

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT OVERVIEW - 2021

DENVER DISTRICT COURT

Jurisdiction and Case Types

The Second Judicial District is unique in that it has a separate District Court, Juvenile Court, Probate Court, and County Court serving the citizens of the State of Colorado. The Denver District Court handles civil, criminal, and domestic relations cases. The Denver District Court serves a population of over 715,000 residents plus many other people who work in Denver. In addition, since 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 usually filed in Denver.

In the 2021 Term of Court, the Denver District Court continued to experience significant impact to its operations and related to the pandemic. Despite this, District Court still docketed over 4,531 felony criminal cases, 4,022 domestic relations cases, and 4,550 civil matters. In the last year, District Court Judges presided over 171 jury trials and 55 court trials. At the close of the year, the Denver Adult Probation Department had 4,416 active Probation cases on supervision.

Staff and Docket Rotations

There are twenty- seven District Court Judges serving in domestic relations, criminal and civil matters and four Magistrates who hear specialized dockets. Eleven Judges preside over felony criminal cases, five Judges and three Magistrates hear domestic relations cases, and eleven judges handle civil cases. One half-time Magistrate and one Judicial Officer preside over the Problem Solving Courts which include a Veteran's Treatment Court, RESTART (felony DUI Treatment Court), and the DIVERT drug court track. 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 160 full and part-time employees who provide clerical support, legal research, accounting expertise, and administrative support.

Specialized Programming and Services

In July of 2010 the District Court Criminal and Drug Court courtrooms moved into the Lindsey-Flanigan Courthouse. This state of the art facility handles Criminal and Juvenile cases in a safe and efficient manner. Civil and Domestic Relations courtrooms remain located in the Denver City and County Building.

In 2016, the Denver Adult Probation Department partnered with the Denver County Jail to establish a Medication Assisted Treatment program (MAT) which allows opioid addicted clients to begin methadone treatment while in-custody and upon release, the client is taken directly into appropriate treatment. MAT 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.

In March 2020, the Denver Adult Drug Court re-organized in response to House Bill 19-1263, which reclassified offense level for possession of certain controlled substances. Currently there are three separate Problem Solving Court (PSC) programs to include RESTART (a felony DUI Treatment Court), Veteran's Treatment Court, and the DIVERT Adult Drug Court.

Denver District Court is constantly striving to enhance the services provided to the public to provide an efficient and effective case processing system and ensure meaningful and equitable access to the Court for our community. Amidst the pandemic, this has included several new elements, with various Court proceedings being held virtually and customer facing services being conducted remotely or with COVID-19 safety precautions. In 2021, the Denver District Court Pro Se Resource Center assisted a total of 20,789 litigants; 8,562 by phone, 1,780 by email, and 10,447 in-person. This year the center also offered 13 clinics for those needing assistance with domestic relations matters.

Visitors and school groups are always welcome to observe court proceedings, held both in-person or virtually dependent upon changing COVID-19 related protocols.

For further information concerning Denver District Court, contact:

Jennifer Jantz, Court Executive
Room 256 City and County Building
Denver Colorado 80202
(303)606-2323