions arraignment docket in courtroom 122C was combined with the general violations docket and moved to courtroom six, located at 1515 Cleveland Place. These moves were done without additional expenditure and enabled the criminal division to operate two arraignment courtrooms.
- In 2007 two special one-day sessions of the Denver Homeless Court were held: one at the DU campus field house, and another at Invesco Field at Mile High. This court was specifically designed for homeless individuals with outstanding citations for violating city ordinances. Defendants were able to sign up and have their cases heard before a judge, thus clearing outstanding warrants and getting their cases closed.

CIVIL

- Processed 37,910 new cases for 2007, a 4% increase over 2006. Managed 800,718 active civil cases.

- Purged 28,412 cases with judgments older than six years. Shredded / Recycled 5¼ tons of paper.
- Employees attended 61 classes for a total of 250 hours.
- Provided 1,500 hours of training to Work Force Development clients.

WARRANTS AND BONDING

- Implemented a regular warrant validation schedule to assist in purging outdated warrants.
- Implemented an inmate processing fee in the bonding office in conjunction with the Denver Sheriff's Department.
- Reduced number of duplicate warrants by 95%.
- Participated in the Homeless Connect Program.

PROBATION

- Participated in a collaborative effort with the Denver District Court's drug court, supervising 300 misdemeanor drug court defendants.
- The court's probation caseload has increased to 6,248 at the end of 2007; a 33% increase since 2005. Even with the increase, the overall favorable termination rate has stayed around 57%. The absconder rate has decreased by 2%.

COURT MARSHAL

- Four marshals successfully completed the Law Enforcement Training Academy to meet new legislative mandates which require Colorado Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) certification for all court marshals. This accomplishment is highlighted by the completion, as a group, of 2,632 hours of training during 2007.
- Even with the focus on training, the marshals arrested 514 defendants during the year. A total of 1,098 warrants were cleared either by arrest or personal contact.
- Exactly 200 Failure to Pay (FTP) warrants were cleared by personal contact without having to incarcerate the defendant. A total of \$52,852 in previously unpaid fines was collected.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

- In addition to completing several major projects which will be implemented in 2008, the IT staff provided computer network and software support for nearly 300 court users. The court's records are accessible by numerous city agencies and general public, and are being electronically shared with city agencies and the State of Colorado. The department maintains and has developed over 20 software applications, as well as a records management database; ensuring that the court's technology keeps pace with advances in the industry and resulting in increased efficiency of court operations.
- Implemented an updated document imaging system, incorporating case records from all court divisions and converting the files from three separate earlier technologies.

PARKING MAGISTRATES

- Approximately 27,824 individuals appeared at the parking magistrate's office to dispute their parking tickets. Of those,

27,179 received a resolution to their dispute the same day of their appearance, while the remaining 645 took their cases to a Parking Final Hearing.

- Magistrates received 10,128 written disputes. Of those, 10,040 disputes were resolved within 1-5 days, while 77 were resolved in 6-10 days, and the remaining 10 resolved after 10 days. The written disputes resolved within 6-10 days were pending additional information for the court to review in order to resolve the matter. Parking magistrate staff contacted 4,039 customers via telephone, 113 via email, and 5,976 via mail to address their written disputes.

INTERPRETER'S OFFICE

- Provided interpretation services for more than 32,000 cases. Staff primarily interpreted for Spanish, Russian, Korean and Vietnamese defendants, but also provided interpreting services in 35 other languages

INNOVATION & PROGRESS

SPECIAL SERVICES DOCKET

The court continued its special services docket for juveniles charged with municipal ordinance violations. Fashioned after mental health courts, with treatment providers and mental health professionals assisting probation officers and the judge, a team approach is being used in reaching a decision that is best for the community and the individual.

The court's special services docket for adults, known as the Court to Community program, was implemented in 2007 and continues to show promise. Various stakeholders within the city, state, and private mental health and diversion enterprises have joined together and made real system-wide changes to ensure that individuals with special needs obtain appropriate treatment.

DRUG COURT

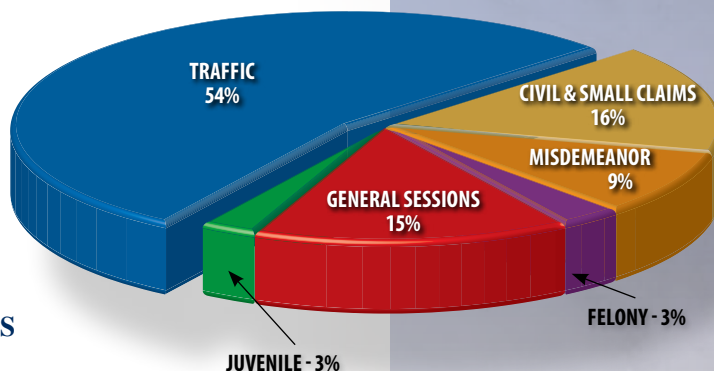
The Denver Drug Court, a cooperative effort between the Denver County and District Courts, District Attorney, Public Defender and the Crime Prevention and Control Commission, was reopened in 2007 and has proved to be successful thus far. Probation staff has begun supervising 300 misdemeanor drug court defendants.

CASE MANAGEMENT

Court Information Technology staff successfully launched Themis, an integrated case management system that allows clerks to access records from the criminal, traffic, general sessions, probation, warrants and parking divisions. Prior to implementation, each division

INNOVATION & PROGRESS

continued on page 6



**No longer includes parking or photo radar citations, as of 1/1/2007.*

FISCAL SUMMARY

General Fund Revenues - Fees & Fines	2007	2006	% CHANGE
Civil	1,443,639	1,384,390	4.28%
Criminal	780,211	683,564	14.14%
General Sessions	1,004,183	887,397	13.16%
Juvenile	66,838	74,603	-10.41%
Probation	2,416,164	1,683,371	43.53%
Traffic	12,913,083	12,565,805	2.76%
Other	1,638,924	1,455,462	12.61%
Total General Fund Revenue	20,263,042	18,734,592	8.16%

General Fund Expenditures			
Personnel	16,847,573	15,847,958	6.31%
Operating Costs	2,647,661	2,454,900	7.85%
Total General Fund Expenditures	19,495,234	18,302,858	6.51%

Restitution Paid to Victims	698,594	709,149	-1.49%
------------------------------------	----------------	----------------	---------------

Fees Collected for the State of Colorado			
Family Friendly Fund	7,266	2,483	192.63%
Judicial Enhancement Late Fee	11,610	14,490	-19.88%
OJW	343,515	347,460	-1.14%
Evaluations & Law Enforcement	568,431	376,019	51.17%
Public Defender's Fee	5,017	6,290	-20.24%
Drug Offender Surcharge	23,004	13,799	66.71%
Sex Surcharge	445	2,500	-82.20%
Drunk Driver Surcharge	15,683	16,934	-7.39%
Stabilization Fee	590,061	514,013	4.64%
Brain Injury Surcharge	28,044	18,403	52.39%
Victim's Compensation Fund	475,939	389,978	22.04%
Victim's Assistance Fund	1,046,703	841,138	24.44%
Total	3,115,718	2,543,507	22.50%

2007 DENVER COUNTY COURT FILINGS

	2007	2006	% CHANGE	FILING CHANGE
Civil & Small Claims	37,910	36,351	4%	1,559
Misdemeanor	21,502	18,338	25%	3,435
Felony	7,425	8,073	-8%	-648
General Sessions	37,114	36,128	3%	986
Juvenile	6,367	5,977	7%	390
Traffic*	129,795	123,437	5%	6,358
Total	240,113	228,304	5%	12,080

INNOVATION & PROGRESS *continued from page 5*

had a separate case management system. Judicial officers and clerks can now readily see when a defendant has multiple cases in different divisions. With this information, cases can sometimes be managed at the same time and/or adjudicated at the lowest level possible, resulting in more efficient case management, reductions in the number of hearings needed, and fewer continuances and FTAs. (Themis is named after the Greek goddess of justice.)

NEW JUSTICE CENTER

The construction of the new justice center is underway and progressing on schedule, slated for opening in 2010. Hundreds of hours of planning meetings have taken place to address the needs of the new justice center. The parking structure and new post office have been completed and are now open for business. The new jail is under construction. Additional resources have been dedicated to planning the renovation and back-fill into the City and County Building after the bonding, criminal and general sessions divisions have relocated to the new facility.

CIVIL DIVISION

The civil division received one of the City's highest achievement honors, a "5281" Service Award, in recognition of superior performance. Civil staff took it upon themselves to purge case files older than six years, and thus no longer requiring retention. Over the course of a year, in addition to their regular duties, employees reviewed and purged 28,412 cases. As a result, 5-1/4 tons of paper was sent for recycling, a significant amount of storage space was freed up, and efficiency was increased.

2007 DENVER COUNTY COURT MOST VALUABLE EMPLOYEES



**Most Valuable
Courtroom Clerk**
Kris Martinez

Most Valuable Rookie
Lori Kendrick



**Most Valuable
Support Staff**
Candace Marcum

**Most Valuable
Probation Officer**
Danielle Dyvig



**Most Valuable
Clerk's Office Staff**
Helen Padilla

Most Valuable Manager
Bill Heaney



Quest for Excellence
Ernie Gutierrez

Quest for Excellence
John McCoy



JUDICIAL PARTICIPATION

Judge Larry Bohning presided over a weekly mental health docket which was initiated in 2007 to help persons with chronic mental illnesses charged with municipal ordinance violations. The program assists the defendants with treatment and housing arrangements. Judge Bohning also wrote a biography of Colorado Senator Peter Dominick, which appeared in the July 2007 Colorado Lawyer. In addition, he gave a talk to Denver Mensa about Colorado courts.

In June, the Denver Bar Association gave **Presiding Judge Andrew Armatas** the Judicial Excellence Award for 2007.

Judge Mary Celeste was the recipient of the American Judges Association's Education Award, as well as the Colorado Humanities Award and the Colorado Women's Bar Association Foundation "Raising the Bar" Award.

In November, **Judge James Breese** was the recipient of the (statewide) Judicial Excellence Award given by the Colorado Judicial Institute to a County Court judge.

Judge Alfred Harrell journeyed to the District of Columbia in August to participate in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's 2007 Personnel and Labor Law Practitioner's Forum. He lectured and presented a program on "Making and Meeting Objections in Trial." The audience consisted of HUD attorneys from regional offices across the country, including Denver, handling personnel cases before administrative tribunals such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB), the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA) and arbitrators. Additionally, these attorneys act as agency counsel and assist Assistant U.S. Attorneys with employment cases filed in or appealed to federal courts. Judge Harrell was also a National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) faculty member in the Rocky Mountain Child Advocacy program in May; the Public Service Attorneys' Advocacy program in July; and the National Organization of Bar Counsel Advance Advocates Training Program in October. He continues to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the Denver Dumb Friends League.

Most Valuable Team Warrant Division



JURISDICTIONS

DIVISION	JURISDICTION	FACTS TO KNOW
Civil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil suits up to \$15,000 • Small claims suits up to \$7,500 • Eviction actions • Name changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil suits can be filed by either an individual or a business. • Parties must represent themselves in small claimS cases - lawyers may not be involved.
Criminal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colorado Revised Statute violations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DUI, DUS, 3rd degree assault and 2nd or 3rd degree burglary are example of misdemeanor violations. • Felony cases including 1st or 2nd degree assault and 1st degree burglary are heard by a Denver County Court judge at the preliminary hearing stage only.
General Sessions/ General Violations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denver Municipal Ordinance violations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbing the peace, assault, and loitering are examples of general sessions violations. • Building and zoning code violations and dog license violations are examples of general violations.
Juvenile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denver Municipal Ordinance violations committed by those under age 18 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petty theft, trespass, and curfew violations are examples of juvenile violations.
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking violations in the City and County of Denver 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking magistrate available to negotiate parking fines
Protective Orders Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent and temporary civil restraining orders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denver County Court is one of the few courts in the United States to handle TROs and PROs in a single courtroom dedicated to that purpose.
Traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denver Municipal Ordinance and Colorado Revised statute violations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The traffic division adjudicates municipal ordinance infractions, such as failure to stop at a stop sign and state statute offenses, such as no operator's license or expired plates.



DEPARTMENT	BLDG. NO.
Bonding Office	1
720-913-7581	
Court Child Care Center	4
720-865-9930	
City Attorney	5
Dept. 1207 • 720-913-8050	
Civil Division	6
Fourth Floor • 303-640-5161	
Clerk & Recorder	5
First Floor • 720-865-8400	
Collection & Community Service	2
Room 145 • 720-865-8033	
Courtroom 11S	1
720-913-7600	
Courtroom 12T	1
720-913-7540	
Criminal Division	2
Room 111-AA • 720-865-7820	
District Attorney	5
Dept. 801 • 720-913-9000	
Environmental Court	6
Fourth Floor, Courtroom • 303-640-2567	
General Sessions Division	2
Room 140 • 720-865-8040	
Parking Magistrate's Office	5
First Floor • 720-913-5300	
Probation Department	3
Suite 800 • 720-913-8300	
Public Defender (Municipal)	2
Basement Room 31 • 720-865-7878	
Public Defender (State)	7
Suite 800 • 303-620-4888	
Traffic Division	2
Room 109 • 720-865-7840	

BUILDING 1

1351 Cherokee Street, Denver, CO 80204

BUILDING 2

1437 Bannock Street, Denver, CO 80202

BUILDING 3

303 W. Colfax Avenue, Denver, CO 80202

BUILDING 4

270 14th Street, Denver, CO 80202

BUILDING 5

201 W. Colfax Avenue, Denver, CO 80202

BUILDING 6

1515 Cleveland Place, Denver, CO 80202

MISSION STATEMENT

*In our quest to be the best court anywhere,
the Denver County Court's mission is to:*

- Administer justice fairly, efficiently and effectively.
- Provide excellent customer service.
- Foster a positive environment where employees enjoy their work.



DENVER COUNTY COURT

1437 Bannock Street • Denver, Colorado 80202

Phone: 720-865-7800 • Fax: 720-865-8250

www.DenverGov.org/CountyCourt

