County Court

Colorado's county courts serve the citizens of each of the state's 64 counties. Every county has a county court served by one or more judges. County judges handle cases involving serious public safety issues such as misdemeanor cases, felony advisements, setting bonds, and preliminary hearings. County judges also issue search warrants and protection orders in cases involving domestic violence, preside over traffic cases, civil actions involving no more than $15,000, and conduct jury trials. Appeals from the county court may be made to the district court.

Small claims courts are divisions of county court. Individuals are allowed to argue their own cases and to have speedy decisions on civil matters involving no more than $7,500. Court sessions are held during the day or evening to accommodate the public. There are no jury trials in small claims courts, and magistrates sometimes hear these cases rather than a judge. No plaintiff may file more than two claims per month or eighteen claims per year in small claims court.

In Fiscal Year 2005, Colorado county courts had 555,447 cases filed and were able to terminate 525,575 cases during that same period. During the past ten years, county court filings have increased 21.3 percent, rising from 457,754 to the current level of cases filed, with the greatest area of increase occurring in civil filings.

Specific information regarding each of the county courts is available at http://www.courts.state.co.us/district/counties.htm.