

## **SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OVERVIEW**

### **January 2022**

The Sixth Judicial District encompasses La Plata, Archuleta and San Juan Counties. The county seats for the three named counties are Durango, Pagosa Springs and Silverton.

The population in the Sixth Judicial District is growing. La Plata County now has a population in excess of 50,000. The population in Archuleta and San Juan Counties are significantly smaller at 12,000 and 600. According to the Colorado Judicial Branch Statistical Report for July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021, the totals for the Sixth Judicial District are;

|                        |       |                             |               |
|------------------------|-------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| District Court Filings | 2,322 | District Court Terminations | 2,257         |
| County Court Filings   | 4,771 | County Court Terminations   | 4,452         |
| Water Court Filings    | 76    | Water Court Terminations    | no record yet |
| Water Court Claims     | 207   |                             |               |

District Court filings decreased (4.5%) over 2020 filings and County Court filings decreased (7%) over 2020 filings. Water Court claims increased 25% over 2020 filings.

There are four district court judges, three county court judges, and two part-time magistrates that handle the case workload.

The four district court judges handle a mixed caseload of domestic relations, felony criminal matters, juvenile delinquent cases, water cases, all types of civil cases, probate, adoption and relinquishment cases, mental health and alcohol abuse commitments and dependency and neglect cases.

The county court judges handle traffic and misdemeanor cases, felony preliminary hearings, domestic abuse restraining orders and civil matters within their jurisdiction. The county judges in Archuleta and San Juan Counties are part-time.

The magistrates handle DV fast track, protection orders and miscellaneous court county and district court cases.

The Sixth Judicial District operates a domestic violence court and adult wellness court.

In addition to the judges and magistrates, there are approximately 70 support staff positions. These positions include clerks of court, jury commissioner, court reporters, administrative specialists, family court facilitator, court judicial assistants, legal research attorneys, collections staff, court reporters and probation department employees.

The District Judges are; Chief Judge Jeffrey R. Wilson, Suzanne F. Carlson, William L. Herringer and Todd P. Norvell. The County Judges are; Annie Woods (La Plata), Justin Fay (Archuleta) and Anthony D. Edwards (San Juan). The District Court Magistrates are; Sarah F. Law and Justin Fay.

For additional information, please contact Eric Hogue, Court Executive,  
La Plata County Courthouse, 1060 East Second Avenue, Durango, CO 81301.