

House Judiciary Committee Information

Meeting times and locations. The House Judiciary Committee meets all day on Tuesdays and Thursday afternoons beginning at 1:30 pm. The committee's designated meeting room is House Committee Room 0107. Occasionally, the committee meets in a different room to accommodate larger crowds or the needs of other committees. Changes to the committee's regular schedule are announced on the House floor prior to adjournment. Schedule changes will also be posted on Twitter by the committee staff. If you wish to receive Twitter updates, go to <http://twitter.com/cojudiciarycomm> and follow the committee.

Committee hearings. Committee meetings are broadcast over the internet. Interested persons who are not able to attend the meeting in person can listen live over the internet. To access the live feed, go the General Assembly's main page at <http://leg.state.co.us>. At the top of the page is a link to audio broadcasts of current proceedings. Individual committee hearings can be accessed by clicking on the room in which the meeting is occurring. Again, the House Judiciary Committee meets in HCR 0107 unless otherwise noted in the calendar or on the House floor. In those instances where a committee room change is made at the last minute, the committee staff will post a notice on the committee's Twitter feed.

Joint meetings with the Senate Judiciary Committee. The joint rules of the House and Senate require the House and Senate Judiciary committees to stay advised of the activities, functions, and budgets of the Department of Corrections, the Department Law, and the Department of Public Safety, the Judicial Department, and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security. The House Judiciary Committee will meet jointly with the Senate Judiciary Committee within the first 15 days of each legislative session to receive briefings from these departments and the Joint Budget Committee. **Joint meetings of the House and Senate Judiciary committees will be held on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m., in HCR 0107, in the basement of the State Capitol Building.**

Testifying before the committee. Individuals who wish to testify before the committee are asked to sign-up prior to the start of the meeting on the designated sign-up sheets. The sign-up sheets are available on a table in the back of the committee room. There will be a separate sign-up sheet for each bill the committee is hearing at each meeting. Individuals are asked to sign in on the sheet pertaining to their bill of interest.

The chair of the committee, Representative Bob Gardner, is responsible for overseeing public testimony and will recognize those on the sign-up sheets in an order most conducive to the business before the committee. With rare exception, everyone signed up to testify will be called upon. Because the meetings are taped and broadcast over the internet, individuals who are testifying are asked to wait to be recognized by the chair prior to beginning their testimony. The appropriate manner of address to the committee chair is "Mister Chair." The appropriate manner of address to House committee members is "Representative."

Once witnesses have been recognized by the chair, they may begin their testimony by giving their name and the organization they represent, if any. Committees are subject to tight deadlines and busy schedules. As a courtesy to the legislative members as well as those in the audience waiting to testify, witnesses are asked to keep their testimony concise, relevant to the bill, and, to the extent possible, to not repeat testimony that may have already been provided to the committee. Witnesses may distribute copies of handouts and written testimony to the committee. Witnesses who wish to distribute materials to the committee are asked to bring **12 copies** - one for each member of the committee, as well as a copy for the committee's official record. Please hand any materials to the committee staff person, who will distribute the materials to the committee members.

Witnesses are asked to observe professional decorum during the committee meetings. Clapping, booing, or otherwise disruptive behavior is not permitted. In addition, witnesses are asked to avoid any personal attacks or other emotional outbursts. Finally, all individuals present in the committee room are asked to turn off all cell phones and electronic devices prior to the start of the meeting.

Committee staff. The Legislative Council Staff person for the House Judiciary Committee is Jessika Shipley. She is available to answer any questions regarding the committee schedule. Her phone number is (303) 866-3528. As previously noted, interested persons can also sign up to receive periodic committee updates and schedule changes from the committee staff via Twitter.