

## EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

FY2023

The Eighth Judicial District is comprised of Larimer and Jackson Counties with court facilities in Fort Collins, Loveland, and Walden. Larimer County is the sixth largest county in Colorado based upon its population estimate of 366,778 and the population of Jackson County is estimated at 1,302 (United States Census Bureau 2022). Fort Collins is the county seat and largest city in Larimer County with an estimated population in 2022 of 169,249 (City of Fort Collins). Other cities located in Larimer County include Loveland, Estes Park, Berthoud, Wellington, and Timnath.

Fort Collins is home to Colorado State University and richly deserves its reputation as the cultural capital of Northern Colorado. Livability.com named Fort Collins one of the, “Top 100 Best Places to Live 2023,” citing it’s college town vibes, craft beer offerings, outdoor options, and charming downtown (which inspired Disneyland’s Main Street USA). Fort Collins was ranked as number 2 ‘Best U.S. Cycling Town’ – (*USA Today*) and is just one of five towns in the country designated a Platinum Level Bike-Friendly Community (*League of American Bicyclists*). Beautiful Fort Collins is one of the greenest cities in the country. It has been an Arbor Day Foundation Tree City, USA Community for nearly 40 years and has been ranked in Value Penguin’s top ten most environmentally friendly cities. Important industries in the Fort Collins and northern Colorado area include many high-tech companies, clean energy, bioscience, and agri-tech business.

### **DISTRICT COURT**

During fiscal year 2023 (July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023) a total of 8,514 cases were filed in the Larimer County District Court and 40 cases were filed in the Jackson County District Court. A complete breakdown on the following pages set forth total filings for probate, mental health, adoption, juvenile and other cases in Larimer and Jackson Counties.

There are nine district judges hearing a mixed or diversified docket consisting of civil, criminal, domestic, probate, juvenile and mental health cases. These nine district judges preside over both Jackson and Larimer Counties. There are six magistrates who are assigned dockets by the Chief Judge consisting of civil, criminal, domestic and juvenile cases in Larimer County. Larimer County has implemented innovative alternative programs such as a very successful drug court program for both juveniles and adults, an accredited DUI Recovery Court, Wellness Court, and Family Treatment Court. In 2021, the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District introduced a new competency docket, the first of its kind in the state of Colorado. In March 2023, the DUI Recovery Court became designated as an academy court by the National Center for DWI Courts, serving as a national model for DUI/DWI court programs and recognizing successful outcomes, adherence to best practices, and the collaboration of their teams and stakeholders. A Veterans Treatment Court is in planning with an anticipated start date in 2024/2025. Litigants are also encouraged to participate in Alternative Dispute Resolution and Early Neutral Assessment programs. Settlement conferences are advocated by the district.

NAME	DATE BEGAN	TELEPHONE NUMBER
Chief Judge Susan J. Blanco	01/10/17	(970) 494-3620
Judge C. Michelle Brinegar	12/23/13	(970) 494-3700
Judge Sarah Cure	01/12/21	(970) 494-3820
Judge Laurie K. Dean	01/01/20	(970) 494-3720
Judge Joseph D. Findley	10/11/21	(970) 494-3601
Judge Stephen J. Jouard	01/10/17	(970) 494-3800
Judge Gregory M. Lammons	07/01/08	(970) 494-3810
Judge Daniel M. McDonald	01/18/20	(970) 494-3710

Judge Juan G. Villaseñor	10/10/18	(970) 494-3610
Magistrate Linda K. Connors	06/01/13	(970) 494-3640
Magistrate Dina M. Christiansen	09/16/19	(970) 494-3570
Magistrate Kandace B. Majoros	07/02/18	(970) 494-3540
Magistrate Cara M. Boxberger	10/09/20	(970) 494-3560
Magistrate Patrick Esser	07/01/21	(970) 494-3643
Magistrate Jeffrey Schwartz (0.90)	01/03/23	(970) 494-3550

## COUNTY COURT

18,584 county court cases were filed in Larimer County during fiscal year 2023. A complete breakdown of case filings is set forth on the following pages for Larimer and Jackson Counties. In Larimer County, there are five county judges (three located in the Larimer County Justice Center in Fort Collins and two in Loveland at the Loveland Police and Courts Building) and two magistrates hearing county court cases. There is a one-fifth time county judge who heard 125 cases filed in the county court of Jackson County during fiscal year 2023. A first appearance center has been in operation in Larimer County since fiscal year 2001 and continues to help litigants reach a quick and efficient disposition of routine traffic, traffic infractions, and misdemeanor cases.

NAME	DATE BEGAN	TELEPHONE NUMBER
<u>Larimer County Court</u>		
Presiding Judge Thomas L. Lynch	12/01/10	(970) 494-3630
Judge Kraig S. Ecton	01/24/14	(970) 622-2110
Judge Katharine “Jenny” Ellison	02/27/20	(970) 494-3731
Judge Joshua B. Lehman	05/09/14	(970) 494-3830
Judge Matthew Zehe	11/14/22	(970) 622-2121
Magistrate Cara M. Boxberger	10/09/20	(970) 494-3560
Magistrate Jeffrey Schwartz (0.90)	01/03/23	(970) 494-3550
<u>Jackson County Court</u>		
Judge Chelsea W. Ryan (0.20)	09/16/19	(970) 723-4363
<u>Bond Hearing Office 3</u>		
Judge Chelsea W. Ryan (0.35)		
Judge Jim McDonald (0.35)		
Magistrate Jeffrey Schwartz (0.10)		

## GENERAL INFORMATION FY23

There are 207 full time equivalent (104 trial court and 103 probation) non-judicial officer support staff positions in the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District that include court judicial assistants, jury commissioner, law clerks, court reporters, probate registrar, protective proceedings monitor, self-represented litigant coordinators, problem solving court coordinators, family court facilitators, probation officers, administration, and supervisors.

The trial court personal services and operating budget for fiscal year 2023 (July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023) is approximately \$10,091,211.00. Probation Personal services and operating for the same is approximately \$ 8,140,373.00.

The Larimer County Justice Center located in Old Town Fort Collins at 201 Laporte Avenue and opened in September 2000, while the Loveland Police and Courts Building is located at 810 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street and opened in Loveland in February 2002 with two county courtrooms. These buildings were constructed to meet the growing needs of the courts and communities in Larimer County. In 2013, Larimer County provided funds for additional remodeling in the Larimer County

Justice Center for the construction of a Court Resource Center which began operation on December 4, 2013. The Court Resource Center is staffed by 1.5 Self-Represented Litigant Coordinator, who provides procedural assistance to self-represented litigants. The Court Resource Center is designed to help people better understand court processes and obtain forms needed in non-criminal cases, such as divorce and family matters, child support, money claims, evictions, temporary or permanent restraining orders, probate estates, guardianships, or small claims disputes. The Court Resource Center also provides computer access for research and preparation of documents. In addition to assisting litigants in the Larimer County Justice Center, assistance is available at the Loveland Police and Courts Building by appointment. The Self-Represented Litigants Coordinator assists residents of Larimer and Jackson Counties via telephone and email at [08CourtResourceCenter@judicial.state.co.us](mailto:08CourtResourceCenter@judicial.state.co.us). In September 2019, the Probation Department relocated from the Larimer County Justice Center to 1600 Prospect Parkway to accommodate the addition of a new courtroom.

Larimer County held its third Warrant Clearance Event in October 2023, allowing defendants to take care of an active warrant without getting arrested for eligible offenses. Due to the success of these events, future Warrant Clearance Events will be scheduled.

The Jackson County Courthouse is located at 396 Lafever Street in Walden and is an historic landmark in Jackson County.

The Chief Judge is The Honorable Susan J. Blanco (970) 494-3620. The Court Executive is Kerry Hong (970) 494-3591 and the Chief Probation Officer is Greg Otte (970) 622-2190. The Deputy Court Executive is vacant pending recruitment and the Deputy Chief Probation Officer is Nicole Feltz (970) 530-5150. The Clerk of Court in Larimer County is Kathleen Madden (970) 494-3501, and the Clerk of Court in Jackson County is Christina Utley (970) 723-4363. Court proceedings are open to the public and the 8th Judicial District welcomes tours of the Larimer County Justice Center upon request. Please contact the court executive at the above telephone number or [08CourtExecutiveAdmin@judicial.state.co.us](mailto:08CourtExecutiveAdmin@judicial.state.co.us) for further information.

## **PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

For FY23, the 8th District Probation Department was staffed by 75 full time equivalent probation officers at three different locations, two in Fort Collins and one in Loveland. In addition to the probation officers, there were 12 probation supervisors, 13 support services staff, a Probation Manager, a Deputy Chief Probation Officer, and the Chief Probation Officer.

In FY23, the department completed 1,261 Presentence Investigation Reports and 1,128 Alcohol Evaluations; and processed 2,885 new adult cases and 133 new juvenile cases (including adult, juvenile intensive programs, and private probation).

At the end of the fiscal year, there were 4,544 adults and 144 juveniles under probation supervision, either through the state probation department or our contracted private provider. FY23 successful terminations rates were: 65% (1,214) for regularly supervised adults, 27% (41) for Adult Intensive Supervision cases, which includes CCIP, LSIP, SOISP. Due to the small numbers, intensive program success rates may fluctuate considerably. Additionally, the success rates were: 61% (48) for regularly supervised juveniles.

Additionally, there were 849 active Victim notification cases. 1,169 initial notifications given, 289 notifications returned with 38% of victims requesting notifications.

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
**DISTRICT COURT**  
 FISCAL YEAR CASE FILINGS-July 1 through June 30

Fiscal Year	DR	CV	PR	JV	MH	CR	total	% change
2002	1705	1461	571	1824	168	1927	7656	
2003	1707	1750	542	1852	150	2395	8396	9.67%
2004	1579	2104	603	1841	242	2418	8787	4.66%
2005	1581	2977	573	1776	301	2426	9634	9.64%
2006	1664	2533	509	2093	303	2189	9291	-3.56%
2007	1777	2773	487	1930	319	1944	9230	-0.66%
2008	1732	2740	555	2373	325	1939	9664	4.70%
2009	1709	2756	576	2316	316	1902	9575	-0.92%
2010	1885	4028	618	2081	322	1789	10723	11.99%
2011	1900	3998	713	1904	426	1862	10803	0.75%
2012	1890	5893	701	1720	409	1895	12508	15.78%
2013	1800	4259	810	1603	410	2005	10887	-12.96%
2014	1839	3672	821	1578	396	1895	10201	-6.30%
2015	1788	4006	818	1672	415	1992	10691	4.80%
2016	1875	3695	858	1472	401	2521	10822	1.23%
2017	1848	3242	888	1250	448	3120	10796	-0.24%
2018	1831	3823	919	1356	481	3295	11705	8.42%
2019	1827	3549	865	1153	513	3350	11257	-3.83%
2020	1662	4141	829	1068	450	3155	11305	0.43%
2021	1764	3401	916	636	445	2501	9663	-14.52%
2022	1604	3472	975	850	517	2181	9599	-0.01%
2023	1727	2214	967	809	520	2317	8554	-10.89%

The percentage differences between FY22 and FY23 filings are as follows:

	<u>FY23 compared to FY22</u>
Domestic Relations	7.67%
Civil	-36.23%
Probate	-0.82%
Juvenile	-4.82%
Mental Health	0.58%
Criminal	6.24%

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
**COUNTY COURT-LARIMER/JACKSON**  
 FISCAL YEAR CASE FILINGS-July 1 through June 30

Fiscal Year	C	S	T	R	M	total	% change
2002	7730	1056	7885	3547	6305	26523	
2003	8675	1007	9007	4157	6492	29338	10.61%
2004	8813	879	9430	3883	6533	29538	0.68%
2005	9483	799	10478	5002	6073	31835	7.78%
2006	9754	796	11185	5116	6576	33427	5.00%
2007	9752	800	9272	4984	5874	30682	-8.21%
2008	10085	795	9662	4971	6047	31560	2.86%
2009	10763	694	8649	5473	5896	31475	-0.27%
2010	11725	626	7877	4034	5344	29606	-5.94%
2011	10691	543	6363	3595	5757	26949	-8.97%
2012	10404	518	6473	3524	6146	27065	0.43%
2013	9327	508	5585	4075	5904	25399	-6.16%
2014	8995	455	6717	3193	5297	24657	-2.92%
2015	8271	452	6497	3718	5452	24390	-1.08%
2016	7347	488	6696	3021	5526	23078	-5.38%
2017	7407	454	6557	2788	5718	22924	-0.67%
2018	7787	447	6653	3044	5532	23463	2.35%
2019	7215	399	6689	3063	5028	22394	-4.56%
2020	6463	350	6353	2897	5151	21214	-5.27%
2021	5531	335	5620	2479	5018	18983	-10.52%
2022	5763	313	5024	2193	5118	18538	-2.88%
2023	6366	315	3839	2907	5147	18709	0.92%

The percentage differences between FY22 and FY23 filings are as follows:

FY23 compared to FY22

Civil	10.46%
Small Claims	0.64%
Traffic	-23.59%
Infractions	32.56%
Misdemeanor	0.57%