

District Court

Colorado is sectioned into 22 Judicial Districts encompassing all 64 counties. Across the state, district boundaries are aligned with county lines – some districts include just one county, while others include as many as seven. Each district has at least one district court location. The Supreme Court Chief Justice appoints a Chief Judge for each district to serve as the Chief Judicial Officer. In addition, each district has at least one other district court judge who may preside in more than one district court within that judicial district, particularly in rural areas of the state. There were 164 district judges during FY 2010.

District judges preside over felony criminal matters, civil claims in any amount, juvenile matters (including adoption, dependency and neglect matters, juvenile delinquency, and paternity actions), probate, mental health, divorce proceedings, and water cases. Additionally, district judges preside over jury trials, handle appeals from Colorado's municipal and county courts, and review decisions of administrative boards and agencies. District decisions may be appealed to the Colorado Court of Appeals and/or to the Colorado Supreme Court.

In Fiscal Year 2010 there were 236,671 case filings at the district court level (excluding water cases). Colorado's district courts were able to terminate 238,465 cases during that same 12-month period. During the past 10 years, district court filings have increased 52 percent, rising from 155,220 cases to the current level of filings. The greatest area of increase was due to an increase in civil distraint warrant (tax lien) filings during FY 2010.

Information specific to each of the 22 Judicial Districts, including contact information, is available at <http://www.courts.state.co.us/district/districts.htm>.