

## FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OVERVIEW

January 1, 2017

The Fifteenth Judicial District is comprised of the counties of Baca, Cheyenne, Kiowa and Prowers with an estimated combined population of 19,600 (2010 U.S. Census estimates). The economy in this area is deeply rooted in agriculture, as well as natural resources such as oil and wind.

The district is served by two district judges who have their primary offices in Prowers County. Both district judges have a regular travel schedule to the other counties in the district. In addition to the regular travel schedule, the judges travel to the outlying counties on an “as needed” basis. Each county has a part-time county judge who handles the county court caseload for that respective county. The judicial officers are supported by 16 trial court employees consisting of administrative staff, clerks of court, judicial assistants, court reporters, family court facilitator, protective proceedings monitor and self-represented litigant coordinator. The district employs an additional 10 employees in the probation department.

The case filings for the Fifteenth Judicial Districts courts for fiscal year 2016 are as follows:

	County Court	District Court
Baca County	369	163
Cheyenne County	443	67
Kiowa County	554	58
Prowers County	2417	636
Total Filings	3783	924

These filings represent a 3.02% decrease in county court cases from the 2015 statistics compared to a state-wide decrease of 7.37% and a 5.13% decrease in district court filings compared to the state-wide decrease of 3.13%.

FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
JUDICIAL OFFICERS

	<u>FIRST SWORN IN</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
<u>DISTRICT COURT JUDGES</u>		
Stanley A. Brinkley, Chief Judge	10/15/01	1/10/23
Michael J. Davidson	10/3/15	1/8/19
<u>COUNTY COURT JUDGES</u>		
Debra M. Gunkel, Baca County, 20% FTE	1/11/11	1/8/19
Gerald D. Keefe, Cheyenne County, 20% FTE	1/3/12	1/8/19
Gary W. Davis, Kiowa County, 20% FTE	5/8/92	1/8/19
Curtis "Lane" Porter, Prowers County, 55% FTE	7/1/16	1/8/19

Please address any questions related to the trial courts to Barbara McDaniel, District Administrator, at 719-336-7424 or [barbara.mcdaniel@judicial.state.co.us](mailto:barbara.mcdaniel@judicial.state.co.us). Questions regarding probation may be directed to Byron Hall, Chief Probation Officer, at 719-336-2765 or [byron.hall@judicial.state.co.us](mailto:byron.hall@judicial.state.co.us).