

TWENTY-FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OVERVIEW

January 2017

The Twenty-first Judicial District encompasses all of Mesa County and includes the cities of Grand Junction, Fruita, Clifton, Palisade, Collbran, Mesa, DeBeque, Gateway, Loma, and Mack.

The Twenty-first Judicial District serves a population of over 146,000 people. During fiscal year 2016, 7,651 district court cases and 14,595 county court cases were filed. In district court we received a very high number of foreclosure and state tax lien (distrain warrant) filings. Both take very little or no judge time. When the foreclosures and distrain warrants are removed from the total, our district court caseload was up 1.4% from the previous fiscal year. In county court, new filings were up 2.10% from the previous fiscal year.

The district employs three full-time magistrates. Magistrates are non-elected judicial officers who are responsible to the district's chief judge. The magistrates handle a variety of caseloads including domestic relations, juvenile, dependency and neglect, traffic infractions and juvenile delinquency.

There are three county court judges who are responsible for the initial advisement in felony cases, for all misdemeanor cases, all traffic matters, all civil matters that do not reach the jurisdictional limit of the district court, and small claims.

There are five district court judges. All handle a mixed caseload of domestic relations, criminal and juvenile matters.

In addition to judges and the magistrates, there are 110 support staff positions. These positions include court judicial assistants, collections investigators, supervisors, specialized positions, and probation department employees. Approximately one-third of the employees are assigned to the probation department.

For further information please contact Sandra Casselberry, Judicial Administrator, Mesa County Justice Center, P.O. Box 20,000-5030, Grand Junction, Colorado 81502, telephone number (970) 257-3632. Court proceedings are open to the public. Visitors are welcome. Our daily dockets can be viewed on our web site; www.mesacourt.org .