

**SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY**  
**January 2025**

The Sixteenth Judicial District encompasses all of Bent, Crowley and Otero counties with an estimated combined population of 30,262. (Bent – 5,650; Crowley – 5,922; and Otero – 18,690 according to 2020 and 2021 U.S. Census Quick Facts). The county seats are Las Animas, Ordway, and La Junta, respectively.

In 2024 there were 3,489 county court cases and 1,339 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 cases, juvenile matters (dependency and neglect and delinquency), probate proceedings, mental health cases, and civil filings that exceed the county court jurisdictional amount. The magistrates are 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 calendar year 2024, the probation department supervised 328 new clients. Of the 328 clients, 53% (173) were district court cases and 47% (153) were county court cases. The probation department employs 18 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 26 trial court positions. These positions include clerk of court, court supervisor, judicial clerk, protective proceedings monitor, family court facilitator, self-represented litigant coordinator, problem solving court coordinator, useful public service manager, legal research attorney, administrative coordinator, competency court coordinator, peer training specialist, and court executive.

The 16<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial District started the Integrated Treatment Court (ITC) program. 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 started the MAP (Motivation, Achievement, Power) Truancy Court for students that habitually fail to attend public schools in our District.

In December of 2016 the Family Recovery Court (FRC) program was started. 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 calendar year 2024 ending December 31, 2024, were as follows:

Bent County	737
Crowley County	351
Otero County	<u>2,401</u>
TOTAL	3,489

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

Bent County	285
Crowley County	277
Otero County	<u>777</u>
TOTAL	1,339

#### DISTRICT COURT

JUDGE/MAGISTRATE	DATE SWORN IN
Mark A. MacDonnell, Chief Judge	02/03/2013
Samuel S. Vigil, District Judge	08/01/2022
Rodney D. Fouracre, Magistrate	11/01/2021
Deni E. Eiring, Magistrate	10/24/2022

#### COUNTY COURT

JUDGE	COUNTY	DATE SWORN IN
William J. Culver	Otero	05/01/2024
Lance P. Clark	Bent	08/02/2022
Jeremy P. Boyce	Crowley	07/01/2023

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