

**THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

**2017**

**LAS ANIMAS COUNTY**

**AND**

**HUERFANO COUNTY**

## **THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

The Third Judicial District encompasses two counties, Huerfano and Las Animas. Both county courts and district courts are maintained in Walsenburg in Huerfano County, and Trinidad in Las Animas County. Each county has a full time District Judge. Historically, both counties have part time County Judges, 80% in Las Animas County and 55% in Huerfano County. In 2017, Huerfano County Court Judgeship was reduced to 35% due to declining case filings. In Las Animas County, the County Judge has been certified as full time for the next four year Judicial term. Administratively, the District operates offices of the Combined Courts in both Trinidad and Walsenburg.

The Third Judicial District serves a population of approximately 20,000. Both principal cities in the district are located on Interstate Highway 25. We are the least populated judicial district in the state, although Huerfano and Las Animas counties are two of the largest counties among the 63 counties in Colorado.

The Judicial staff of the District is comprised as follows:

### **Las Animas County**

Leslie J. Gerbracht, District Judge

Date Appointed: 01-10-17 Term Expires: 01/2023

Bruce A. Billings, County Court Judge

Date Appointed: 03-03-03 Term Expires: 01/2018

### **Huerfano County**

Claude W. Appel, Chief Judge

Date Appointed: 01-08-85 Term Expires: 01/2019

John (Clay) McKisson, County Court Judge

Date Appointed: 1-10-17 Provisional: 01/2019

The case load for the district is as follows: (Last three years averaged)

<b>District Court</b>	1222
<b>County Court</b>	4024

The District Court in each county handles civil, criminal, juvenile, domestic, probate, and mental health cases.

The County Courts in each county handle all traffic, criminal, misdemeanors, civil cases involving less than \$15,000, and small claims.

District Judge Claude Appel serves as Chief Judge of the District.

The support staff for each court is as follows:

### LAS ANIMAS COUNTY

Robert Kreiman	District Administrator/Clerk of Court
Joanne Montero	Supervisor
Jackie Berry	Specialist
Kelsey Komaroski	Administrative Assistant/Jury Commissioner
Teresa Brown	.8 Court Judicial Assistant
Rebecca Butero	.8 Court Judicial Assistant
Stacy Garcia	Court Judicial Assistant
Brittany Casias	Court Judicial Assistant
Jazelle Felthager	1.0 Court Judicial Assistant
Christina Guzzo	Court Judicial Assistant
Sam Benson	.5 Family Court Facilitator /.5 SRLC
Sherri Hart	Collections Investigator
Kayla Lacy	Probation Officer
Byron Mitchell	Probation Officer
Kirsten Simons	Probation Officer
Pat Fletcher	Probation Officer
Jo Lynne Mangino	Supervisor
Vacant	.4 Support Staff
Joann Smith	Support Staff/UPS Case Manager
Beth Tomerlin	.5 Legal Research Atty/PPM

**Total Employees: 20**

**District Total: 33**

HUERFANO COUNTY

Lorraine A. Cisneros	Clerk Of Court
Esther D. Hibpshman	Specialist/Jury Commissioner
Marylee Richmond	.6 CJA
Dina Gamboa	Court Judicial Assistant
Kathleen Rodriguez	Court Judicial Assistant
Debbie Garcia	Court Reporter
Bob Major	.5 FCF/.3 CJA
C.J. Montoya	.5 SRLC/.5 Problem Solving Court Coordinator
Marty Malouff	Chief Probation Officer I
Patricia Schwindt	Probation Officer
Nick Millard	Probation Officer
Josephine Harriman	Probation Officer
Katherine Johnson	Collections investigator/Support Staff

**Total Employees: 13      District Total: 33**

A private prison facility opened in Huerfano County in November, 1997 and a State prison facility opened in early 2002 in Las Animas County. These new prisons have created new jobs and increased population in our District. However, the private prison in Walsenburg lost 700 inmates due to contract with Arizona expiring March of 2010 and has remained closed and unoccupied since. This has severely impacted employment availability in Huerfano County.

A significant portion of the district's population lives below the poverty level, and is poorly educated. Teen pregnancies and unwed mothers are typically above the median in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District.

As case filings decreases in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and statewide, the percentage of county court judgeships could decrease as well when we have an opening for county court Judge in either location.