

SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OVERVIEW

January 2026

The Sixth Judicial District encompasses La Plata, Archuleta and San Juan Counties. The county seats for the three named counties are Durango, Pagosa Springs and Silverton.

The population in the Sixth Judicial District is growing. La Plata County now has a population of more than 50,000. The population in Archuleta and San Juan Counties are significantly smaller at 15,000 and 825. According to the Colorado Judicial Branch Statistical Report for July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, the totals for the Sixth Judicial District are:

District Filings	7,676	District Terminations	7,537
Water Court Filings	59	Water Court Terminations	no record yet
Water Court Claims	113		

There are four district court judges, four county court judges, and a part-time magistrate.

The four district court judges handle a mixed caseload of domestic relations, felony criminal matters, juvenile delinquent cases, water cases, civil cases, probate, adoption and relinquishment cases, mental health and dependency and neglect cases.

The county court judges handle traffic and misdemeanor cases, felony preliminary hearings, domestic abuse restraining orders and civil matters within their jurisdiction. The county judges in Archuleta and San Juan Counties are part-time.

The magistrate handles protection orders, miscellaneous county court cases and domestic relation matters.

In addition to the judges and magistrates, there are approximately 70 support staff positions. These positions include clerks of court, supervisors, jury commissioner, court reporters, administrative office manager, administrative specialist, water clerk, protective proceedings monitor, competency court coordinator, family court facilitator, judicial clerks, legal research attorneys, self-represented litigant coordinator, collections staff, and probation department employees.

The District Judges are Chief Judge Kim Shropshire, A. Nathaniel Baca, Justin Fay and Reid Stewart. The County Judges are Richard Schmittle and Douglas Reynolds (La Plata), Anthony Edwards (Archuleta) and Kelly Tompkins (San Juan). The District Court Magistrate is Sarah F. Law.

For additional information, please contact Eric Hogue, Court Executive, La Plata County Courthouse, 1060 East Second Avenue, Durango, CO 81301.