

## EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

January 2017

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 333,577 and the population of Jackson County is estimated at 1,356 (United States Census Bureau). Fort Collins is the county seat and largest city in Larimer County with an estimated population in 2015 of 161,175 (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 4<sup>th</sup> Happiest City in America (24/7 Wall Street, April, 2016) and ranked Top 3 Digital City (Govtech.com November, 2015) 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 2016 (July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016) a total of 10,786 cases were filed in the Larimer County District Court and 36 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, as well as a Family Treatment Court. A newly formed Wellness Court was launched on January 15, 2015 with the collaboration of the Probation Department, District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, the Larimer County Criminal Justice Services Division, Touchstone Health Partners and city and county law enforcement agencies throughout Larimer County. 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 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   |
| Judge Thomas R. French              | 01/06/11   | (970) 494-3820   |
| Judge Julie Kunce Field             | 01/11/11   | (970) 494-3610   |
| Judge C. Michelle Brinegar          | 12/23/13   | (970) 494-3700   |
| Magistrate Linda K. Connors         | 06/01/13   | (970) 494-3540   |
| Magistrate John A. Jostad           | 08/26/04   | (970) 494-3710   |
| Magistrate Carolyn B. Pannell       | 10/01/11   | (970) 494-3560   |
| Magistrate Allen R. Schwartz (0.25) | 10/02/06   | (970) 494-3500   |
| Magistrate Kent S. Spangler         | 08/01/08   | (970) 494-3570   |

## COUNTY COURT

22,949 county court cases were filed in Larimer County during fiscal year 2016. 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 30% of judicial officer time hearing Larimer county court cases. There is a one-fifth time county judge who heard 129 cases filed in the county court of Jackson County during fiscal year 2016. 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 Peter E. Schoon, Jr | 02/27/03   | (970) 622-2120   |
| Judge Thomas L. Lynch               | 12/01/10   | (970) 622-2120   |
| Judge Mary Joan Berenato            | 05/01/13   | (970) 494-3830   |
| Judge Kraig S. Ecton                | 01/24/14   | (970) 494-3630   |
| Judge Joshua B. Lehman              | 05/09/14   | (970) 494-3730   |
| Magistrate Matthew R. Zehe (.30)    | 10/30/06   | (970) 494-3550   |
| <u>Jackson County Court</u>         |            |                  |
| Judge Cindy L. Wilson (0.20)        | 02/10/11   | (970) 723-4363   |

There are 167.55 full time equivalent (77.25 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 2017 (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017) is approximately \$14,327,021.

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 Sherlyn Sampson (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 FY16, 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 FY16, the department completed 1,369 Presentence Investigation Reports and 1,662 Alcohol Evaluations; and processed 3,460 new adult cases and 271 new juvenile cases (including adult and juvenile intensive programs).

At the end of the fiscal year, there were 5,299 adults and 269 juveniles under probation supervision, either through the state probation department or our contracted private provider. FY16 successful terminations rates were: 68% for regularly supervised adults (5% above the state average), 67% for Adult Intensive Supervision cases, 0% for the Female Offender Program (phased out), 53% for Sex Offender Intensive Supervision cases, 73% for regularly supervised juveniles (2% above the state average), and 41% 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 – 2016

| 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%    |

The percentage differences between FY15 and FY16 filings are as follows:

FY16 compared to FY15

|                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| Domestic Relations | 4.87%   |
| Civil              | -7.76%  |
| Probate            | 4.89%   |
| Juvenile           | -11.96% |
| Mental Health      | -3.37%  |
| Criminal           | 26.56%  |

Projected FY17 case filings (based on filings 07/01/16 - 12/31/16)

| Fiscal Year                | DR   | CV   | PR  | JV   | MH  | CR   | total |
|----------------------------|------|------|-----|------|-----|------|-------|
| 2017<br>(6mos to 12/31/16) | 896  | 1402 | 398 | 590  | 225 | 1530 | 5041  |
| Projected 2017             | 1792 | 2804 | 796 | 1180 | 450 | 3060 | 10082 |

8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
**COUNTY COURT-LARIMER/JACKSON**  
 FISCAL YEAR CASE FILINGS-July 1 through June 30  
 FY 2002-2016

| 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%   |

The percentage differences between FY15 and FY16 filings are as follows:

FY16 compared to FY15

|              |         |
|--------------|---------|
| Civil        | -11.17% |
| Small Claims | 7.96%   |
| Traffic      | 3.06%   |
| Infractions  | -18.75% |
| Misdemeanor  | 1.36%   |

Projected FY17 case filings (based on 07/01/16-12/31/16)

| Fiscal Year                   | C    | S   | T    | R    | M    | TOTAL |
|-------------------------------|------|-----|------|------|------|-------|
| 2017<br>(6mos to<br>12/31/16) | 3501 | 234 | 3104 | 1379 | 2972 | 11190 |
| Projected<br>2017             | 7002 | 468 | 6208 | 2758 | 5944 | 22380 |