



January 7, 2010

For Immediate Release
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Our Courts wins national award for public education program

DENVER, Colo. – The Colorado Bar Association and Colorado Judicial Institute received notice today that their joint series of programs, titled *Our Courts*, won the American Bar Association’s 2010 Burnham “Hod” Greeley Award.

Founded in September 2007, *Our Courts* programs provide nonpartisan information to adult audiences (such as Rotary Clubs and community groups) throughout the state to further public knowledge and understanding of the state and federal courts in Colorado.

More than 250 presentations have been made by volunteer presenters to approximately 6,000 people so far. The presentations are in PowerPoint format, but there is no script, and each volunteer presenter is encouraged to use their own words and style.

The first presentation is about appellate review of trial court decisions and the selection, evaluation and retention of state court judges. The second presentation is about the workings of the federal courts.

The idea for the *Our Courts* program was that of U.S. District Court Judge Marcia Krieger and Colorado Court of Appeals Judge Russell Carparelli. A partnership formed between the CJI and CBA because the program fit with both organizations’ mission statements. More than a dozen partners joined in, along with courts leaders at every level.

Part of the CBA and CJI’s nomination package included letters from U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor and Colorado Supreme Court Chief Justice Mary Mullarkey.

Presenters address the role of fair and impartial courts in applying and preserving the rule of law. All programs are free of charge. Presenters take no position regarding any court case, legislation, ballot issue or proposed change to the court system.

The ABA’s Coalition for Justice reviewed nominations received last fall from around the country. Judges evaluated the nominations for significant, positive impacts on public understanding of the role of the judiciary in a democratic society and for ability to convey the importance of the judiciary’s role in the rule of law. The award recognizes extraordinary outreach efforts that show the public the need for a fair and impartial judiciary.

The award is named in honor of the late Hawaii attorney Burnham “Hod” Greeley, a dedicated ABA leader who was committed to promoting public trust and confidence in our justice system.

The annual presentation of the award will be at the ABA annual mid-year meeting during the Judicial Welcome Breakfast on Feb. 5 in Orlando, Florida.

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