

SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY
November 2023

The Sixteenth Judicial District encompasses all of Bent, Crowley and Otero counties with an estimated combined population of 30,074. (Bent – 5,882; Crowley – 5,858; and Otero – 18,432 according to 2018 U.S. Census Quick Facts). The county seats are Las Animas, Ordway and La Junta, respectively.

In fiscal year 2022 there were 2,927 county court cases and 1,315 district court cases filed in the district. The caseload is the responsibility of two full-time district court judges, one full-time magistrate, one part-time magistrate, and three part-time county court judges. The district court judges are responsible for handling felony criminal matters, juvenile cases (dependency and neglect and delinquency), probate proceedings, mental health matters, and civil filings that exceed the county court jurisdictional amount. The magistrate is responsible for handling domestic relation cases, child support, advisements, inmate civil, and some dependency and neglect cases. The county court judges are responsible for traffic, misdemeanor, small claims, and civil cases of \$25,000 or less.

In fiscal year 2022, the probation department supervised 278 new clients. Of the 278 clients, 56% (156) were district court cases and 44% (122) were county court cases. The probation department employs eighteen employees as probation officers, collections investigators, support staff and administration. The main office for the probation department is in La Junta but they also staff satellite offices in Las Animas, Ordway and Rocky Ford.

In addition to the district and county judges, there are twenty-one trial court support staff positions. These positions include clerks of court, court judicial assistants, protective proceedings monitor, family court facilitator, self-represented litigant coordinator, problem solving court coordinator, useful public service manager, legal research attorney, administrative office specialist, and court executive.

The 16th Judicial District operates the useful public service program (UPS) for our three-county area. A part-time UPS case manager operates the program through the Otero Combined Court. In 2009 the 16th Judicial District began operating an Integrated Treatment Court (ITC). Court participants are eligible high-risk defendants who receive a comprehensive and judicially-monitored program of drug treatment and other rehabilitation services. Also in 2009, the District began operating Truancy Court for students that habitually fail to attend public schools in our District.

In December of 2016 we began operation of our Family Recovery Court (FRC). Family Recovery Court is a placement prevention program designed to provide intensive services to families with a Dependency and Neglect action related to an ongoing substance abuse or addiction problem. FRC is a multi-agency team approach that includes the Department of Human Services, treatment providers, probation staff, respondent parent counsel, law enforcement staff and the Court.

The case filings for the county courts for the fiscal year 2023 ending June 30, 2023, were as follows:

Bent County	735
Crowley County	358
Otero County	<u>1,737</u>
TOTAL	2,830

The filings for the same period for the district courts were as follows:

Bent County	238
Crowley County	233
Otero County	<u>681</u>
TOTAL	1,152

DISTRICT COURT

JUDGE	DATE SWORN IN
Mark A. MacDonnell, Chief Judge	02/03/13
Samuel S. Vigil, District Judge	08/01/22
Rodney D. Fouracre, Magistrate	11/1/21
Deni E. Eiring, Magistrate	10/24/22

COUNTY COURT

JUDGE	COUNTY	DATE SWORN IN
Douglas R. Manley	Otero	07/02/04
Lance P. Clark	Bent	08/02/22
Jeremy P. Boyce	Crowley	7/1/2023

For further information, please contact C.J. Montoya, Court Executive, 13 W. 3rd Street, Room 207, La Junta, CO 81050, (719) 383-7123. Most court proceedings are open to the public and we encourage you to come visit our court locations. The Court Executive would be happy to help you plan your visit.