

SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY
January 2018

The Sixteenth Judicial District encompasses all of Bent, Crowley and Otero counties with an estimated combined population of 29,850. (Crowley – 5,694; Bent – 5,861; and Otero – 18,295 according to 2016 U.S. Census Quick Facts). The county seats are Las Animas, Ordway and La Junta.

In fiscal year 2017 there were 3,580 county court cases and 1,388 district court cases filed in our judicial district. The caseload is the responsibility of two district court judges, a half-time magistrate and three part-time county court judges. The district court judges are responsible for handling domestic relation cases, 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 county court judges are responsible for traffic, misdemeanor, small claims, and civil cases less than \$15,000.

In addition to the district and county judges and part-time Magistrate, 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 probation department employs eighteen employees. The main office for the probation department is located in La Junta but they also staff satellite offices in Las Animas, Ordway and Rocky Ford.

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, and the Court.

The case filings for the county courts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, were as follows:

Bent County	723
Crowley County	434
Otero County	<u>2,423</u>
TOTAL	3,580

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

Bent County	262
Crowley County	248
Otero County	<u>878</u>
TOTAL	1,388

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, District Administrator, 13 W. 3rd Street, Room 207; La Junta, CO 81050 or telephone number (719) 383-7123. Court proceedings are open to the public and you are welcome to visit the courts.