

## EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

FY2023

The Eighth Judicial District is comprised of Larimer and Jackson Counties with court facilities in Fort Collins, Loveland, and Walden. Larimer County is the sixth largest county in Colorado based upon its population estimate of 366,778 and the population of Jackson County is estimated at 1,302 (United States Census Bureau 2022). Fort Collins is the county seat and largest city in Larimer County with an estimated population in 2022 of 169,249 (City of Fort Collins). Other cities located in Larimer County include Loveland, Estes Park, Berthoud, Wellington, and Timnath.

Fort Collins is home to Colorado State University and richly deserves its reputation as the cultural capital of Northern Colorado. Livability.com named Fort Collins one of the, “Top 100 Best Places to Live 2023,” citing it’s college town vibes, craft beer offerings, outdoor options, and charming downtown (which inspired Disneyland’s Main Street USA). Fort Collins was ranked as number 2 ‘Best U.S. Cycling Town’ – (*USA Today*) and is just one of five towns in the country designated a Platinum Level Bike-Friendly Community (*League of American Bicyclists*). Beautiful Fort Collins is one of the greenest cities in the country. It has been an Arbor Day Foundation Tree City, USA Community for nearly 40 years and has been ranked in Value Penguin’s top ten most environmentally friendly cities. Important industries in the Fort Collins and northern Colorado area include many high-tech companies, clean energy, bioscience, and agri-tech business.

### **DISTRICT COURT**

During fiscal year 2023 (July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023) a total of 8,514 cases were filed in the Larimer County District Court and 40 cases were filed in the Jackson County District Court. A complete breakdown on the following pages set forth total filings for probate, mental health, adoption, juvenile and other cases in Larimer and Jackson Counties.

There are nine district judges hearing a mixed or diversified docket consisting of civil, criminal, domestic, probate, juvenile and mental health cases. These nine district judges preside over both Jackson and Larimer Counties. There are six magistrates who are assigned dockets by the Chief Judge consisting of civil, criminal, domestic and juvenile cases in Larimer County. Larimer County has implemented innovative alternative programs such as a very successful drug court program for both juveniles and adults, an accredited DUI Recovery Court, Wellness Court, and Family Treatment Court. In 2021, the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District introduced a new competency docket, the first of its kind in the state of Colorado. In March 2023, the DUI Recovery Court became designated as an academy court by the National Center for DWI Courts, serving as a national model for DUI/DWI court programs and recognizing successful outcomes, adherence to best practices, and the collaboration of their teams and stakeholders. A Veterans Treatment Court is in planning with an anticipated start date in 2024/2025. Litigants are also encouraged to participate in Alternative Dispute Resolution and Early Neutral Assessment programs. Settlement conferences are advocated by the district.

| NAME                        | DATE BEGAN | TELEPHONE NUMBER |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------------|
| Chief Judge Susan J. Blanco | 01/10/17   | (970) 494-3620   |
| Judge C. Michelle Brinegar  | 12/23/13   | (970) 494-3700   |
| Judge Sarah Cure            | 01/12/21   | (970) 494-3820   |
| Judge Laurie K. Dean        | 01/01/20   | (970) 494-3720   |
| Judge Joseph D. Findley     | 10/11/21   | (970) 494-3601   |
| Judge Stephen J. Jouard     | 01/10/17   | (970) 494-3800   |
| Judge Gregory M. Lammons    | 07/01/08   | (970) 494-3810   |
| Judge Daniel M. McDonald    | 01/18/20   | (970) 494-3710   |

|                                    |          |                |
|------------------------------------|----------|----------------|
| Judge Juan G. Villaseñor           | 10/10/18 | (970) 494-3610 |
| Magistrate Linda K. Connors        | 06/01/13 | (970) 494-3640 |
| Magistrate Dina M. Christiansen    | 09/16/19 | (970) 494-3570 |
| Magistrate Kandace B. Majoros      | 07/02/18 | (970) 494-3540 |
| Magistrate Cara M. Boxberger       | 10/09/20 | (970) 494-3560 |
| Magistrate Patrick Esser           | 07/01/21 | (970) 494-3643 |
| Magistrate Jeffrey Schwartz (0.90) | 01/03/23 | (970) 494-3550 |

## COUNTY COURT

18,584 county court cases were filed in Larimer County during fiscal year 2023. A complete breakdown of case filings is set forth on the following pages for Larimer and Jackson Counties. In Larimer County, there are five county judges (three located in the Larimer County Justice Center in Fort Collins and two in Loveland at the Loveland Police and Courts Building) and two magistrates hearing county court cases. There is a one-fifth time county judge who heard 125 cases filed in the county court of Jackson County during fiscal year 2023. A first appearance center has been in operation in Larimer County since fiscal year 2001 and continues to help litigants reach a quick and efficient disposition of routine traffic, traffic infractions, and misdemeanor cases.

| NAME                               | DATE BEGAN | TELEPHONE NUMBER |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------------|
| <u>Larimer County Court</u>        |            |                  |
| Presiding Judge Thomas L. Lynch    | 12/01/10   | (970) 494-3630   |
| Judge Kraig S. Ecton               | 01/24/14   | (970) 622-2110   |
| Judge Katharine “Jenny” Ellison    | 02/27/20   | (970) 494-3731   |
| Judge Joshua B. Lehman             | 05/09/14   | (970) 494-3830   |
| Judge Matthew Zehe                 | 11/14/22   | (970) 622-2121   |
| Magistrate Cara M. Boxberger       | 10/09/20   | (970) 494-3560   |
| Magistrate Jeffrey Schwartz (0.90) | 01/03/23   | (970) 494-3550   |
| <u>Jackson County Court</u>        |            |                  |
| Judge Chelsea W. Ryan (0.20)       | 09/16/19   | (970) 723-4363   |
| <u>Bond Hearing Office 3</u>       |            |                  |
| Judge Chelsea W. Ryan (0.35)       |            |                  |
| Judge Jim McDonald (0.35)          |            |                  |
| Magistrate Jeffrey Schwartz (0.10) |            |                  |

## GENERAL INFORMATION FY23

There are 181.8 full time equivalent (78.8 trial court/103 probation) non-judicial officer support staff positions in the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District that include court judicial assistants, jury commissioner, law clerks, court reporters, probate registrar, protective proceedings monitor, self-represented litigant coordinators, problem solving court coordinators, family court facilitators, probation officers, administration, and supervisors.

The trial court personal services and operating budget for fiscal year 2023 (July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023) is approximately \$10,091,211.00. Probation Personal services and operating for the same is approximately \$ 8,140,373.00.

The Larimer County Justice Center located in Old Town Fort Collins at 201 Laporte Avenue and opened in September 2000, while the Loveland Police and Courts Building is located at 810 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street and opened in Loveland in February 2002 with two county courtrooms. These buildings were constructed to meet the growing needs of the courts and communities in Larimer County. In 2013, Larimer County provided funds for additional remodeling in the Larimer County

Justice Center for the construction of a Court Resource Center which began operation on December 4, 2013. The Court Resource Center is staffed by 1.5 Self-Represented Litigant Coordinator, who provides procedural assistance to self-represented litigants. The Court Resource Center is designed to help people better understand court processes and obtain forms needed in non-criminal cases, such as divorce and family matters, child support, money claims, evictions, temporary or permanent restraining orders, probate estates, guardianships, or small claims disputes. The Court Resource Center also provides computer access for research and preparation of documents. In addition to assisting litigants in the Larimer County Justice Center, assistance is available at the Loveland Police and Courts Building by appointment. The Self-Represented Litigants Coordinator assists residents of Larimer and Jackson Counties via telephone and email at [08CourtResourceCenter@judicial.state.co.us](mailto:08CourtResourceCenter@judicial.state.co.us). In September 2019, the Probation Department relocated from the Larimer County Justice Center to 1600 Prospect Parkway to accommodate the addition of a new courtroom.

Larimer County held its third Warrant Clearance Event in October 2023, allowing defendants to take care of an active warrant without getting arrested for eligible offenses. Due to the success of these events, future Warrant Clearance Events will be scheduled.

The Jackson County Courthouse is located at 396 Lafever Street in Walden and is an historic landmark in Jackson County.

The Chief Judge is The Honorable Susan J. Blanco (970) 494-3620. The Court Executive is Kerry Hong (970) 494-3591 and the Chief Probation Officer is Greg Otte (970) 622-2190. The Deputy Court Executive is vacant pending recruitment and the Deputy Chief Probation Officer is Nicole Feltz (970) 530-5150. The Clerk of Court in Larimer County is Kathleen Madden (970) 494-3501, and the Clerk of Court in Jackson County is Christina Utley (970) 723-4363. Court proceedings are open to the public and the 8th Judicial District welcomes tours of the Larimer County Justice Center upon request. Please contact the court executive at the above telephone number or [08CourtExecutiveAdmin@judicial.state.co.us](mailto:08CourtExecutiveAdmin@judicial.state.co.us) for further information.

## **PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

For FY23, the 8th District Probation Department was staffed by 75 full time equivalent probation officers at three different locations, two in Fort Collins and one in Loveland. In addition to the probation officers, there were 12 probation supervisors, 13 support services staff, a Probation Manager, a Deputy Chief Probation Officer, and the Chief Probation Officer.

In FY23, the department completed 1,261 Presentence Investigation Reports and 1,128 Alcohol Evaluations; and processed 2,885 new adult cases and 133 new juvenile cases (including adult, juvenile intensive programs, and private probation).

At the end of the fiscal year, there were 4,544 adults and 144 juveniles under probation supervision, either through the state probation department or our contracted private provider. FY23 successful terminations rates were: 65% (1,214) for regularly supervised adults, 27% (41) for Adult Intensive Supervision cases, which includes CCIP, LSIP, SOISP. Due to the small numbers, intensive program success rates may fluctuate considerably. Additionally, the success rates were: 61% (48) for regularly supervised juveniles.

Additionally, there were 849 active Victim notification cases. 1,169 initial notifications given, 289 notifications returned with 38% of victims requesting notifications.

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
**DISTRICT COURT**  
FISCAL YEAR CASE FILINGS-July 1 through June 30

| Fiscal Year | DR   | CV   | PR  | JV   | MH  | CR   | total | % change |
|-------------|------|------|-----|------|-----|------|-------|----------|
| 2002        | 1705 | 1461 | 571 | 1824 | 168 | 1927 | 7656  |          |
| 2003        | 1707 | 1750 | 542 | 1852 | 150 | 2395 | 8396  | 9.67%    |
| 2004        | 1579 | 2104 | 603 | 1841 | 242 | 2418 | 8787  | 4.66%    |
| 2005        | 1581 | 2977 | 573 | 1776 | 301 | 2426 | 9634  | 9.64%    |
| 2006        | 1664 | 2533 | 509 | 2093 | 303 | 2189 | 9291  | -3.56%   |
| 2007        | 1777 | 2773 | 487 | 1930 | 319 | 1944 | 9230  | -0.66%   |
| 2008        | 1732 | 2740 | 555 | 2373 | 325 | 1939 | 9664  | 4.70%    |
| 2009        | 1709 | 2756 | 576 | 2316 | 316 | 1902 | 9575  | -0.92%   |
| 2010        | 1885 | 4028 | 618 | 2081 | 322 | 1789 | 10723 | 11.99%   |
| 2011        | 1900 | 3998 | 713 | 1904 | 426 | 1862 | 10803 | 0.75%    |
| 2012        | 1890 | 5893 | 701 | 1720 | 409 | 1895 | 12508 | 15.78%   |
| 2013        | 1800 | 4259 | 810 | 1603 | 410 | 2005 | 10887 | -12.96%  |
| 2014        | 1839 | 3672 | 821 | 1578 | 396 | 1895 | 10201 | -6.30%   |
| 2015        | 1788 | 4006 | 818 | 1672 | 415 | 1992 | 10691 | 4.80%    |
| 2016        | 1875 | 3695 | 858 | 1472 | 401 | 2521 | 10822 | 1.23%    |
| 2017        | 1848 | 3242 | 888 | 1250 | 448 | 3120 | 10796 | -0.24%   |
| 2018        | 1831 | 3823 | 919 | 1356 | 481 | 3295 | 11705 | 8.42%    |
| 2019        | 1827 | 3549 | 865 | 1153 | 513 | 3350 | 11257 | -3.83%   |
| 2020        | 1662 | 4141 | 829 | 1068 | 450 | 3155 | 11305 | 0.43%    |
| 2021        | 1764 | 3401 | 916 | 636  | 445 | 2501 | 9663  | -14.52%  |
| 2022        | 1604 | 3472 | 975 | 850  | 517 | 2181 | 9599  | -0.01%   |
| 2023        | 1727 | 2214 | 967 | 809  | 520 | 2317 | 8554  | -10.89%  |

The percentage differences between FY22 and FY23 filings are as follows:

FY23 compared to FY22

|                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| Domestic Relations | 7.67%   |
| Civil              | -36.23% |
| Probate            | -0.82%  |
| Juvenile           | -4.82%  |
| Mental Health      | 0.58%   |
| Criminal           | 6.24%   |

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
**COUNTY COURT-LARIMER/JACKSON**  
 FISCAL YEAR CASE FILINGS-July 1 through June 30

| Fiscal Year | C     | S    | T     | R    | M    | total | % change |
|-------------|-------|------|-------|------|------|-------|----------|
| 2002        | 7730  | 1056 | 7885  | 3547 | 6305 | 26523 |          |
| 2003        | 8675  | 1007 | 9007  | 4157 | 6492 | 29338 | 10.61%   |
| 2004        | 8813  | 879  | 9430  | 3883 | 6533 | 29538 | 0.68%    |
| 2005        | 9483  | 799  | 10478 | 5002 | 6073 | 31835 | 7.78%    |
| 2006        | 9754  | 796  | 11185 | 5116 | 6576 | 33427 | 5.00%    |
| 2007        | 9752  | 800  | 9272  | 4984 | 5874 | 30682 | -8.21%   |
| 2008        | 10085 | 795  | 9662  | 4971 | 6047 | 31560 | 2.86%    |
| 2009        | 10763 | 694  | 8649  | 5473 | 5896 | 31475 | -0.27%   |
| 2010        | 11725 | 626  | 7877  | 4034 | 5344 | 29606 | -5.94%   |
| 2011        | 10691 | 543  | 6363  | 3595 | 5757 | 26949 | -8.97%   |
| 2012        | 10404 | 518  | 6473  | 3524 | 6146 | 27065 | 0.43%    |
| 2013        | 9327  | 508  | 5585  | 4075 | 5904 | 25399 | -6.16%   |
| 2014        | 8995  | 455  | 6717  | 3193 | 5297 | 24657 | -2.92%   |
| 2015        | 8271  | 452  | 6497  | 3718 | 5452 | 24390 | -1.08%   |
| 2016        | 7347  | 488  | 6696  | 3021 | 5526 | 23078 | -5.38%   |
| 2017        | 7407  | 454  | 6557  | 2788 | 5718 | 22924 | -0.67%   |
| 2018        | 7787  | 447  | 6653  | 3044 | 5532 | 23463 | 2.35%    |
| 2019        | 7215  | 399  | 6689  | 3063 | 5028 | 22394 | -4.56%   |
| 2020        | 6463  | 350  | 6353  | 2897 | 5151 | 21214 | -5.27%   |
| 2021        | 5531  | 335  | 5620  | 2479 | 5018 | 18983 | -10.52%  |
| 2022        | 5763  | 313  | 5024  | 2193 | 5118 | 18538 | -2.88%   |
| 2023        | 6366  | 315  | 3839  | 2907 | 5147 | 18709 | 0.92%    |

The percentage differences between FY22 and FY23 filings are as follows:

FY23 compared to FY22

|              |         |
|--------------|---------|
| Civil        | 10.46%  |
| Small Claims | 0.64%   |
| Traffic      | -23.59% |
| Infractions  | 32.56%  |
| Misdemeanor  | 0.57%   |