

## NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OVERVIEW – January 2026

The Ninth Judicial District includes the counties of Garfield, Pitkin and Rio Blanco. The district is diverse, including agriculture, natural resource development, recreation and commercial interests. The Ninth Judicial District serves a population of approximately 86,000 according to the US Census Bureau estimates.

In fiscal year 2025, there were 2,865 cases filed into District Court throughout the 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, including 199 new water cases. These are heard by the five District Court Judges. Chief Judge Anne Norrdin and Judges Alexander Haynes, Elise Myer, and Susan Ryan have their offices in Glenwood Springs, while Judge Laura Makar sits in Aspen. All five district Judges handle civil, criminal, and domestic cases. Judge Makar is the Water Judge for Water Division 5 which includes the Colorado River Drainage. Holly Strablizky is the Water Referee. Magistrate Mcconnaughy is part-time and is assigned to Garfield County district court matters including preliminary felony proceedings, temporary domestic relations matters, all juvenile matters, and daily advisements for the entire district.

In fiscal year 2025, there were 7,565 cases filed into County Courts across the district. There are two part-time and two full time county court judges. Judge Edwards is the County Court Judge for Rio Blanco County in Meeker and in Rangely. Judge Andrews is the Pitkin County Judge in Aspen. Judge Pototsky sits in Rifle and Judge Roff sits in Glenwood Springs for Garfield County. County Court judges handle infractions, traffic, misdemeanor, small claims, and civil matters under \$25,000.00.

All of the courts in this district are staffed on the “rural staffing model.” Currently, there are 39 trial court employees, including three Clerks of Court, two Supervisors, an Administrative Office Manager, a Peer Training Specialist, a Family Court Facilitator, a Water Specialist, a Self-Represented Litigant Coordinator, and a Managing Interpreter, as well as part-time positions including a Jury Commissioner, an Administrative Office Specialist, a Legal Research Attorney, an Account Clerk, and a Protective Proceedings Monitor. In addition, we have 2 collections investigators.

Joe Gerber is the Chief Probation Officer for the 9th Judicial District. There are 24 total probation employees. There is one CPO, three supervisors, one Administrative Manager, one Administrative Supervisor, three support staff, and 14 Probation Officers. There is one Adult Drug Court and one DUI (hybrid) court that are established and located in Garfield and Pitkin counties, and we have a Problem-Solving Court Coordinator for the specialty courts in the district.

Liz Mackin serves as Court Executive. She maintains an office in Glenwood Springs and is available throughout the district. For further information, please contact Ms. Mackin by phone at 970-928-3080 or by email, [elizabeth.mackin@judicial.state.co.us](mailto:elizabeth.mackin@judicial.state.co.us). Most court proceedings are open to the public and you are welcome to visit the courts or watch via Livestream or Webex.