

TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY February 2022

The Tenth Judicial District encompasses all of Pueblo County. This includes Pueblo, Pueblo West, Colorado City, Rye, Beulah, Avondale and Boone.

The District serves a population in excess of 165,000 people. In Fiscal Year 2021 there were 7,208 new filings in District Court (criminal, civil, probate, juvenile, domestic and mental health) and 11,977 (misdemeanors, traffic, civil, small claims and traffic infractions) in County Court. The Tenth Judicial District bench is comprised of eight district court judges, three county court judges, and four magistrates (two full time and two part time).

Pueblo District Court continues to have specialized case assignments. Five judges handle 100% of criminal cases. Most other judges have mixed dockets, handling a minimum of two case types, including district court civil matters, domestic matters with attorneys, Probate, Mental Health, and Dependency & Neglect cases. Three magistrates work primarily in district court handling Truancy, pro se domestic matters, adoptions, and juvenile delinquency. They also cover civil protection orders and daily criminal advisements. The Tenth Judicial District also acts as Division Two Water Court, accepting 103 new filings in Fiscal Year 2021. There are two problem solving courts in the Tenth Judicial District that work in concert with the Tenth Judicial District Probation Office. The Behavioral Health problem solving court has been in place since 2013 and the Veteran's problem-solving court was added in February of 2015.

Two County Court Judges handle traffic and misdemeanor cases. Civil cases under the jurisdictional limit of \$15,000, civil protection order cases and evictions are heard by a third County Court Judge. The part-time county court Magistrate hears civil name changes, traffic infraction final hearings, small claims, and foreclosures and some juvenile truancy. There were 413 DUI/DWAI's filed in the County Court along with 842 domestic violence cases. 740 Civil Protection Orders were issued in Fiscal Year 2021 with 103 of those being domestic abuse related.

The court has been operational in the new Dennis Maes Pueblo Judicial Building located at 501 N. Elizabeth since August 2014, housing both the trial courts and probation services offices. Other accommodations that allow better service to the public are the First Appearance Center, a dedicated Jury Assembly room and a Self-Help Center. The majority of traffic and misdemeanor cases filed in 2021 were initiated through the streamlined disposition process in the First Appearance Center. The Jury Assembly room was utilized by over 6,705 citizens appearing and assigned to a case to perform the critical role of juror. The Self-Help Center is a resource center for *pro se* litigants to obtain easy to understand forms and access tutorials. The Legal Resource Day in October 2021 was coordinated by the Self-Help Center staff and other staff volunteers. It offered public informational sessions in the subject areas of evictions, garnishments & judgments, representing yourself in court, custody & mediation,

modification of parenting time or child support orders, protection orders, and small claims/county civil money cases. A limited number of appointments were available for the public to speak with a private attorney free of charge.

The Tenth Judicial District is proud to service Pueblo County and continues to strive to respond to changing societal concerns. Processes and procedures are evaluated frequently to meet the needs of the public. The district maintains mandatory e-filing in all probate, water, County Court money and FED matters along with District Court civil, domestic and criminal cases. There is a continued emphasis to search for efficiencies without significant reduction in services. For the eleventh in a row the Tenth Judicial District was one of the National Adoption Day event sites serving to finalize the adoptions of 7 children with 4 permanent families.

For further information, please contact the District Administrator, Dennis Maes Pueblo Judicial Building, 501 N. Elizabeth, Pueblo, Colorado 81003, telephone number (719) 404-8700. Most court proceedings are open to the general public and you are welcome to visit the courts. The Administrator can assist you in planning a court visit.