

**THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

**2020**

**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, Chief Judge

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

John D. Mochel, County Court Judge

Date Appointed: 01-07-19 Term Expires: 01/2023

Dawn M. Mann, Magistrate

Date Appointed: 07-15-19 Term Expires: 07/2023

### **Huerfano County**

John (Clay) McKisson, District Judge

Date Appointed: 01-07-19 Term Expires: 01/2025

Dawn M. Mann, County Court Judge

Date Appointed: 1-07-19 Term Expires: 01/2023

Dawn M. Mann, Magistrate

Date Appointed: 07-15-19 Term Expires: 07/2023

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 \$25,000, and small claims.

District Judge Leslie Gerbracht serves as Chief Judge of the District.

The support staff for each court is as follows:

### LAS ANIMAS COUNTY

Robert Kreiman	District Administrator II
Joanne Montero	Clerk of Court III
Jacqueline Berry	Specialist
Kelsey Maes	Administrative Office Specialist II
Teressa Brown	Court Judicial Assistant
Tanya Falin	.6 Court Judicial Assistant
Stacy Garcia	Court Judicial Assistant
Brittany Casias	.75 Court Judicial Assistant / .25 Jury Commissioner
Lisa Lucero	Court Judicial Assistant
Christina Guzzo	Court Judicial Assistant
Jenifer Blan	.85 Court Judicial Assistant
Susanne van der Meer	.5 SRLC / .5 Protective Proceedings Monitor
Robert Major	.4 Family Court Facilitator
Katerina DeHerrera	Collections Investigator
Brandon Gollaher	Probation Officer
Katelyn Bueno	.75 Probation Officer / .25 Support Staff
Kirsten Simons	Probation Officer
Nick Millard	Probation Officer
Martin Malouff	Chief Probation Officer I
Jo Lynne Mangino	Supervisor

Monica Garcia  
Lisa Duran

.6 Support Staff  
Administrative Office Specialist II

**Total Employees: 22**

**District Total: 36**

HUERFANO COUNTY

Lorraine A. Cisneros	Clerk of Court III
Esther D. Hibpshman	.75 Specialist / .25 Jury Commissioner
Nikole Willhoite	.8 CJA
Sandra Vigil	Court Judicial Assistant
Renee Sandoval	Court Judicial Assistant
Debra Garcia	Court Reporter II (Real Time)
Bob Major	.4 Family Court Facilitator
C.J. Montoya	Problem Solving Court Coordinator
Josephine Harriman	Probation Officer
Dominique Gius	.5 Probation Officer / .25 Victims Services Office
Tashli Duran	.75 Probation Officer
Rhona Flanigan	.6 Support Staff / .25 UPS Case Manager
Chad Sandoval	Supervisor
Katherine Johnson	.5 Collections investigator/ .5 Self Represented Litigant Coordinator

**Total Employees: 14 District Total: 36**

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.