

NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OVERVIEW – January 2017

The Ninth Judicial District includes the counties of Garfield, Pitkin and Rio Blanco and the towns of Glenwood Springs, Aspen, Meeker, Carbondale, New Castle, Silt, Rifle and Rangely. The district is diverse, including agriculture, natural resource development, recreation and commercial interests. The Ninth Judicial District serves a population of approximately 78,875 with 56,298 people residing in Garfield County, 16,043 in Pitkin County and 6,534 in Rio Blanco according to the US Census Bureau estimates.

There are five district judges in the district. Currently, Jim Boyd, Chief Judge, Denise Lynch, John Neiley, and Anne Norrdin have their offices in Glenwood Springs and Christopher Seldin sits in Aspen. Judge Boyd, Judge Lynch, and Judge Neiley share the criminal cases in Garfield County and Judge Seldin handles the criminal and juvenile cases in Pitkin County. All five district judges handle civil and domestic cases in each of the three counties. Judge Norrdin is currently assigned to Rio Blanco County for the criminal and juvenile dockets. Judge Metzger, Garfield County Court Judge, is assigned the juvenile delinquency docket in Garfield. Judge Pototsky, Garfield Associate County Court Judge in the Associate County Court in Rifle, is also assigned some district court matters. There were 3165 district court cases and 7897 county court cases filed in 2016.

Judge Boyd is the Water Judge for Water Division 5 which includes the Colorado River Drainage. There were 199 filings and 858 structures in 2015. Judge Seldin is the alternate Water Judge. Susan Ryan is the Magistrate/Referee. 75% of the position is assigned to water court matters and 25% to district court matters, including preliminary felony proceedings, temporary domestic relations matters and dependency and neglect proceedings.

There are two part-time county court judges and two full-time county judges in the district. Garfield and Rio Blanco counties have a division of the county court in the county seats of Glenwood Springs and Meeker and Associate County Courts in Rifle and Rangely. In Rio Blanco, Judge Noble is the County Court Judge in Meeker and in Rangely. Judge Erin Fernandez-Ely is the County Judge in Aspen. Judge Pototsky sits in Rifle and Judge Metzger sits in Glenwood Springs. Judge Metzger and Judge Pototsky have been approved to serve full-time pursuant to statute. County Court judges handle traffic, misdemeanor, small claims and civil matters under \$15,000.00.

All of the courts in this district are staffed on the “rural staffing model”. Each district judge has an assigned courtroom clerk and shares the services of one court reporter. Many proceedings are digitally recorded. Staff is assigned to Combined Clerk’s offices and Associate Court offices under the supervision of the respective Clerks of Court, the District Administrator and the Chief Judge. Currently, there are 34 case processing employees, one court reporter, one Legal Research Attorney, two part-time Family Court Facilitators, one part-time Protective Proceedings Monitor, one Full-time Managing Interpreter, and one Full-time Self Represented Litigant Coordinator. Probation offices are staffed in each location except Rangely.

William Sightler is the Chief Probation Officer for the 9th Judicial District. There are 20 total probation employees (1 CPO, 2 supervisors, 13 probation officers, 1 Administrative Specialist, and 3 support staff). We have 2.2 collection investigators assigned to the district. Adult Drug Courts are established and located in Garfield and Pitkin counties, and we have added a Problem Solving Court Coordinator to the specialty courts in the district.

Lynn Reed serves as District Administrator. She maintains an office in Glenwood Springs and is available throughout the district as circumstances require. For further information, please contact Lynn at 109 8th Street, Ste. 300, Glenwood Springs, CO, 81601, or by phone at 970-928-3080 or by email, Lynn.reed@judicial.state.co.us. Most court proceedings are open to the public and you are welcome to visit the courts. Dockets can be viewed on our web site.