

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT AND JUVENILE COURT OVERVIEW - 2019 DENVER DISTRICT COURT

Jurisdiction and Case Types

The Second Judicial District is unique in that it has a constitutionally separate District Court, Juvenile Court, Probate Court, and County Court serving the citizens of the State of Colorado. The Denver District Court presides over civil, felony criminal, and domestic relations cases. Additionally, given Denver is the State's capital, any lawsuit involving the constitutionality of a statute, an election, or a review of an administrative agency's action, is most often filed and heard in Denver District Court. The Denver District Court serves a population of over 634,000 residents in addition to many other people who work or frequent the City and County of Denver.

In July of 2010 the District Court Criminal and Drug Court courtrooms moved from the City and County Building to the newly constructed Lindsey-Flanigan Courthouse. This state-of-the-art facility is the home to District, Juvenile and County Court Judicial Officers who preside over felony criminal, misdemeanor and all Juvenile case matters. Civil and Domestic Relations courtrooms remain in the City and County Building.

In 2018, Denver District Court docketed 6,685 felony criminal cases, 4,658 domestic relations cases, and 5,201 civil lawsuits. In the last year, the judges presided over 200 jury trials and 37 court trials. In 2018, the Denver District Court summoned 130,382 citizens to jury service and the Denver Adult Probation Department supervised 6,202 people on probation.

Staff and Docket Rotations

There are twenty- three district court judges and five magistrates who hear specialized dockets. Eight judges preside over felony criminal cases, four judges hear domestic relations cases, and eleven judges preside over civil cases. Three magistrates preside over the adult drug court program and hear cases with criminal charges involving drugs. Two magistrates hear post-decree domestic relations cases and civil name change matters. About one-third of the judges change assignments annually with the usual rotation being eighteen months in domestic relations, two years in criminal, and three years in civil.

In addition to the judges and magistrates, there are approximately 150 fulltime employees who provide clerical support, legal research, accounting expertise, and administrative support.

Specialized Programming and Services

The Denver Adult Probation Department partnered with the Denver Drug Court and the Denver County Jail to establish a Medication Assisted Treatment program (MAT). This program allows opioid addicted clients to begin methadone treatment while in-custody and upon release the client is admitted directly into treatment. This collaborative MAT program is the first of its type in the state of Colorado and the Department is hopeful that the added structure and support will help break the cycle of addiction that so many are struggling with in the Denver metro area.

2

In November 2018, the Denver Adult Drug Court program reorganized in to four specialized Courts; the Adult Drug Court, RESTART (felony DUI court), Mental Health Court, and Veteran's Treatment Court. In total the programs serve over 435 clients on any given day, and successfully graduated 151 participants during 2018.

The Denver District Court is continuously striving to enhance the services provided to the public; to provide an efficient and effective case processing system and to minimize the difficulties individuals experience navigating the justice system. In a joint effort with Denver County Court and Denver Probate Court, an expanded and comprehensive Pro Se Resource Center was established and is available to public from 8am until 4pm in the City and County Building. In 2018, Denver District Court assisted a total of 25,208 litigants in the center; 10,790 by phone and 14,418 walk-ins requiring assistance. The Center also facilitated many ongoing clinics this year, including free consultations with attorneys from the Denver Bar Association and clinics during which a Spanish interpreter is provided along with a Center employee to assist with the completion of court forms. The Pro Se Center continues to reach out to the community to develop additional resources for our customers.

Visitors and school groups are always welcome to tour our court and observe court proceedings.

For further information concerning Denver District Court, contact:

Kristin Wood, District Administrator
Room 256 City and County Building
Denver Colorado 80202
720-865-8301

DENVER JUVENILE COURT

Jurisdiction and Case Types

The Denver Juvenile Court (DJC) is the only separate Juvenile Court in the State of Colorado in that it was constitutionally created, as was the separate independent Denver Probate Court. The Denver Juvenile Court has exclusive jurisdiction over all juvenile matters within the Denver County limits. Although Denver District and Juvenile Court are combined administratively, DJC has a dedicated Bench which exclusively hears matters within the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court. Case types include delinquency, dependency and neglect, child support and paternity, truancy, relinquishment, and adoption matters. Denver Juvenile Court was one of the first jurisdictions to implement the “one family, one Judge” model, allowing families with cross-system involvement to have all cases heard by the same Judicial Officer for the duration of their involvement, consolidating case knowledge and ensuring coordination of services across case types. In 2018, the Court docketed approximately 977 juvenile delinquency filings, 213 Dependency and Neglect filings, 398 truancy filings, 253 adoption and relinquishment filings and entered 228 adoption decrees. The judges presided over 63 court trials and 3 jury trials. The Denver Juvenile Probation Department supervised an average daily population of 500 juveniles.

Staff

The Honorable Judge D. Brett Woods serves as the Presiding Judicial Officer for Juvenile Court. The Juvenile Court Bench consists of two additional Judges, one full time Magistrate and one part time Magistrate. In addition, there is approximately 25 support staff positions that provide management, clerical support, legal research, and staffing for specialized programming.

Specialized Programming and Services

In addition to traditional case processing, Denver Juvenile Court operates various specialized dockets and works collaboratively alongside Denver partner agencies to develop innovative programming;

Youth and Family Treatment Court (YFTC) – A problem solving court serving high risk and high need Probation involved youth, identified as needing support and treatment services to address substance abuse concerns.

REST (Restore, Educate, Support and Treat) – specialized program serving high risk and high need youth, with a primary focus on connection to treatment and resources serving youth identified as victims of human trafficking, or identified to be at high risk for victimization.

ICWA Court – a specialized docket focusing on connection to appropriate services and emphasis on federal case guidelines specific to families served under the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).

DANSR (Dependency and Neglect System Reform) Pilot Program – Denver Juvenile Court is currently serving as a pilot site for the Colorado DANSR project; targeting system reform and improved outcomes for families affected by substance abuse, integrating research-based family drug court principles to traditional child welfare case processing.

4

Family Strong – an initiative created through a partnership between the Denver Department of Human Services (DDHS), the Denver Collaborative Partnership (DCP, Denver’s House Bill 04-1451 program), Denver Juvenile Probation (DJP), the Denver Senate Bill 91-94 team (SB94), the Juvenile Services Center (JSC) and District Attorney (DA) Diversion; with financial and technical support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The Family Strong project will focus on preventing of out of home placement for Denver Juvenile Court youth, through provision of assessment driven services to youth and families.

Creative Options – Stakeholder workgroup targeting development and improvement of responses for truancy court involved youth, including utilization of incentive/sanction based interventions aimed at increasing school attendance and decreasing risk for further system involvement.

Court proceedings, with some exceptions, are open to student groups and the public.

For further information concerning Denver Juvenile Court contact:

Melinda Taylor, Clerk of Court

Lindsey-Flanigan Courthouse

520 W. Colfax Room 125

Denver, CO 80204

720-337-0570