

Colorado Hosts International Legal Professionals

Denver, CO – In October, Colorado had the privilege of hosting twenty international legal professionals as part of the 24-day International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) of the U.S. Department of State. The visitors, selected by American Foreign Service Officers overseas, included legal personnel from: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Republic of Congo, Ghana, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, India, Macedonia, Malawi, Mongolia, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Tanzania, Thailand and Zimbabwe.

The Colorado portion of the program was coordinated by the Institute of International Education (IIE), Rocky Mountain Regional Center. One afternoon was hosted by the Colorado Judicial Institute (CJI) and held in the Colorado Supreme Court Courtroom. CJI Chair, Robert Miller, welcomed the visitors and explained the role of the non-partisan, citizen-based organization in ensuring an independent judiciary and promoting excellence by supporting judicial education.

CJI Vice Chair, Ellie Greenberg, described how CJI and the Colorado Bar Association (CBA) jointly established the nationally-acclaimed public education program, *Our Courts*, in 2006. She reported that in its first year the 70 trained speakers, who are Colorado judges and attorneys, have made 104 *Our Courts* presentations on both the state and federal courts to more than 4000 Coloradans at meetings of civic, community and service organizations.



CJI Board Chair Robert Miller.



Hon. Richard L. Gabriel of the Colorado Court of Appeals.

Colorado Court of Appeals Judge Richard L. Gabriel gave a full *Our Courts* presentation, combining information on both the Colorado state and federal courts. A question and answer session helped to clarify issues of judicial appointment, length of terms, training and education, and how “equal justice under law” is achieved in the U.S.

Attorney Leia Ursery, Chair of the Young Lawyers Division of the Colorado Bar Association (CBA), described the many civic, charitable, and professional activities of the bar, the various specialty bars and the statewide network of county bar associations. More than 17,000 attorneys under the age of 37 comprise the CBA Young Lawyers Division.

State Court Administrator Gerald Marroney provided information about the Colorado Department of Justice, which includes 3600 statewide employees of which 304 are judges. This department administers the various judicial commissions, coordinates studies, and provides public information about the courts.

Many questions were asked by the visiting group, which expressed its appreciation for the fact-filled presentations. For further information, go to www.coloradojudicialinstitute.org, www.ourcourtscolorado.org, www.coloradobarassociation.org or www.courts.state.co.us.

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The Colorado Judicial Institute: A Shared Vision of Judicial Excellence

The mission of the 29-year old non-partisan, non-profit Colorado Judicial Institute is: 1) to preserve and enhance the independence and excellence of Colorado courts, 2) to further public understanding of the Colorado judicial system, and 3) to ensure that the courts meet the needs of the people.