

SMART Act Presentation to the Joint Judiciary Committee

Chief Justice Brian D. Boatright

State Court Administrator Steven
Vasconcellos

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Ralph Carr Judicial Center Update

Incident on January 2, 2024

Widespread damage to the tower side of the building

Strong partnership response with other state agencies

Three floors substantially need reconstruction, two other floors will also need significant work

Significant water damage

Timelines vary on returning to the building

Working with risk management

Ralph Carr Judicial Center tenants include:

Office of the State Court Administrator

Office of the Attorney General

Office of the State Public Defender

Office of the Alternate Defense Counsel

Office of Respondent Parents' Counsel

Office of the Child's Representative

Office of Child Protection Ombudsman

Office of Judicial Discipline

Independent Ethics Commission

Statewide Behavioral Health Court Liaison

Statewide Listening Tour



Justices visited all 22 districts

Goal was to have contact with every employee in the branch

Employees love their work, but salaries are insufficient to meet basic needs



Workplace Culture Initiative goals

- A shared recognition that everyone should be treated with respect and dignity
- A shared commitment to transparency, accountability, and ethical decision-making
- A shared understanding that we will not tolerate discrimination, harassment, or retaliation

Magistrate Wellness and Support Committee



Recruitment



Training



Support



Evaluation and supervision



Public records



Rules

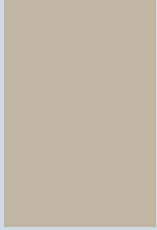


Increased stakeholder involved in Judicial Education


We will have more public involvement in our programming – the topics, the formats, the presenters – to ensure we are giving judges the best information .

New subcommittees on judicial education that will include external stakeholders

The subcommittees will evaluate our programming and make recommendations on improvements



FY25 Budget Request





Staff salaries

- Evaluating compensation for all job classes
- Need more competitive salaries to retain and attract skilled employees
- first year focuses largely on clerks and probation officers
- 25 percent of clerks are in their first year
- Average starting salary for clerks is \$44,621
- Turnover has led to greater training needs



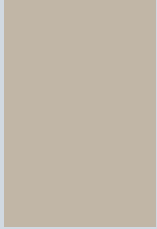
Case Management System

Discovery and planning phase,
through Summer 2025

Design phase, through Spring 2026

Development phase, into early 2027

Testing phase, spring and summer
2027



2024 Legislative Agenda

SB23-075 fix

SB23-075 had unintended consequences

Attorneys lost access to records through e-filing system, CCE

Partnering with OSPD and OADC to find the most narrow, simple fix for preserving the policy goals of SB23-075 while also restoring attorney access

Court security

Threats against the courts have escalated

Personal information is easy to identify, and we need a team to support judges across the state

POST certified staff would have access to more sensitive law enforcement information

Licensed Legal Paraprofessionals

Licensed Legal Paraprofessionals

Improves access to justice

Court is considering a rule that would create low-cost professional help for parties in divorce and child support matters

Roughly three-quarters of parties in domestic cases do not have attorneys

Conforming statutory changes are needed



Other important issues

Diversifying Colorado's Bench

| | Judges 2018 | Judges 2023 | Colorado Population |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------|
| American Indian/ Alaska Native | 0% | 0.6% | 0.6% |
| Asian | 1% | 2.7% | 3.5% |
| Black/ African American | 1% | 4.5% | 4.1% |
| Hispanic/ Latino | 9% | 8.1% | 22% |
| White, not Hispanic or Latino | 89% | 82.4% | 67.3% |
| Two or more races | N/A | 0.9% | 2.4% |



23rd Judicial District

- HB20-1026 splits the 18th JD into two districts in 2025
- Arapahoe will remain the 18th JD
- Douglas, Elbert and Lincoln become the 23rd JD
- CDAC identified an issue with two victims funds that we agree needs a statutory fix. We are working with it on language.
- Appointed Administrative Judge Ryan Stuart



HB22-1091 update

- Creates a searchable site for the public of all Supreme Court and Court of Appeals opinions
- On schedule to launch March 1
- Allows full text searching
- Users will be able to save, download, email, and print from the database.

Performance Measures: Courts

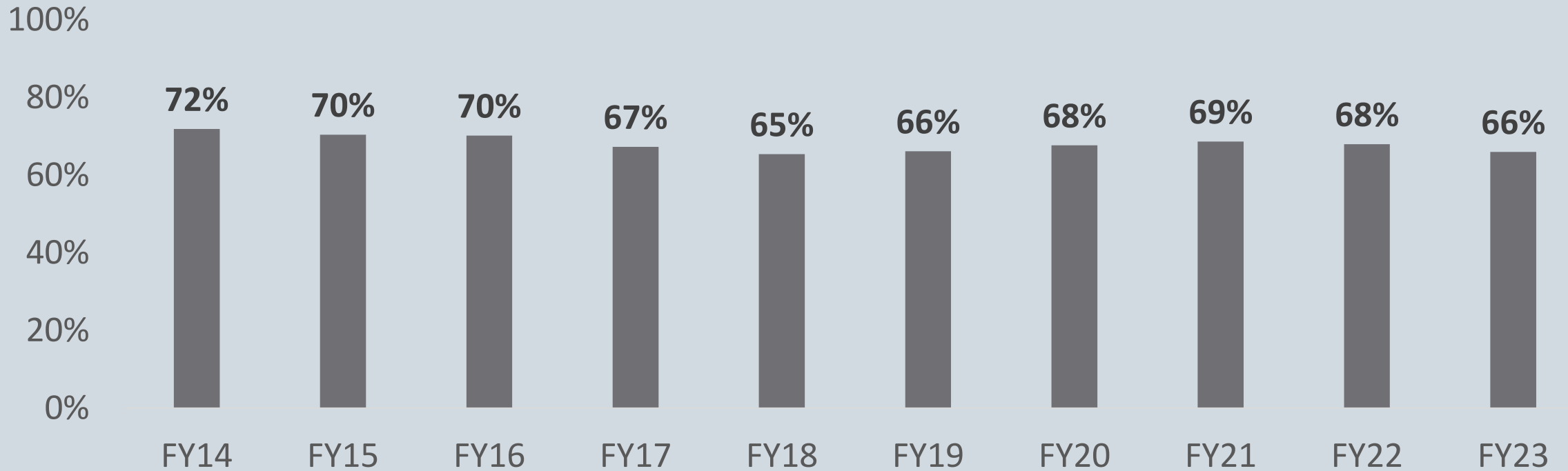
| Type | Target | 2023 |
|--|--------|-------|
| Civil <i>(cases open more than 1 year)</i> | 10% | 18.8% |
| Criminal <i>(cases open more than 1 year)</i> | 5% | 9.2% |
| Domestic <i>(cases open more than 1 year)</i> | 5% | 7.9% |
| Juvenile Delinquency <i>(cases open more than 1 year)</i> | 5% | 5.3% |
| D&N <i>(cases open more than 18 months)</i> | 5% | 6.8% |
| Expedited Permanent Placement <i>(cases open more than 1 year)</i> | 10% | 12.4% |

District Court time standards

| Type | Target | 2023 |
|---|--------|-------|
| Civil <i>(cases open more than 6 months)</i> | 5% | 8.1% |
| Misdemeanor <i>(cases open more than 6 months)</i> | 10% | 18.2% |
| Small Claims <i>(cases open more than 6 months)</i> | 1% | 9% |
| Traffic <i>(cases open more than 6 months)</i> | 5% | 12.2% |
| DUI <i>(cases open more than 7 months)</i> | 20% | 16.8% |

County Court time standards

Performance Measures: Probation



Probationer success rates stable



Juvenile Probation Population Increase



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Thank You