

THE EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

STATE OF COLORADO

Overview

January 2025

Population and Geographic Area

With an estimated district population of 656,061, the Courts of the Eighteenth Judicial District serve the third most populated judicial district in Colorado and is home to 35,168 veterans.

Arapahoe County is Colorado's first county as its origins antedate the Pike's Peak Gold Rush. Arapahoe County was part of the Territory of Kansas until they became a state in 1861. Colorado was then made a territory with Arapahoe as one of the original counties with Denver as its county seat until 1902. Arapahoe County was then divided, and the City of Littleton became the new County seat and remains so today. The County spans 805 square miles and covers much of the southern and eastern suburbs of the Denver metropolitan area. It has an urban concentration with 13 incorporated cities and towns, consisting in part of the municipalities of Aurora, Centennial, Englewood, Greenwood Village, and Littleton. There are 258,500 households with an average size of 2.52 people per household and is home to nine school districts. Arapahoe County also contains the eastern plains and unincorporated areas such as Byers, Deer Trail, and Strasburg and Bennet. There are 35,200 households in unincorporated Arapahoe County. Much of the land in this part of the county is used for agricultural purposes. The median age for a person living in Arapahoe County is 37.6 years. Arapahoe County is home to some of the nation's largest companies, including high tech, communication, military, service and retail industries. The County also provides travel services out of Centennial airport, one of the busiest general aviation airports in the nation.

The Eighteenth Judicial District provides court services from two different courthouses in the district: Centennial and Littleton.

Case Filings and Docket Assignments

In FY 2024, 20,939 new cases were filed in the district courts. There were 47,494 new cases filed in the county courts during this period. There were 199 trials in the District Courts and 102 jury trials/160 court trials in the County Courts.

District court cases include felony criminal matters, civil cases, domestic relations cases, juvenile matters, appeals from municipal and county courts, and probate and mental health cases. County court cases include misdemeanors, traffic cases, civil cases of value up to \$25,000, small claims cases, and preliminary hearings in felony cases. The district has seventeen district court judges and five magistrates who currently hear district court cases. All seventeen of the district court judges and five of the magistrates sit in Arapahoe District Court.

In the 18 Judicial District, the majority of district court judges and magistrates are assigned to specialized dockets. This means they are assigned to hear one or two case types. For example, some judges hear primarily domestic relations cases while others hear primarily criminal cases. However, to make the most efficient use of courtrooms and judicial officer time, the judicial officers pick-up cases of any case type from others whenever their time allows. A cooperative system of docket management allows our very busy District to move cases along more efficiently than we otherwise could.

There are eight judges and three magistrates in the county courts. Two judges sit in Littleton County Court, and six judges and two magistrates sit at the Arapahoe County Justice Center.

In addition to the regular court dockets, the 18th Judicial District has four adult, one Family Treatment, and one juvenile Problem Solving Courts. Problem Solving Courts offer a non-traditional approach to integrating treatment provision and criminal justice case processing. These courts rely on the close collaboration of multidisciplinary teams, including members from the judicial and treatment communities. Our Problem Solving Courts focus on reducing recidivism, promoting public safety, ensuring participant accountability, supporting recovery, and improving quality of life for participants and their families with a cost-effective and community-based continuum of care. The 18th Judicial Veterans Court serves veterans who are struggling with trauma-related issues including, but not limited to, PTSD, TBI, substance use, and other mental health issues, with a focus on those issues that are directly related to military service. The Veterans Court has two tracks, with the Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) serving high-risk/high-need clients and the Veterans Support Court (VSC) serving low-risk/high-need clients. The 18th Judicial District Recovery Court (RC) serves clients who are struggling with severe substance use disorders. The Wellness Court of the 18th Judicial District (WC) serves clients who are struggling with co-occurring severe and persistent mental health symptoms and severe substance use disorders. The Sobriety Court of the 18th Judicial District (SC) provides comprehensive, multi-disciplinary responses to high-risk, high-need Felony DUI offenders. Family Integrated Treatment (FIT) Court is a collaborative effort that offers families the support, services and treatment necessary to assist parents in establishing and maintaining sobriety while providing safety for their children. FIT Court strives to empower families to look beyond compliance and abstinence, encouraging them to make a commitment to a lifestyle of recovery. We also have a dedicated Truancy Court that has been helping keep students in the classroom for several years.

The judicial officers in the Eighteenth Judicial District carry heavy caseloads. In some court locations, alternative dispute resolution options such as mediation, settlement planning, and settlement conferences are offered to assist the public in resolving disputes.

Staff

The judges and magistrates are supported by approximately 161 trial court employees consisting of administrative staff, judicial assistants (both in the clerk's offices and the division), jury office personnel, legal research attorneys, and court reporters; to mention a few. The district employs an additional 105 staff in the probation department.

Probation

In FY 2024, the probation department conducted 953 adult and juvenile offender investigations and prepared pre-sentence, assessment, screening, drug screen, and other reports after those investigations. The department also did 1,711 alcohol evaluations. The department received 5,240 new cases for probation supervision, 705 of which were referred to private probation and terminated 3,243 from state probation with an additional 894 terminated from private probation. As of June 30, 2024, there were 8,894 active adult and juvenile cases being supervised in the district including those cases supervised by the private provider.

All courts are open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on regular business days. The Clerk's Offices in Arapahoe District Court and Littleton County Court are open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on regular business days. Most court proceedings are open to the public and visitors are welcome. For further information or to plan a court visit, please contact Jenni Turnidge, Court Executive, 7325 South Potomac Street, Centennial, Colorado 80112, telephone (303) 645-6771, or Chief Judge Michelle Amico, telephone (303) 645-6625.