What is WikiCourt?

WikiCourt is a functioning knowledge database to support Colorado judicial officers with case assignments alleging domestic violence, sex offenses, or stalking. A collaborative online encyclopedia, WikiCourt supports openly editable content, best practice dialogue, and quick search capability.

A performance support tool as opposed to a training tool, WikiCourt allows judicial officers to find relevant information quickly and easily.

WikiCourt Objectives

Colorado Judicial has developed many VAWA training resources over the past decade, including presentations, online courses, job aids, and benchbooks. One problem is accessing specific information at a moment of need. WikiCourt provides judges, both new and experienced, with fingertip knowledge.

WikiCourt Functionality

WikiCourt has over 300 entries, from narrow topics (i.e., a good distance for a protection order) to broad categories (i.e., sentencing options for adult sex crimes).

Information can be accessed through keyword searches. Example: A judge wants to know whether a bond modification hearing in a domestic violence case is subject to Colorado’s Victim Rights Act. Steps to answer the question:

1) Access the website.

2) Enter a keyword (in this case, the user could type “bond”, “VRA” or “modification”). Click “Search”.

![Search by keyword](image)

Search By Keyword

bond

Select Case Type (optional)

Search

...
3) Review the list of entries and click the most relevant (in this case, “Bond Hearing or Modification/Victim Rights Act”).

4) Review content. (Note: Case cites, highlighted in blue, are linked to full opinions in Westlaw.)
5) Judges can add a tip or information to a topic in the “Discussion” section.

**Future Additions to WikiCourt**
Next steps for WikiCourt include developing a document repository on VAWA issues, including sample orders, benchcards, job aids, and reference guides. A judicial “Performance Support” subcommittee from judges throughout the state will review and approve documents for inclusion.

**WikiCourt Challenges**
As with all types of judicial training, the challenge of WikiCourt is keeping content current. Judges will only use the site if they believe the content is accurate. Strategies for maintaining up-to-date content include having the VAWA Distance Learning Specialist (an attorney) review all legislation and appellate court opinions to determine whether edits are necessary. In addition, because judges can exchange information on the site, they may be more likely to update the site themselves.