

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
January 2018

The Eighth Judicial District is comprised of Larimer and Jackson Counties with court facilities in Fort Collins, Loveland and Walden. Larimer County is the sixth largest county in Colorado based upon its population estimate of 339,993 and the population of Jackson County is estimated at 1,357 (United States Census Bureau). Fort Collins is the county seat and largest city in Larimer County with an estimated population in 2016 of 164,207 (United States Census Bureau). Other cities located in Larimer County include Loveland, Estes Park, Berthoud, Wellington, and Timnath.

Fort Collins is home to Colorado State University and was ranked as the 1st Stable and Growing Housing Market, (*Realtor.com, Jun 2017*) and No. 4 Bloomberg Brain Index, (*Bloomberg, Oct 2017*). Important industries in the Fort Collins area include many high-tech companies; however, agriculture is still important in the northern Colorado area.

**DISTRICT COURT**

During fiscal year 2017 (July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017) a total of 10,740 cases were filed in the Larimer County District Court and 56 cases were filed in the Jackson County District Court. A complete breakdown on the following pages set forth total filings for probate, mental health, adoption, juvenile and other cases in Larimer and Jackson Counties.

There are eight district judges hearing a mixed or diversified docket consisting of civil, criminal, domestic, probate, juvenile and mental health cases. These eight district judges preside over both Jackson and Larimer Counties. There are also six district court magistrates who are assigned dockets by the Chief Judge consisting of domestic and juvenile cases in Larimer County. Larimer County has successfully implemented innovative alternative programs such as a very successful drug court program for both juveniles and adults, a DUI Recovery Court, Wellness Court, as well as a Family Treatment Court. In addition, litigants are encouraged to participate in Alternative Dispute Resolution and Early Neutral Assessment programs. Settlement conferences are advocated by the district.

NAME	DATE BEGAN	TELEPHONE NUMBER
Chief Judge Stephen E. Howard	01/11/11	(970) 494-3620
Judge Susan J. Blanco	01/10/17	(970) 494-3720
Judge C. Michelle Brinegar	12/23/13	(970) 494-3700
Judge Julie Kunce Field	01/11/11	(970) 494-3610
Judge Thomas R. French	01/06/11	(970) 494-3820
Judge Stephen J. Jouard	01/10/17	(970) 494-3600
Judge Gregory M. Lammons	07/01/08	(970) 494-3810
Judge Devin R. Odell	10/23/09	(970) 494-3800
Magistrate Linda K. Connors	06/01/13	(970) 494-3540
Magistrate John A. Jostad	08/26/04	(970) 494-3570
Magistrate Carolyn B. Pannell	10/01/11	(970) 494-3710
Magistrate Allen R. Schwartz (0.25)	10/02/06	(970) 494-3500
Magistrate Kent S. Spangler	08/01/08	(970) 494-3560
Magistrate Matthew R. Zehe (0.48)	10/30/06	(970) 494-3550

## COUNTY COURT

22,870 county court cases were filed in Larimer County during fiscal year 2017. A complete breakdown of case filings is set forth on the following pages for Larimer and Jackson Counties. In Larimer County, there are five county judges (three located in the Larimer County Justice Center in Fort Collins and two in Loveland at the Loveland Police and Courts Building) and one magistrate assigned 52% of judicial officer time hearing Larimer county court cases. There is a one-fifth time county judge who heard 134 cases filed in the county court of Jackson County during fiscal year 2017. A first appearance center has been in operation in Larimer County since fiscal year 2001 and continues to help litigants reach a quick and efficient disposition of routine traffic, traffic infractions, and misdemeanor cases.

NAME	DATE BEGAN	TELEPHONE NUMBER
<u>Larimer County Court</u>		
Presiding Judge Thomas L. Lynch	12/01/10	(970) 494-3830
Judge Mary Joan Berenato	05/01/13	(970) 494-3630
Judge Kraig S. Ecton	01/24/14	(970) 622-2120
Judge Joshua B. Lehman	05/09/14	(970) 494-3730
Judge Peter E. Schoon, Jr	02/27/03	(970) 622-2110
Magistrate Matthew R. Zehe (.52)	10/30/06	(970) 494-3550
<u>Jackson County Court</u>		
Judge Cindy L. Wilson (0.20)	02/10/11	(970) 723-4363

## GENERAL INFORMATION

There are 167.55 full time equivalent (77.50 trial court/90.3 probation) non-judicial officer support staff positions in the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District that include court judicial assistants, jury commissioner, law clerks, court reporters, probate registrar, probate monitor, self-represented litigant coordinators, problem solving court coordinators, family court facilitator, probation officers, secretaries and supervisors.

The combined trial court and probation department personal services and operating budget for fiscal year 2018 (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018) is approximately \$14,857,922.

The Larimer County Justice Center is located in Old Town Fort Collins at 201 Laporte Avenue and opened in September 2000, while the Loveland Police and Courts Building is located at 810 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street and opened in Loveland in February 2002 with two county courtrooms. These buildings were constructed to meet the growing needs of the courts and communities in Larimer County. In 2013, Larimer County provided funds for additional remodeling in the Larimer County Justice Center for the construction of a Self-Help Center which began operation on December 4, 2013. The Self-Help Center is staffed by 2 Self-Represented Litigant Coordinators who provide procedural assistance to self-represented litigants. The Self-Help Center is designed to help people better understand court processes and obtain forms needed in non-criminal cases, such as divorce and family matters, child support, money claims, evictions, temporary or permanent restraining orders, probate estates, guardianships, or small claims disputes. The Self-Help Center also provides computer access for research and preparation of documents. In addition to assisting litigants in the Larimer County Justice Center, assistance is available at the Loveland Police and Courts Building the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday of each month from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Self-Represented Litigants Coordinators also assist residents of Jackson County via telephone and email.

The Jackson County Courthouse is located at 396 Lafever Street in Walden and is a historic landmark in Jackson County.

The Chief Judge is The Honorable Stephen E. Howard (970) 494-3620. The District Administrator is Janelle J. Brunin (970) 494-3593 and the Chief Probation Officer is Chris Gastelle (970) 494-3908. The Clerk of Court in Larimer County is Suzanne Fredrickson (970) 494-3501, and the Clerk of Court in Jackson County is Salli Johnroe (970) 723-4363. Court proceedings are open to the public and the 8th Judicial District welcomes tours of the Larimer County Justice Center upon request. Please contact the district administrator at the above telephone number for further information.

## **PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

For FY17, the 8th District Probation Department was staffed by 66 full time equivalent probation officers at four different locations, two in Fort Collins and two in Loveland. In addition to the probation officers, there are 10 probation supervisors, 11.5 support services staff, a Deputy Chief Probation Officer, and the Chief Probation Officer.

In FY17, the department completed 1,588 Presentence Investigation Reports and 1,443 Alcohol Evaluations; and processed 3,770 new adult cases and 197 new juvenile cases (including adult and juvenile intensive programs).

At the end of the fiscal year, there were 5,633 adults and 193 juveniles under probation supervision, either through the state probation department or our contracted private provider. FY16 successful terminations rates were: 65% for regularly supervised adults (4% above the state average), 45% for Adult Intensive Supervision cases, 0% for the Female Offender Program (phased out), 57% for Sex Offender Intensive Supervision cases, 76% for regularly supervised juveniles (4% above the state average), and 22% for Juvenile Intensive Supervision cases. Six percent of regularly supervised adults were charged with a new offense while on probation, while eleven percent of regularly supervised juveniles who terminated during the same time period were charged with a new offense while on probation.

8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
**DISTRICT COURT**  
 FISCAL YEAR CASE FILINGS-July 1 through June 30  
 FY 2002 – 2017

Fiscal Year	DR	CV	PR	JV	MH	CR	total	% change
2002	1705	1461	571	1824	168	1927	7656	
2003	1707	1750	542	1852	150	2395	8396	9.67%
2004	1579	2104	603	1841	242	2418	8787	4.66%
2005	1581	2977	573	1776	301	2426	9634	9.64%
2006	1664	2533	509	2093	303	2189	9291	-3.56%
2007	1777	2773	487	1930	319	1944	9230	-0.66%
2008	1732	2740	555	2373	325	1939	9664	4.70%
2009	1709	2756	576	2316	316	1902	9575	-0.92%
2010	1885	4028	618	2081	322	1789	10723	11.99%
2011	1900	3998	713	1904	426	1862	10803	0.75%
2012	1890	5893	701	1720	409	1895	12508	15.78%
2013	1800	4259	810	1603	410	2005	10887	-12.96%
2014	1839	3672	821	1578	396	1895	10201	-6.30%
2015	1788	4006	818	1672	415	1992	10691	4.80%
2016	1875	3695	858	1472	401	2521	10822	1.23%
2017	1848	3242	888	1250	448	3120	10796	-0.24%

The percentage differences between FY16 and FY17 filings are as follows:

	<u>FY17 compared to FY16</u>
Domestic Relations	-1.44%
Civil	-12.26%
Probate	3.50%
Juvenile	-15.08%
Mental Health	11.72%
Criminal	23.76%

Projected FY18 case filings (based on filings 07/01/17 - 12/31/17)

Fiscal Year	DR	CV	PR	JV	MH	CR	total
2017 (6mos to 12/31/17)	835	1670	455	693	223	1632	5508
Projected 2018	1670	3340	910	1386	446	3264	11016

8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
**COUNTY COURT-LARIMER/JACKSON**  
 FISCAL YEAR CASE FILINGS-July 1 through June 30  
 FY 2002-2017

Fiscal Year	C	S	T	R	M	total	% change
2002	7730	1056	7885	3547	6305	26523	
2003	8675	1007	9007	4157	6492	29338	10.61%
2004	8813	879	9430	3883	6533	29538	0.68%
2005	9483	799	10478	5002	6073	31835	7.78%
2006	9754	796	11185	5116	6576	33427	5.00%
2007	9752	800	9272	4984	5874	30682	-8.21%
2008	10085	795	9662	4971	6047	31560	2.86%
2009	10763	694	8649	5473	5896	31475	-0.27%
2010	11725	626	7877	4034	5344	29606	-5.94%
2011	10691	543	6363	3595	5757	26949	-8.97%
2012	10404	518	6473	3524	6146	27065	0.43%
2013	9327	508	5585	4075	5904	25399	-6.16%
2014	8995	455	6717	3193	5297	24657	-2.92%
2015	8271	452	6497	3718	5452	24390	-1.08%
2016	7347	488	6696	3021	5526	23078	-5.38%
2017	7407	454	6557	2788	5718	22924	-0.67%

The percentage differences between FY16 and FY17 filings are as follows:

FY17 compared to FY16

Civil	0.82%
Small Claims	-6.97%
Traffic	-2.08%
Infractions	-7.71%
Misdemeanor	3.47%

Projected FY18 case filings (based on 07/01/17-12/31/17)

Fiscal Year	C	S	T	R	M	TOTAL
2018 (6mos to 12/31/17)	3823	228	3336	1417	2864	11668
Projected 2017	7646	456	6672	2834	5728	23336