

SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY
January 2020

The Sixteenth Judicial District encompasses all of Bent, Crowley and Otero counties with an estimated combined population of 30,074. (Bent – 5,882; Crowley – 5,858; and Otero – 18,432 according to 2018 U.S. Census Quick Facts). The county seats are Las Animas, Ordway and La Junta, respectively.

In fiscal year 2019 there were 3,734 county court cases and 1,577 district court cases filed in our judicial district. The caseload is the responsibility of two district court judges, a magistrate and three part-time county court judges. The district court judges are responsible for handling felony criminal matters, juvenile cases (dependency and neglect and delinquency), probate proceedings, mental health matters, and civil filings that exceed the county court jurisdictional amount. The magistrate is responsible for handling domestic relation cases, child support and some dependency and neglect cases. The county court judges are responsible for traffic, misdemeanor, small claims, and civil cases of \$25,000 or less.

In fiscal year 2019 the Probation Department supervised 310 new clients. Of the 310 clients, 58% (181) were District Court cases and 38% (118) were County Court cases. The probation department employs twenty employees as Probation Officers, Support Staff and Administration. The main office for the probation department is in La Junta but they also staff satellite offices in Las Animas, Ordway and Rocky Ford.

In addition to the district and county judges, there are nineteen trial court support staff positions. These positions include Clerks of Court, Court Judicial Assistants, Protective Proceedings Monitor, Court Reporter, Family Court Facilitator, Self-represented Litigant Coordinator, Problem Solving Court Coordinator, Useful Public Service Manager, Jury Commissioner, Legal Research Attorney and Court Administration.

The 16th Judicial District operates the useful public service program (UPS) for our three-county area. A part-time UPS Case Manager operates the program through the Otero Combined Court. In 2009 the 16th Judicial District began operating an Integrated Treatment Court. Court participants are eligible high-risk defendants who receive a comprehensive and judicially-monitored program of drug treatment and other rehabilitation services. Also in 2009, the District began operating Truancy Court for students that habitually fail to attend public schools in our District.

In December of 2016 we began operation of our Family Recovery Court (FRC). Family Recovery Court is a placement prevention program designed to provide intensive services to families with a Dependency and Neglect action related to an ongoing substance abuse or addiction problem. FRC is a multi-agency team approach that includes the Department of Human Services, treatment providers, probation staff, respondent parent counsel, law enforcement staff and the Court. In fiscal Year 19 we successfully graduated three from Family Recovery Court.

The case filings for the county courts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, were as follows:

Bent County	746
Crowley County	395
Otero County	<u>2,593</u>
TOTAL	3,734

The filings for the same period for the district courts were as follows:

Bent County	315
Crowley County	292
Otero County	<u>970</u>
TOTAL	1,577

DISTRICT COURT

JUDGE	DATE SWORN IN
Mark A. MacDonnell, Chief Judge	02/03/13
Michael A. Schiferl	04/05/02
Magistrate Sarah Zane	10/1/16

COUNTY COURT

JUDGE	COUNTY	DATE SWORN IN
Samuel S. Vigil	Bent	02/07/13
Richard D. Medina	Crowley	04/11/17
Douglas R. Manley	Otero	07/02/04

For further information, please contact Wendy Larsen, Court Executive, 13 W. 3rd Street, Room 207; La Junta, CO 81050 or telephone number (719) 383-7123. Most court proceedings are open to the public and we encourage you to come visit our court locations. The Court Executive would be happy to help you plan your visit.