



# news

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## **Colorado Supreme Court Chief Justice accredits 5th Judicial District treatment court**

EAGLE – The Eagle County Recovery Court received accreditation by Colorado Supreme Court Chief Justice Nathan B. Coats. The accreditation process is a multi-faceted process that upon successful completion signifies a treatment court demonstrates a fidelity to evidence-based practices as outlined in the Colorado Problem Solving Court Standards.

The Honorable Judge Paul Dunkelman presides over the Eagle County Recovery Court, which was established in 2013 and has served 60 participants. The Eagle County Recovery Court follows the Drug Court model, providing participants with intensive supervision and treatment services to assist in recovery from substance use disorder, mental health concerns, and criminal justice involvement.

The program participants receive comprehensive support and services giving them the opportunity to become productive, sober, law-abiding members of the community. The program is committed to protecting public safety, holding clients accountable, and reducing recidivism.

To pursue accreditation, a program applies to the Colorado Supreme Court Problem Solving Court Advisory Committee for review. After submission, the Advisory Committee may conduct a site visit to the program and may request additional information from the applicant. Following a review of the application, additional questions and a site visit, the Committee votes on whether to recommend accreditation. The Committee's recommendation to accredit a program is sent to the Chief Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court for approval. Once approved by the Chief Justice, the accreditation lasts for five years, with subsequent re-accreditation every three years thereafter.

Nearly 80 problem-solving courts are in operation around Colorado including adult and juvenile drug courts, family treatment drug courts, DUI courts, adult and juvenile mental health courts, veteran treatment courts, and truancy courts. For more information on problem solving courts, or to review the description of the accreditation program or the accreditation application, readers can visit [www.coloradoproblemsolvingcourts.org](http://www.coloradoproblemsolvingcourts.org)