

## TWENTY-FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OVERVIEW

January 2026

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 district employs four 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. A fourth county court judge has been approved by the legislature and is to begin work on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

There are six district court judges. The 6 handle a mixed caseload of domestic relations, criminal and juvenile matters.

In addition to judges and the magistrates, we have staff including court judicial assistants, collections investigators, supervisors, specialized positions, State Court Administrator's Office staff, and probation department employees. Approximately one-third of the employees are assigned to the probation department.

For further information please contact William Sightler, Court Executive, 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. More information can be found at: