

TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY

January 2016

The Tenth Judicial District encompasses all of Pueblo County. This includes Pueblo, Pueblo West, Colorado City, Rye, Beulah, Avondale and Boone.

The District serves a population in excess of 160,000 people. In Fiscal Year 2016 there were 8895 new filings in District Court (criminal, civil, probate, juvenile, domestic and mental health) and 15,392 (misdemeanors, traffic, civil, small claims and traffic infractions) in County Court.

The Tenth Judicial District bench is comprised of seven district court judges, three county court judges, and three magistrates handling primarily district court matters. Pueblo District Court continues specialized case assignments. Four judges handle 100% of criminal cases. Most judges have mixed dockets handling a minimum of two case types. *Pro se* domestic matters are heard by two magistrates. Three divisions specialize in Juvenile Delinquency, Truancy, and Dependency and Neglect cases. The Truancy cases are, in many senses, a specialized court with a greater number of court appearances than other case types. The Tenth Judicial District also acts as Division Two Water Court, accepting 109 new filings and 334 claims in 2016. There are two problem solving courts in the Tenth Judicial District that work in concert with the Tenth Judicial District Probation Office. The Behavioral Health problem solving court has been in place since 2013 and the Veteran's problem solving court was added in February of 2015.

The court has been operational in the new Dennis Maes Pueblo Judicial Building located at 501 N. Elizabeth since August 2014, housing both the trial courts and probation services offices. Other accommodations that allow better service to the public are the First Appearance Center, a dedicated Jury Assembly room and a Self Help Center. The majority of traffic and misdemeanor cases filed in 2016 were initiated through the streamlined disposition process in the First Appearance Center. The Jury Assembly room was utilized by over 5,370 citizens appearing to perform the critical role of jurors. The Self Help Center is a resource center for *pro se* litigants to obtain easy to understand forms and access tutorials. The Legal Resource Day in October 2016 was coordinated by the Self Help Center staff. It offered public information in the subject areas of estate planning, immigration, evictions, starting your own divorce/custody case, modifying custody/parenting time orders, options for grandparents/family caregivers, sealing, and modifying child support.

A limited number of appointments were available for the public to speak with a private attorney free of charge.

Two County Court Judges handle traffic and misdemeanor cases. Civil cases under the jurisdictional limit of \$15,000 and civil protection order cases are heard by a third County Court Judge. There were 589 DUI/DWAI's filed in the County Court along with 845 domestic violence cases. 511 Civil Protection Orders were issued in Fiscal Year 2016 with 295 being domestic abuse related.

In addition to ten Judges, the Tenth Judicial District has three magistrates (one full-time and two part-time). The Magistrates handle traffic infraction final hearings, small claims, a large volume of *pro se* domestic cases, Rule 120 Foreclosures, juvenile adoptions, relinquishments, support and truancy.

The Tenth Judicial District is proud to service Pueblo County and continues to strive to respond to changing societal concerns. A public access and fairness survey was conducted in 2015 to help identify areas of improvement. Processes and procedures are evaluated frequently to meet the needs of the public. The district maintains mandatory e-filing in all probate, water, County Court money and FED matters along with District Court civil, domestic and criminal cases and continues to search for efficiencies without significant reduction in services. For the eighth year in a row the Tenth Judicial District was one of the National Adoption Day event sites serving to finalize the adoptions of 7 Pueblo County foster children into permanent families.

For further information, please contact the District Administrator, Dennis Maes Pueblo Judicial Building, 501 N. Elizabeth, Pueblo, Colorado 81003, telephone number (719) 404-8700. Most court proceedings are open to the general public and you are welcome to visit the courts. The Administrator can assist you in planning a court visit.