



# DenverDA

Mitchell R. Morrissey, District Attorney - Second Judicial District

201 W. Colfax Avenue, Dept. 801, Denver, CO 80202

Bus. Phone: 720-913-9000  
Fax: 720-913-9035

## ***NEWS ADVISORY***

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Contact: Lynn Kimbrough, 720-913-9025 or  
Michelle Spradling, 720-913-9284

### **DENIM DAY AT THE DA'S OFFICE**

As a professional law office, the DA's Office does not observe "casual Friday," so an opportunity for staff to wear denim is unique.

The Denver DA's Office joins the Auraria Campus in observing "Denim Day" on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> by wearing jeans as a symbol of commitment to seeking justice for sexual assault victims. Denver DA employees (who don't have to be in court) will be able to dress in denim on April 7<sup>th</sup> for a \$5 donation that goes to help with victim needs following forensic examinations.

Denim Day was inspired by a 1998 Italian Supreme Court ruling which overturned a conviction of a driving instructor who was serving time for sexually assaulting his 18-year-old driving student. The court ruled that because the victim was wearing tight blue jeans, she must have helped the perpetrator remove them and therefore could not have been raped. To protest the ruling, female members of Italy's parliament wore jeans to work. Denim Day was launched in Los Angeles in 1999 and has been growing ever since.

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*Events at the Auraria Campus include:*

*Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. – Chris and Ophelia De Serres of (Wo)Men Speak-Out host a presentation dedicated to ending gender-based bias in the Tivoli Multi-cultural Lounge.*

*Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. – (Wo)Men Speak-Out will host feature filmmaker Byron Hurt and screen his award-winning documentary, "Hip-hop, beats and rhymes," which examines the role of gender in hip-hop culture. Location: Tivoli Multi-cultural Lounge*