

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
FY2024

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 its 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 2024 (July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024) a total of 10,001 cases were filed in the Larimer County District Court and 38 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 mixed or diversified dockets 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, a DUI Recovery Court, Wellness Court, and Family Treatment Court. Most recently, a Veterans Treatment Court was started in April 2025.. The Adult Drug Court, DUI Court, and Wellness Court are all accredited programs. 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 was 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. 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 Kara Clark	10/01/21	(970) 494-3570
Magistrate Jeffrey Schwartz	01/03/23	(970) 494-3540
Magistrate Cara M. Boxberger	10/09/20	(970) 494-3560
Magistrate Ethan Doak	01/17/25	(970) 494-3643
Magistrate Sergio Lemus (0.90)	06/17/24	(970) 494-3550

## COUNTY COURT

20,620 county court cases were filed in the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District during fiscal year 2024. 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 in 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 quick and efficient dispositions 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 Jill Sage (0.90)	06/17/24	(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 Sergio Lemus (0.10)		

## **GENERAL INFORMATION FY24**

There are 207.3 full time equivalent (104 trial court and 103.3 probation) judicial officer and non-judicial officer support staff positions in the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. Non-judicial staff positions include judicial clerks, 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 2024 (July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024) was approximately \$10,638,693.00. Probation Personal services and operating for the same is approximately \$8,338,470.00.

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. Both 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 full time and 1 part-time Self-Represented Litigant Coordinators, who provide 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 at (970) 494-3581 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 5th Warrant Clearance Event November 16, 2024, allowing defendants to take care of active warrants without being 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 Gabrielle Larkin (970) 494-3593 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 [08TCAdmin@judicial.state.co.us](mailto:08TCAdmin@judicial.state.co.us) for further information.

## **PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

For FY24, 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 FY24, the department completed 1,193 Presentence Investigation Reports and 1,107 Alcohol Evaluations; and processed 2,667 new adult cases and 134 new juvenile cases (including adult, juvenile intensive programs, and private probation).

At the end of the fiscal year, there were 4,502 adults and 160 juveniles under probation supervision, either through the state probation department or our contracted private provider. FY24 successful terminations rates were: 65% (1,173) for regularly supervised adults, 36% (48) for Adult Intensive Supervision cases, which include CCIP, LSIP, SOISP. Due to the small numbers, intensive program success rates may fluctuate considerably. The success rates were: 60% (56) for regularly supervised juveniles.

Additionally, there were 730 active Victim notification cases. 1,202 initial notifications given; 222 notifications returned with 18% of victims requesting notifications.

## **8<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT CASE FILING INFORMATION**

Case filing information for District and County Courts for FY2024 can be found in Colorado Judicial's Annual Statistical Report. Annual Statistical Reports from FY2001 through FY2024 can be found on Colorado Judicial's website under Research and Data: [Research and Data | Colorado Judicial Branch](#).