

MEDIA ADVISORY



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Press inquiries contact:
American Judicature Society
Seth S. Andersen
800-626-4089, sandersen@ajs.org

Chief Justice Mary Mullarkey to Receive Herbert Harley Award

Des Moines, Iowa – Chief Justice Mary Mullarkey of the Colorado Supreme Court has been selected to receive the American Judicature Society's Herbert Harley Award in recognition of her efforts to improve the administration of justice in Colorado. Named after the founder of AJS, the Herbert Harley Award is the Society's premier state-based award.

Judge Frederic Rodgers, who nominated Chief Justice Mullarkey for the Harley Award, wrote that “she has been called on to make a strong commitment to preserving Colorado’s merit selection and tenure system in the face of challenges from those who would seek to impose term limits on judges or return them to partisan political elections.”

During her tenure as Chief Justice, Mullarkey has created a public information officer position for the Colorado courts to enable the media and general public to gain a better understanding of the state’s justice system. She has established the Problem Solving Court Advisory Committee and has effectively managed the court’s resources despite significant budget reductions.

Judge Rodgers further noted that “in her role as a judge, she has authored over 500 opinions of the Colorado Supreme Court. Her many kind and thoughtful words of encouragement have kept high the morale of many Colorado lawyers and judges, including me. We in Colorado are especially proud to have Mary J. Mullarkey serving as the Chief Justice of Colorado.”

Justice Mullarkey is the tenth recipient of the Herbert Harley Award from the state of Colorado since the award’s inception. Past recipients include former United States District Judge Alfred A. Arraj in 1990, former Denver University College of Law Dean Robert B. Yegge in 1985, and former Colorado Chief Justice Edward E. Pringle in 1974. Chief Justice Mullarkey will receive her award at a ceremony in the Denver Law Club on September 24.

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Founded in 1913, The American Judicature Society is a nonpartisan organization with a national membership of judges, lawyers and other citizens interested in improving our nation’s courts and the administration of justice. The AJS mission is to ensure a fair, impartial, independent judiciary; improve the criminal justice process; educate the public; and build confidence in the justice system. For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.ajs.org>.