



Colorado Judicial Institute Names 2014 Judicial Excellence Award Recipients

On the evening of November 12, 2014, three jurists will be honored by the Colorado Judicial Institute (CJI) and will receive CJI's Judicial Excellence Award. CJI first recognized outstanding jurists in 2000 and has had the pleasure of honoring forty-four jurists for their exemplary duty on the bench. This year the number will increase to forty-seven award recipients.

The 14th Annual Judicial Excellence Dinner for Colorado takes place Wednesday, November 12, 2014 at Denver Marriott City Center. Tickets are available on CJI's web site at www.ColoradoJudicialInstitute.org. This dinner benefits CJI's Judicial Education Fund, Our Courts and other CJI programs.

The 2014 CJI Judicial Excellence Award Recipients

Chief Judge Claude W. Appel, District Court, 3rd Judicial District

Judge Appel was appointed as a District Judge in March 1986; he served as a County Judge from January 1985 to March 1986. Prior to his appointment as a judge, he was in private practice in Longmont, Colorado, then served as a Deputy District Attorney in the Third Judicial District and had a private practice there. He received his B.A. degree from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois in 1974 and his law degree from the University of Colorado in 1978.

Judge Appel started the Huerfano County Teen Court program in 1995, operating out of both District and County Courts and in two local high schools for 16 years. Currently, he presides over two alternative drug courts in both Huerfano and Las Animas counties. These programs are examples of how Judge Appel has positively affected his district both in and outside of his courtroom.

Judge Sabino E. Romano, Adams County, 17th Judicial District

Judge Romano, a Colorado native, engaged in private practice from 1974 to 1983 when he was appointed County Court Magistrate in Arapahoe County. In December of 1986, Judge Romano was appointed as an Adams County Judge by Governor Richard Lamm and has served in that position for 28 years. He graduated from the University of Denver in 1971 with degrees in Political Science and Geology, and was immediately accepted to the University of Denver Law School graduating in 1973.

Judge Romano, known as one of the friendliest judges in the 17th J.D., has handled the full scope of County Court cases, however, he exclusively handles civil cases. He is responsible for processing approximately 31,000 cases and presides over 400 trials per year.

Magistrate Marianne M. Tims, 1st Judicial District

Prior to her swearing in Jefferson County in 2004, Magistrate Tims was a county attorney in both Jefferson and Arapahoe counties handling child protection cases. As Chief Magistrate, she administers six other magistrates and staff. Magistrate Tims is in charge of coordinating not only the magistrate divisions, but the interplay between the magistrate divisions and the district court divisions who also hear the juvenile and domestic cases coming out of the magistrate divisions. Magistrate Tims will be the first to tell you that her life's work is protecting children and trying to resolve family issues. Magistrate Tims received a B.A. in 1988 from Fort Lewis College and graduated from the University of Denver Law School in 1992.