

**12TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
**January 2017**

The 12th Judicial District of the State of Colorado encompasses the six counties of the San Luis Valley: Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache. Considered a model judicial district, it serves an estimated population of 50,000 people.

The district court is Colorado's trial court of general jurisdiction. It has original jurisdiction in felony criminal (39%); civil claims in any amount (20%); domestic relations (15%); juvenile (13%); mental health (2%); and probate (11%) cases. It has appellate jurisdiction in connection with appeals from county court.

Water court, a specialized division of district court, is located at Alamosa. Over 6,000 cases have been filed in Water Division 3 (Rio Grande Basin) since its creation in 1969. In FY16 there were 39 filings and 99 claims.

The county court is a trial court of limited jurisdiction and hears matters as follows: civil up to \$15,000 (15%); felony complaints (12%); misdemeanors (14%); infractions (28%); small claims (1%); and traffic (30%). County court judges primarily handle the caseload of traffic and traffic infraction matters, including the 269 DUI filings in the San Luis Valley during FY16.

The four district judges in the San Luis Valley serve full-time. The county judges serve part-time based on the size of their case load. The percentage served is as follows: Alamosa (100%); Conejos (25%); Costilla (25%); Mineral (20%); Rio Grande (45%); and Saguache (20%).

New filings in District Court average between 2,600 and 2,700 cases annually. Most recent annual filings in the county courts are as follows: Alamosa (3,000); Conejos (904); Costilla (965); Mineral (415) Rio Grande (1,467); and Saguache (818).

In addition to the judges, there are 65 full or part-time staff positions in the 12th Judicial District. These positions include district administrator, water referee, magistrates, clerks of court, judicial assistants, court reporters, bailiffs, family court facilitator, self-represented litigant coordinator, interpreters, collections, and probation department employees.

For further information, please contact the District Administrator, Alamosa County Courthouse, Alamosa, Colorado 81101, telephone number (719) 589-7605. Court proceedings are open to the public, and you are welcome to visit the courts.

**DISTRICT COURT**

<b>JUDGE</b>	<b>DATE SWORN IN</b>
Pattie P. Swift	2/28/2003
Martin A. Gonzales	8/07/2007
Michael A. Gonzales	10/28/2010
Patrick H. Hayes, Jr.	7/01/2015

**COUNTY COURT**

<b>JUDGE</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>DATE SWORN IN</b>
Daniel A. Walzl	Alamosa	12/9/2011
Kimberly L. Wood	Costilla	2/28/2003
Susan I. Broyles	Conejos	11/1/2013
Ruth M. Acheson	Mineral	1/8/2013
Barbara A. Zollars	Rio Grande	9/18/2015
Amanda K. Pearson	Saguache	3/17/1998