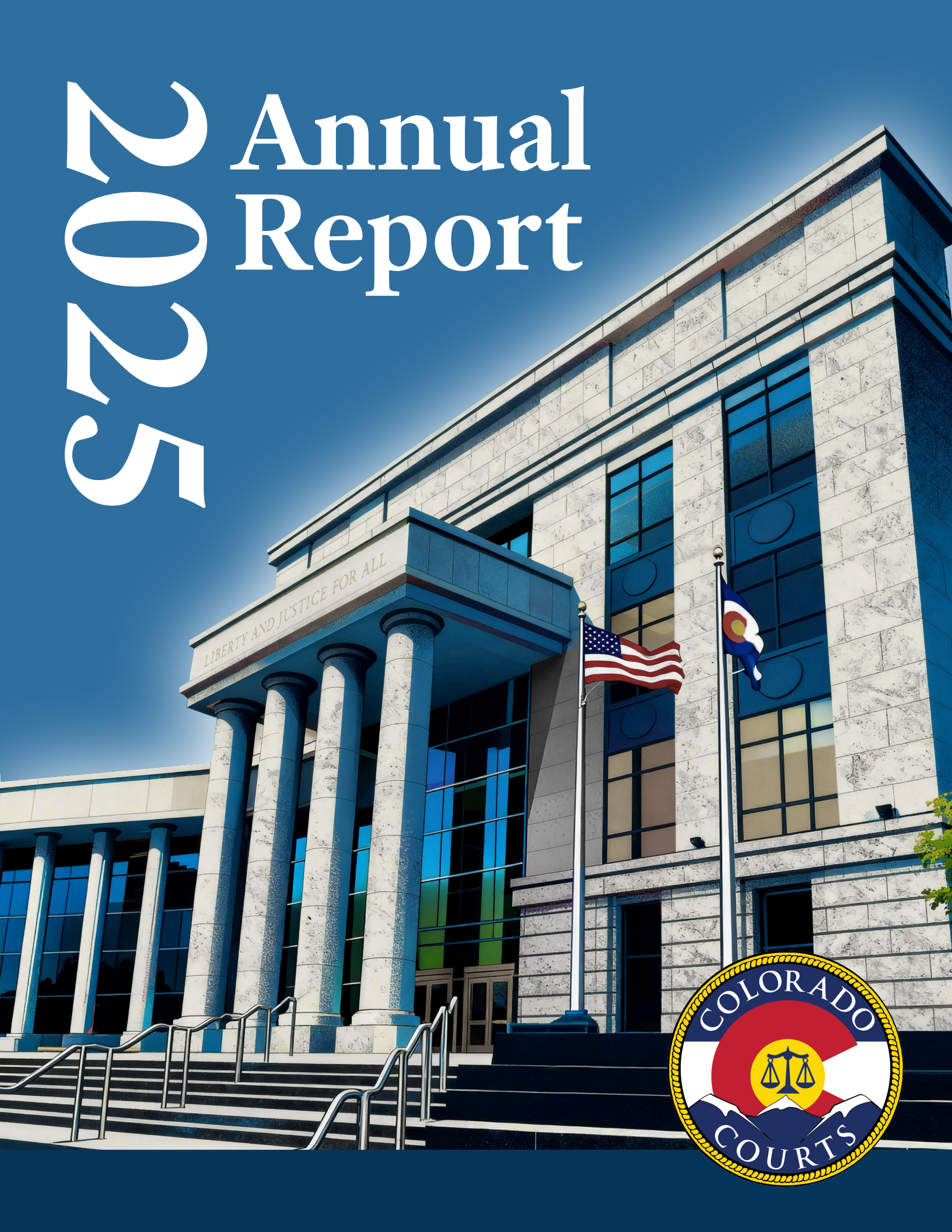
2025 Annual Report



The Colorado Judicial Branch joins the legislative and executive branches to form the government of the State of Colorado. The Judicial Department is charged with two responsibilities: resolving disputes and supervising offenders on probation.

The supplemental statistical report for 2025, online at coloradojudicial.gov/annual-statistical-reports, provides specific data on caseload statistics for the Colorado Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, District Courts, County Courts, and Water Courts, as well as detailed financial information for the Judicial Department.

Unless otherwise specified, all references in this report reflect information for Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025). This report is also available electronically on the Colorado Judicial Department's website, coloradojudicial.gov.

If you need additional information regarding this document, please contact the Office of the State Court Administrator, Court Services Division, or Division of Probation Services at (720) 625-5000.



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A Note From the Chief Justice

I am delighted to share the Colorado Judicial Department's 2025 Annual Report. This report highlights the work of our courts and probation departments consistent with our mission to provide equal access to justice, contribute to public safety, and strengthen the rule of law across Colorado.

Throughout Fiscal Year 2025, Colorado continued to grow and change quickly. Our communities continue to expand, and the public expects an open, accessible, and effective court system. Every day, we encounter individuals who are navigating difficult life experiences. Our judicial officers and employees respond with compassion, professionalism, and integrity.

Our major goal this past year was strengthening our judicial workforce. With support from the Colorado General Assembly, Senate Bill 25024 created new judicial positions across the state, including 15 new judgeships. These additions will improve the administration of justice and will improve access to timely hearings and decisions. I'm deeply grateful to state leaders who recognized this need for a stronger, more resilient court system.

We also celebrated the official launch of the 23rd Judicial District, Colorado's first new judicial district in more than six decades. Created to better serve the residents of Douglas, Elbert, and Lincoln counties, this new district represents years of thoughtful planning and collaboration. The new 23rd Judicial District enhances access to the courts in some of Colorado's fastest-growing regions.

Across the state, we continue to expand innovative programs to help people navigate the justice system. Problem-solving courts strengthened partnerships that support individuals struggling with substance use and mental health challenges. The new Competency Diversion Program began in five judicial districts, offering community-based services that reduce wait times for competency restoration and improve long-term outcomes.

We also saw a sharp increase in the need for language access services statewide. In FY25 alone, our interpreters supported over 138,000 events across 122 languages, an 18 percent increase from the previous year.

Our interpreters ensure that all people can meaningfully participate in the court process, regardless of the language they speak.

At the same time, we recognize the need to ensure safe access to justice. Judicial officers and court staff across the country have faced escalating behavior and threats, and Colorado is no exception. In response, the Judicial Department will convene a Judicial Security Task Force in 2026 to assess needs, strengthen safety practices, and deepen coordination with our law enforcement partners. Every person who enters a courthouse—whether to work, serve on a jury, or resolve a dispute—deserves to feel safe.

Looking ahead, we are exploring how to leverage emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, to better serve the public. While these tools will never replace the human judgment and compassion that justice requires, they may help us improve public access to information, streamline administrative processes, and support our employees in serving the public more effectively. We will approach these innovations thoughtfully and with care.

Throughout the year, one theme echoed across my visits to courthouses and probation offices statewide: Coloradans care deeply about justice. We all want a system that is fair, accessible, respectful, and efficient. Our workforce is deeply committed to ensuring that our justice system works for all of us. Our 4,000 employees bring professionalism and compassion to their work every day, often under challenging circumstances. Their dedication to serving the people of Colorado with fairness and integrity gives me tremendous confidence in our future.

The year ahead will bring challenges, including growing caseloads, evolving security needs, and rapid technological change. It will also bring opportunity for collaboration and innovation. When we lean into our values and work together, we can accomplish remarkable things. This report reflects that belief and the hardworking spirit of the people who make up our courts and probation system.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the Colorado Judicial Department. Together, our courts and probation departments are committed to impartial and timely dispute resolution; support for families, litigants, and victims; client rehabilitation; and meaningful community engagement. It is a tremendous privilege to serve as your Chief Justice, and I look forward to our continued work to ensure justice

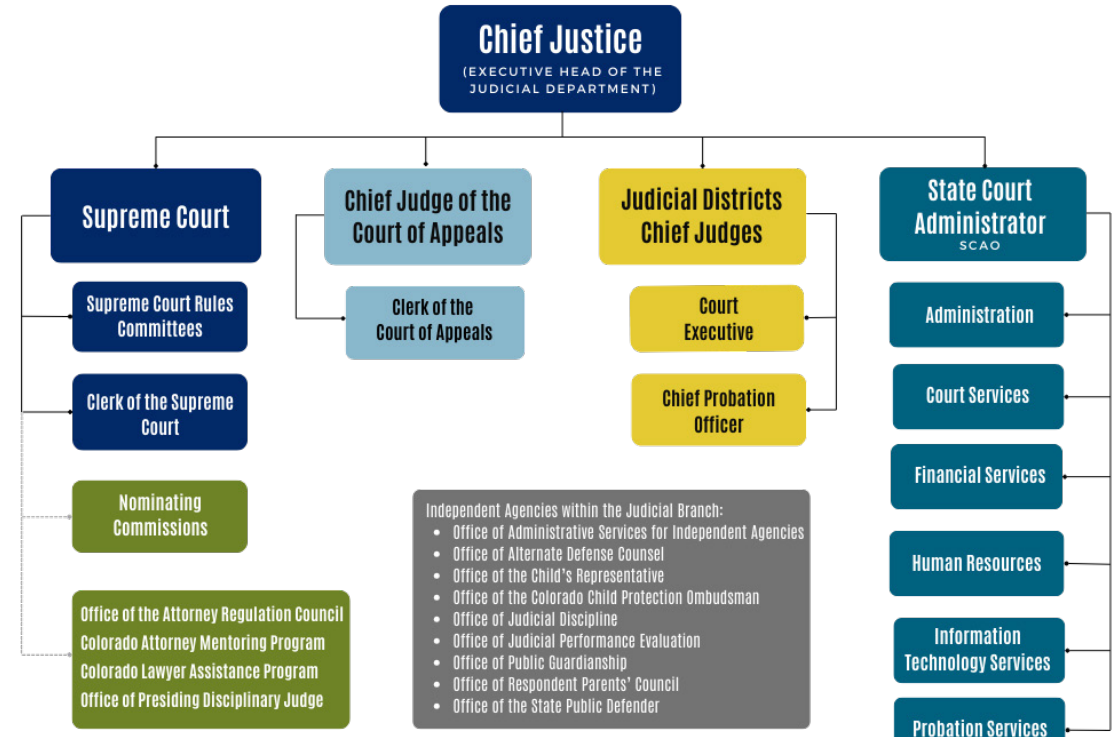
With deep appreciation,

Monica M. Marquez

Chief Justice
Colorado Supreme Court

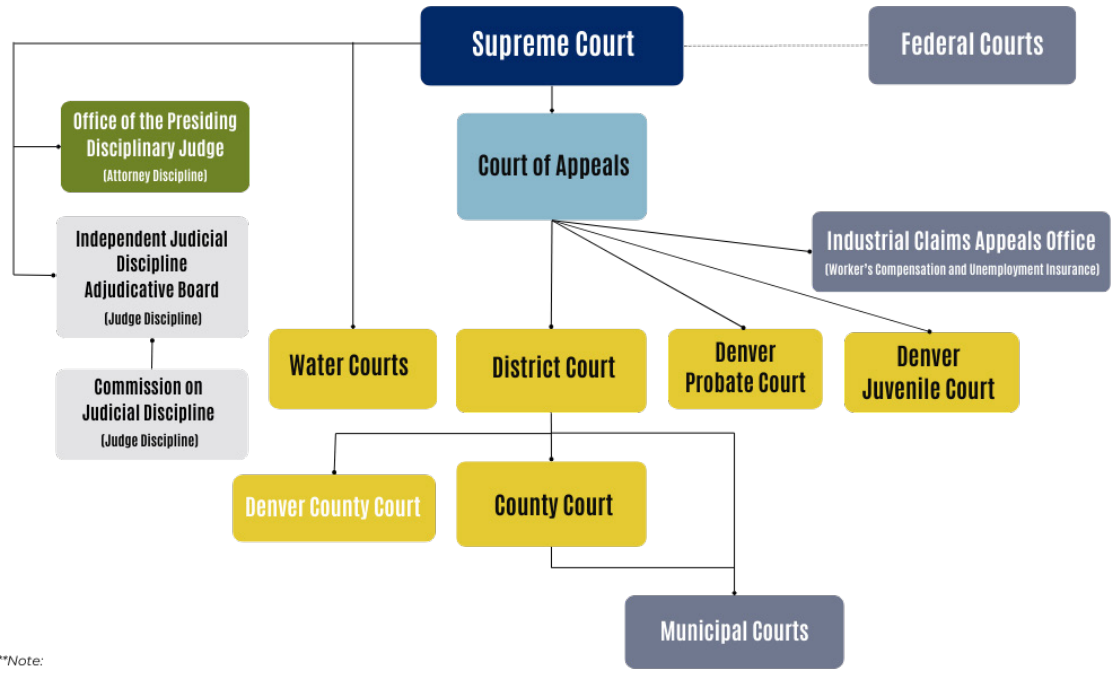
Organizational Chart

JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY STRUCTURE



**Note:
- *Entities shown in green represent independent offices of the Colorado Supreme Court.*

COLORADO JUDICIAL CASE FLOW AND JURISDICTION



**Note:
- *Entities shown in grey are not part of the State Court System.*
- *Entities shown in green represent independent offices of the Colorado Supreme Court.*



Colorado Supreme Court

The Colorado Supreme Court, the state's court of last resort, issues binding decisions on all Colorado state courts and has exclusive jurisdiction to promulgate rules governing practice and procedure in civil and criminal actions. Most filings involve reviewing decisions made by the Colorado Court of Appeals. The Supreme Court also has direct jurisdiction over constitutional challenges, Public Utilities Commission decisions, habeas corpus petitions, water rights adjudications, Election Code proceedings, and certain prosecutorial appeals.

The Supreme Court comprises seven justices serving 10-year terms, with the Chief Justice selected from among them. The Chief Justice serves as the executive head of the Colorado Judicial Branch, chairs the Supreme Court Nominating Commission, appoints the Chief Judges of the Court of Appeals and judicial districts, and assigns judges as needed.

Chief Justice Monica M. Márquez
Sworn into office December 10, 2010
Appointed Chief Justice July 26, 2024

Justice Brian D. Boatright
Sworn into office November 21, 2011
Served as Chief Justice January 1, 2021 -July 25, 2024

Justice William W. Hood, III
Sworn into office January 13, 2014

Justice Richard L. Gabriel
Sworn into office September 1, 2015

Justice Melissa Hart
Sworn into office December 20, 2017

Justice Carlos A. Samour, Jr.
Sworn into office July 2, 2018

Justice Maria E. Berkenkotter
Sworn into office January 4, 2021

Court of Appeals

The mission of the Court of Appeals is to provide the citizens of Colorado with clear, impartial, and timely resolutions of appealed orders and judgments as provided by law. The Court of Appeals was created by statute; accordingly, jurisdiction is limited to the areas specified by state statute and the inherent powers granted to all courts.

The Colorado Court of Appeals is the state's intermediate appellate court, which sits in three-member divisions to decide cases. As of July 1, 2008, the court consists of 22 judges retained by the public to serve eight-year terms. The Chief Judge, appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, assigns judges to the divisions and rotates their assignments.

Chief Judge Gilbert M. Román
Appointed: August 1, 2005
Appointment Chief Judge:
October 8, 2021

Jerry N. Jones
Appointed: July 5, 2006

Maria Teresa "Terry" Fox
Appointed: January 7, 2011

Stephanie Dunn
Appointed: November 23, 2012

Anthony J. Navarro
Appointed: January 18, 2013
Left: January 1, 2025

Elizabeth L. Harris
Appointment: July 23, 2015

Rebecca Rankin Freyre
Appointment: November 16, 2015

Craig R. Welling
Appointment: January 16, 2017

Ted C. Tow III
Appointment: February 13, 2018

Lino S. Lipinsky de Orlov
Appointment: January 9, 2019

Matthew D. Grove
Appointment: January 9, 2019

Neeti V. Pawar
Appointment: March 8, 2019

Jaclyn Casey Brown
Appointment: June 1, 2019

Sueanna P. Johnson
Appointment: June 1, 2019

Christina F. Gomez
Appointment: February 27, 2020

David H. Yun
Appointment: March 2, 2020

W. Eric Kuhn
Appointment: July 7, 2021

Timothy J. Schutz
Appointment: January 1, 2022

Karl L. Schock
Appointment: September 15, 2022

Katharine E. Lum
Appointment: November 16, 2022

Pax L. Moultrie
Appointment: January 1, 2024

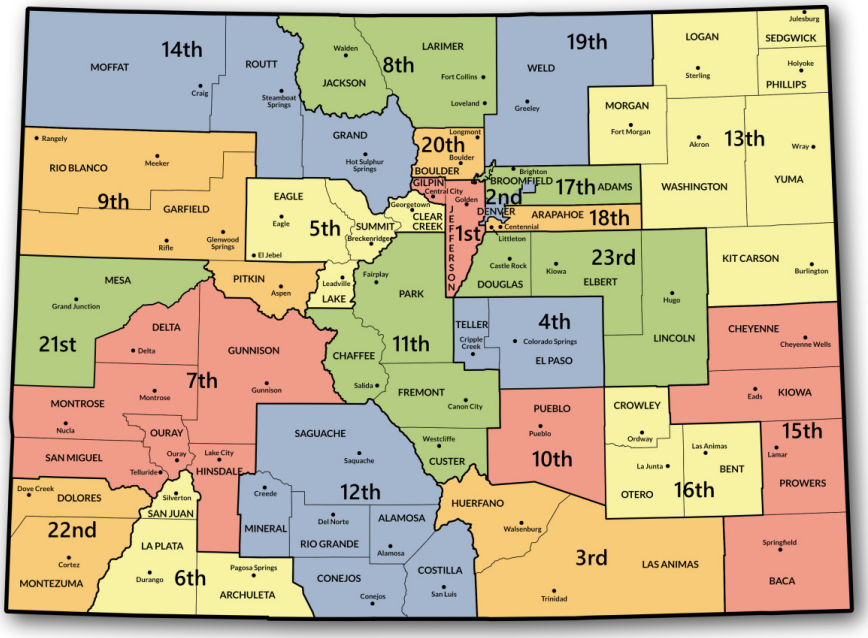
Grant Sullivan
Appointment: January 1, 2024

Melissa Meirink
Appointment: January 1, 2025



Judicial Districts

Colorado is divided into 23 Judicial Districts encompassing all 64 counties. Across the state, district boundaries are aligned with county lines – some districts include just one county, while others include as many as seven counties. Each district has at least one district court location. The Supreme Court Chief Justice appoints a Chief Judge for each district to serve as the Chief Judicial Officer. In addition, each district has at least one other district court judge who may preside in more than one district court within that judicial district, particularly in rural areas of the state.





Colorado's Newest Judicial District

On January 14, 2025, the Colorado Judicial Department celebrated the establishment of the new 23rd Judicial District of Colorado at a swearing-in ceremony at the Douglas County Courthouse. This was the first time in 62 years that the department has created a new Judicial District; the 22nd Judicial District was added in 1963.

Douglas, Elbert, and Lincoln counties are the newly created 23rdJudicial District, and Arapahoe County remained in the 18thJudicial District. The passage of HB20-1026 in 2020 split the 18th Judicial District, the largest in the state by population, due to population growth in Douglas, Elbert, and Lincoln counties.

District Courts



District judges preside over felony criminal matters, civil claims in any amount, juvenile matters (including adoption, dependency and neglect matters, juvenile delinquency, and paternity actions), probate, mental health, divorce proceedings, and water cases. Additionally, district judges preside over jury trials, handle appeals from Colorado's municipal and county courts, and review decisions of administrative boards and agencies. District decisions may be appealed to the Colorado Court of Appeals and/or to the Colorado Supreme Court.



County Courts

Colorado's county courts, serving the citizens of the state's 64 counties, are upheld by the dedicated service of one or more judges in each county. These judges play a crucial role in handling cases involving serious public safety issues, such as misdemeanor cases, felony advisements, setting bonds, and preliminary hearings. Their responsibilities include issuing search warrants and protection orders in domestic violence cases, presiding over traffic cases and civil actions involving no more than $25,000, and conducting jury trials. Appeals from the county court may be made to the district court.

Small claims courts are divisions of county courts. Individuals can argue their cases and have speedy decisions on civil matters involving no more than $7,500. Court sessions are held during the day or evening to accommodate the public. Small claims courts have no jury trials; instead, magistrates, court officials with limited judicial authority, sometimes hear these cases rather than a judge. No plaintiff may file more than two monthly or 18 claims per year in small claims court.



Water Courts

In 1969, Colorado established seven water divisions based on its major river drainages: the South Platte, Arkansas, Rio Grande, Gunnison, Colorado, White, and San Juan. Each division's water court includes a division engineer (appointed by the state engineer), a water judge (appointed by the Colorado Supreme Court), a water referee (appointed by the water judge), and a water clerk (assigned by district court staff). Water judges, who are district judges, oversee water rights and related issues within their division, with no jury trials and all appeals going directly to the Colorado Supreme Court. Since 1981, all water courts have used a standardized case definition, enabling consistent filing standards reported annually by division.

SCAO

The State Court Administrator's Office provides administrative support and services to the trial and appellate courts to help them provide Colorado citizens with meaningful, speedy, and economical forums to resolve disputes. The office also supports the management of probation services to enhance public protection and offender rehabilitation. In executing its constitutional and statutory duties, the office:

- Provides administrative and technical support to the appellate courts, trial courts, and probation,
- Provides centralized policy guidance,
- Develops and implements standards and guidelines,
- Serves as an advocate for the department in obtaining necessary resources from the legislature.



By the Numbers

Supreme Court

5,448
total filings

94
published opinions

Court of Appeals

2,311
total filings

1,426
published & unpublished opinions

District Courts

5,498
total court and jury trials

584,353
total FY25 Filings

12,502
total felony cases

County Courts

90,628
total cases filed

Water Courts

2,474
total water claims

138,660
total scheduled events with interpreters

8,151
total alternate dispute resolution services

7,988
total mediation services


STATE·OF·COLORADO
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1876





Probation

Within the Colorado Judicial Department, Colorado Probation comprises 24 probation departments across 23 judicial districts. Additionally, they are supported by the Division of Probation Services through the Colorado State Court Administrator's Office. Each district's probation department operates with its own unique structure and needs for working directly with individuals on probation supervision, victims, and community partners.

The Division of Probation Services offers programmatic support, training, and data support to help districts meet their unique needs. At its core, Colorado Probation is centered on people and is grounded in a commitment to public safety, the restoration of victims and communities, and the belief that individuals can change. Through accountability, support, and skill development, Colorado Probation helps people take meaningful steps toward a better future for themselves, their families, and their communities.

Colorado Probation is designed to provide an alternative to incarceration for adults and juveniles who have committed a crime, with the goal of providing structure, promoting positive behavioral change, and supporting public safety. As probation is not a one-size-fits-all approach, each individual is assessed to determine their risk of reoffending and the criminogenic needs driving their behavior. Examples of these drivers may include substance use, criminal thinking, mental health concerns, and/or unstable housing. This assessment process helps probation officers connect individuals with services that are helpful to their specific circumstances.

"I thought my life was over when I got arrested. But my PO helped me believe I could start over. I'm off paper now and proud of who I am."

Colorado Probation remains committed to the use and implementation of research-informed programs and practices to guide supervision decisions and ensure equitable outcomes. The goal is to balance accountability with community safety and rehabilitation by applying innovative, tailored supervision approaches to serve the courts, justice-involved individuals, victims, and communities.

66,717

Active individuals end of FY 25

21,448

Successful terminations in FY 25

27,376

Victim noifications for critical events

Denver Juvenile Handgun Intervention Program

The Denver Juvenile Probation Department's Handgun Intervention Program (HIP) was established in response to a significant rise in handgun-related cases involving youth. Between 2021 and 2023, Denver law enforcement recovered over 6,300 firearms and arrested nearly 450 juveniles under the age of 18 on gun-related charges. Rather than emphasizing punishment, HIP adopts a restorative approach that balances community safety with the needs of young people. The program targets low- to medium-risk juveniles facing a first handgun possession charge, providing a six-month deferred adjudication if they complete a seven-week, hands-on educational curriculum that includes bi-weekly court appearances. Each week focuses on topics such as legal rights, testimonies from survivors of gun violence, and interactions with police officers, medical professionals, and community mentors who offer real-world perspectives. Since its inception, HIP has completed 13 cohorts.

A key feature of HIP is its community-driven design. Each participant is paired with a volunteer Community Accountability Board that offers ongoing support and mentorship. Families are encouraged and supported to attend through shared meals, strengthening connections and accountability at home. The program concludes with participants presenting personal reflections and future goals, often demonstrating growth and renewed purpose. Since its launch, HIP has emerged as a promising model for addressing youth gun offenses through education, awareness, and collaboration, highlighting the power of connection and understanding over fear.

21st Judicial District Outcomes

The 21st Judicial District Probation Department exemplifies innovation through internal development rather than external changes. In the past year, successful outcomes increased from 65% to 70%, reflecting the team's consistency and commitment. The department prioritized building staff capacity, focusing on strategies to enhance officers' case planning skills. Efforts centered on the intentional use of assessment information to identify behavioral drivers and create targeted case plans. Officers developed these plans collaboratively with individuals on probation, fostering intrinsic motivation and ownership. This approach not only improved outcomes but also reinforced a culture of thoughtful supervision rooted in partnership, accountability, and belief in individuals' capacity for change.

"My PO believed in me, even when I didn't believe in myself. She didn't treat me like a bad person. She helped me get clean, get a job, and feel like I matter again."

Mission, Vision, and Values

The Colorado Judicial Department remains steadfast in its commitment to justice, guided by a clear and inspiring mission, vision, and core values. FY25 marked meaningful progress, as the department continued to align its daily operations and long-term aspirations with these foundational principles, ensuring they are not only words on paper but also guiding forces in every courtroom, office, and community interaction.

Recognizing that a healthy workplace culture is essential to fulfilling our mission, the Department advanced its Workplace Culture Initiative (WCI) throughout FY2025. The WCI focuses on creating an environment where every employee feels valued, heard, and empowered. Key accomplishments included:

- Launching the Change Activation Network, creating a coordinated approach to organizational culture change;
- Implementing a statewide Public Service Recognition Week to recognize the contributions of judicial officers and employees; and
- Relaunching the Employee Excellence Award, strengthening appreciation for outstanding contributions across the state.

Our Mission

The Judicial Department works to provide equal access to justice, contribute to public safety, and strengthen the rule of law across Colorado. Together, our courts and probation departments are committed to impartial and timely dispute resolution; support for families, litigants, and victims; client rehabilitation; and meaningful community engagement.

Our Vision

The Colorado Judicial Department is a trusted and transparent leader in the pursuit of justice across the state, serving our communities with integrity, and providing fair and equitable access to the judicial process. We are committed to empowering our employees through open communication, fostering a community of trust in a supportive and innovative workplace.

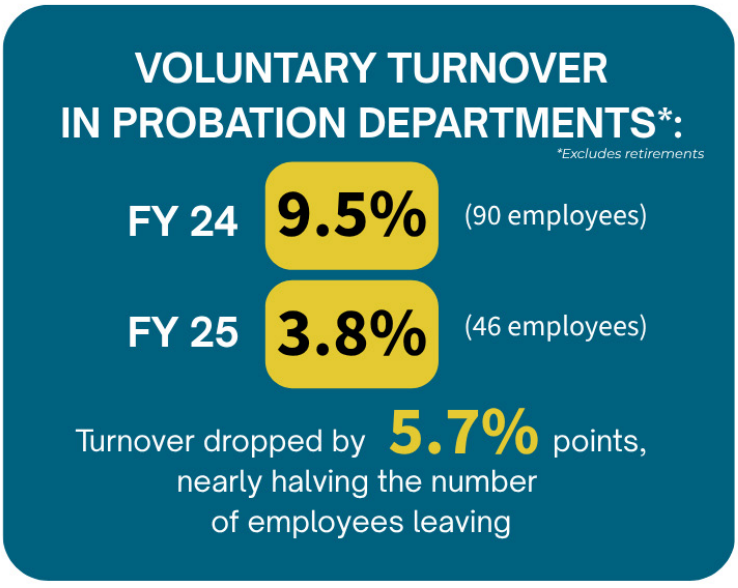


HR Class and Comp Initiatives

Compensation Step Plan Reduces Turnover in Probation Departments

On July 1, 2024, the Colorado Judicial Department implemented a Compensation Step Plan to create a fair, transparent, and sustainable framework supporting employee salary advancement. This initiative ensures the Judicial Department's pay structure remains equitable and aligned with best practices across state government.

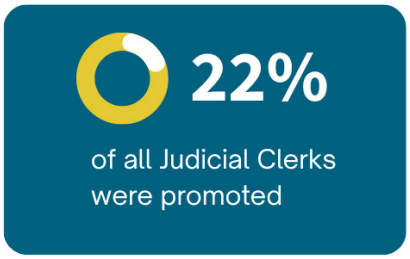
As part of this initiative, the department partnered with a third-party consultant to review 53 of over 250 job descriptions, capturing approximately 80% of judicial employees. The comprehensive classification and compensation market analysis was informed by employee-completed job questionnaires. Under the new step plan, employee base salaries are reviewed for potential increases at designated service milestones: years 1, 3, 5, 7, 10, 12, 15, 17, 20, 23, and 25, subject to available funding. Our commitment to regular job classification reviews and market analyses ensures ongoing alignment and competitiveness.

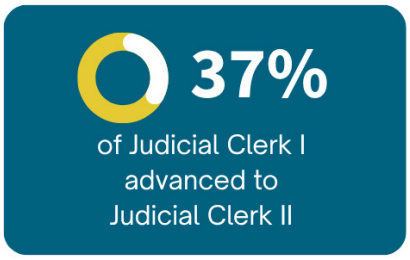


Career Progression for Judicial Clerks

To further support our workforce, the Judicial Department introduced a formal career progression process for judicial clerks on January 6, 2025. This process enables structured advancement based on tenure and objective metrics, while balancing organizational needs, budget, and training requirements. The rollout was well-received, providing clarity and transparency through detailed notices and forms.

We continue to partner with judicial leadership to ensure the process remains responsive to employee feedback and operational needs.









Judicial Nomination Process

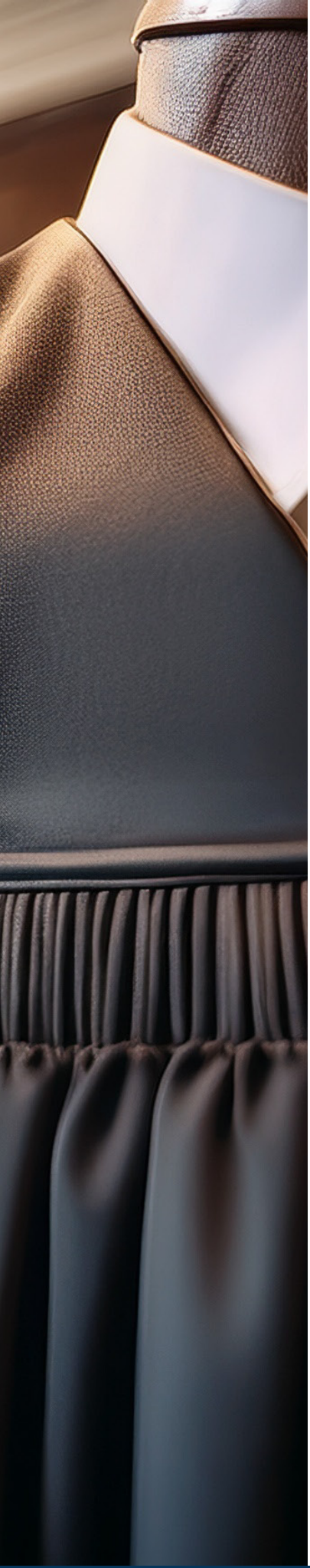
In Colorado, the judicial selection process is designed to identify highly qualified individuals for service in district, county, and appellate courts. Judicial vacancies and eligibility requirements are publicly announced on the Colorado Judicial Branch website at coloradojudicial.gov.

Applicants submit materials to judicial nominating commissions specific to each judicial district. These commissions are composed of both lawyer and non-lawyer members, ensuring a balanced and diverse perspective in the evaluation process.

Candidates who meet eligibility requirements are interviewed by the commission, which evaluates their legal knowledge, professional experience, integrity, and commitment to justice. Following the interview process, each commission submits a list of nominees to the Governor, who must appoint a judge within 15 days of receiving the recommendations.

After serving an initial term, judges stand for retention elections, allowing Colorado voters to decide whether they should continue in office. This merit-based selection and retention system promotes judicial excellence, accountability, and public confidence in the courts.

A complete list of judicial vacancies and appointments is available at coloradojudicial.gov/media/judge-appointments.



New Colorado Judges

From July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, the following were appointed as Colorado judges:

Hon. Pamela E. Johnston, Kiowa County Court, 15th Judicial District

Hon. Billy-George Hertzke, 14th Judicial District Court

Hon. Dina M. Christiansen, 13th Judicial District Court

Hon. Christine A. Washburn,18th Judicial District Court

Hon. Sarah E. Zane, 4th Judicial District Court

Hon. Laura C. Makar, 9th Judicial District Court

Hon. Michael T. Kotlarczyk, 20th Judicial District Court

Hon. Ian J. MacLaren, Montezuma County Court, 22nd Judicial District

Hon. Lauren T. Swan, 11th Judicial District Court

Hon. Joshua J. Williford, 18th Judicial District Court

Hon. Kristen M. M. Tarrin, Dolores County Court, 22nd Judicial District

Hon. Ian J. Kellogg, 2nd Judicial District Court

Hon. Toni J. Wehman, 17th Judicial District Court

Hon. Garen D. Gervey, Arapahoe County Court,18th Judicial District

Hon. Michal A. Lord-Blegen, 17th Judicial District Court

Hon. Timothy L. Johnson, 20th Judicial District Court

Hon. Lyudmyla “Milla” Lishchuk, Morgan County Court, 13th Judicial District

Hon. Eang M. Man, Boulder County Court, 20th Judicial District

Hon. Richard E. Schmittel, Jr., La Plata County Court, 6th Judicial District

Hon. Stacy K. Guillon, 23rd Judicial District Court

Hon. Kelly J. McPherson, 4th Judicial District Court

Hon. Sherri R. Gryboski, 4th Judicial District Court

Hon. Annette J. Kundelius,19th Judicial District Court

Hon. James X. Quinn, 18th Judicial District Court

Hon. Kimbra L. Killin, 13th Judicial District Court

Hon. Rory N. Devlin, Elbert County Court, 23rd Judicial District

Judicial Officer Staffing Expansion

In FY25, the Judicial Department supported SB25-024, which requested the creation of 29 new judgeships over two years. To guide this request, we applied a judicial officer staffing goal of 87% to identify the locations with the greatest need. The original proposal included 18 district court judges, eight county court judges, and a panel of three Court of Appeals judges. During the legislative process, several positions, including the Court of Appeals panel, were removed, resulting in the final creation of 15 judgeships over two years.

In the first year of appropriations, effective July 1, 2025, funding was authorized for four new district court judges, one new county court judge, and their associated staff. Subject to available funding, the second year of appropriations (effective July 1, 2026) is expected to support 10 additional judgeships and their staff, with an estimated appropriation of $7,122,826.30.

This investment strengthens our ability to provide timely and effective judicial services across the state. We are grateful to the Colorado General Assembly for recognizing this critical need and to the public for its continued support of equal access to justice.

Year 1- Effective July 1, 2025			
County/District	**Location**	**Number of Judges**	**Staff Complement**
County Court	La Plata	1	2
District Court	4th JD	1	3
District Court	17th JD	1	3
District Court	18th JD	1	3
District Court	23rd JD	1	3
Total		**5**	**14**
Year 2- Effective July 1, 2026			
County/District	**Location**	**Number of Judges**	**Staff Complement**
County Court	Eagle	1	2
County Court	Mesa	1	2
County Court	Larimer	1	2
County Court	Douglas	1	2
District Court	4th JD	1	3
District Court	7th JD	1	3
District Court	13th JD	1	3
District Court	17th JD	1	3
District Court	18th JD	1	3
District Court	19th JD	1	3
Total		**10**	**26**



Jury Service

In fiscal year 2025, jurors continued to play a vital role in Colorado's justice system by bringing community perspectives into courtrooms statewide. A total of 940,560 Coloradans were summoned for jury service, demonstrating the broad civic participation that underpins the judicial process. Of those summoned, 20,201 individuals ultimately served on juries, representing 2.1 percent of the total pool. These jurors dedicated their time and attention to evaluating evidence, listening to testimony, and reaching fair and impartial decisions. Their service upheld the constitutional right to trial by jury and strengthened public trust in the courts. The Colorado Judicial Department remains committed to supporting jurors through clear communication, efficient processes, and efforts to reduce unnecessary hardship, ensuring that jury service remains accessible and meaningful. The dedication of jurors in 2025 reflects a shared commitment to civic responsibility and the fair administration of justice.

TOTAL JURORS SUMMONED FY25

940,560



TOTAL APPEARED

133,800

TOTAL EXCUSED

55,953



2.1%

OF THOSE SUMMONED SERVED ON A JURY



Office of Language Access

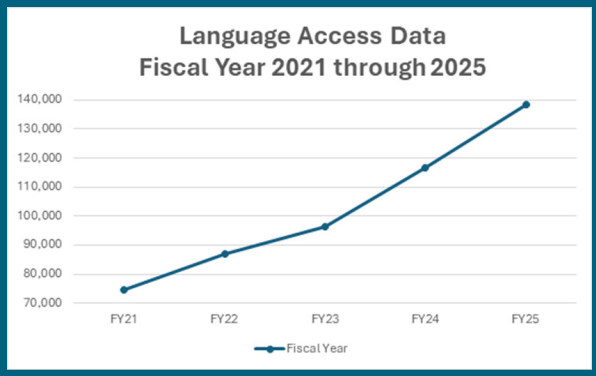
The Colorado Judicial Department is committed to providing court users with meaningful access to the courts regardless of the language they speak.

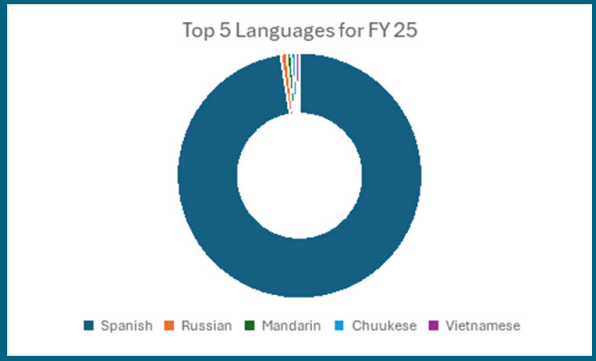
The Office of Language Access (OLA) provides access to the courts for limited English proficiency (LEP) individuals through interpreter services in 122 languages, limited translation services, bilingual resources, and self-help resources, such as translated Judicial Department forms. The OLA has also partnered with the Colorado Division for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind to provide coordinated interpreter services for deaf, hard-of-hearing, and deafblind individuals.

In FY25, there were 138,351 events requiring language access, reflecting an 18% increase in language needs over FY 24. These numbers reflect only recorded events and do not include the thousands of everyday activities happening outside the courtroom, such as helping at the clerks' windows, assisting with collections, interpreting at self-help centers and during family court facilitators' meetings, or interpreting the conditions of personal recognizance bonds.

OLA highlights Fiscal Year 2025 (FY 25):

- **Colorado Court Interpreters - five Spanish Interpreters and one Russian interpreter passed the Court Interpreter Oral Examination and began interpreting in state courts.**
- **The Advisory Committee for Language Access (ACLA) started a Bilingual Justice Program to offer bilingual students a pathway to develop skills, explore career opportunities in the judicial system, and contribute meaningfully to the work of the courts.**
- **The Translations Department started working on HB24-1031 translations for Dependency and Neglect Cases and continued its work on JDF plain language updates.**
- **The Center for Telephone Interpreting (CTI) provided remote Spanish language interpretation for thousands of customers throughout Colorado.**





Problem Solving Courts

70

PSCs are currently operating across 20 judicial districts, providing essential support to justice-involved individuals and fostering community engagement throughout the state

2,000+

individuals referred in FY25, enhancing their paths toward stability

50%

Successful program completions

200+

Adult participants improving housing stability

85%

Participants with no new arrests

300

Nearly 300 participants achieved higher education levels

48%

of juvenile participants reached similar educational milestones, showcasing the transformative impact of these programs



Colorado's Problem-Solving Courts (PSCs) provide innovative, evidence-based approaches to address the underlying issues that contribute to justice system involvement. Across the state, PSCs, including Adult Drug Courts, DUI Courts, Veterans Treatment Courts, Wellness Courts, Juvenile Treatment Courts, and Family Treatment Courts, help participants build stability, reduce reoffending, and achieve better long-term outcomes.

Problem-Solving Courts take a non-traditional approach by integrating treatment with criminal legal case processing. These courts rely on close collaboration among judges, probation, child welfare professionals, attorneys, and treatment providers to deliver both accountability and services that reduce substance use and re-offending.

PSCs are designed for individuals whose justice system involvement is rooted in substance use disorders, mental health challenges, or other complex needs. They specifically serve participants who are at high risk of re-offending and who have a high need for treatment and case management. Participants benefit from structured support, intensive accountability, and coordinated services, providing an alternative path that combines accountability with meaningful opportunities for lasting change.

In the past year, PSCs strengthened collaboration among judges, probation officers, caseworkers, treatment providers, and community partners to ensure participants receive the right balance of accountability and support. Programs focused on expanding access to treatment, improving data-driven decision making, and ensuring consistency through national and statewide standards.

Through continued innovation, collaboration, and commitment to best practices, Colorado PSCs remain a vital resource in advancing public safety and building healthier communities.

Competency Diversion Program

House Bill 24-1355, effective August 7, 2024, established the Competency Diversion Program (codified at §16-8.6-101 through §16-8.6-112, C.R.S.) to reduce reliance on inpatient competency restoration services by diverting eligible defendants into community-based, wraparound care. The statutory goals of the Competency Division Program are to reduce the competency waitlist and reliance on jail-based restoration; to provide individualized care plans that address mental health, housing, transportation, employment, and other basic needs; and to improve outcomes, reduce recidivism, and relieve judicial and correctional system burdens.

Colorado Competency Diversion

FY25 Highlights

- Referral Pathways Established: By April 1, 2025, all required Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) were fully executed as required by HB 24-1355, with mandatory signatories including the Chief Judge, District Attorney, State Public Defender (and/or Alternate Defense Counsel, where applicable), and Bridges of Colorado. MOUs also include coordination with the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) and local treatment providers, with many districts incorporating representatives from sheriffs, probation, and other stakeholders through local steering committees.
- First Round Districts: On April 1, 2025, the Competency Diversion Program launched in the 2nd Judicial District (Denver District Court), Denver County Court, the 17th Judicial District, the 18th Judicial District, and the 20th Judicial District. Denver County Court and the 2nd Judicial District Court entered a joint MOU, indicating that Denver County Court will manage the HB 24-1355 requirements.
- Court Coordinators Hired: All the phase one Court Coordinators were hired and trained to manage referrals, monitor compliance, and collect program data.
- Data Infrastructure Built: The State Court Administrator's Office designed and launched the Data Information Management System (DIMS) to meet HB 24-1355 reporting requirements. FY25 focused on development, testing, and initial data entry; full rollout is expected in FY26.

FY25 Preliminary Data

During the first quarter of operations, 50 individuals were referred into the Competency Diversion Program (HB 24-1355) in the first round of judicial districts. The referral process is designed to divert individuals with a prior history of competency from the traditional competency proceedings. However, some programs that had initiated competency proceedings elected to refer to competency diversion as an alternative once it became available.

Participant Stories

"Drug Court was my last hope. I had hit rock bottom and had no clue how to live a life without drugs or alcohol. It paved the way for my strong recovery. When I thought there was nothing to work on, I was challenged time and time again. It opened a door to connections that I currently have today. Drug court taught me how to live with purpose and show up.

I'm living a life today that I would have never dreamed of while battling my addictions. I am able to be a present father and teach my son things I was never taught. I am able to contribute to my family, instead of taking away. My community of friends is made up of all like-minded people in recovery. We are always challenging ourselves physically and mentally. Most importantly, I have a network of people to turn to when life happens."

"I graduated from Larimer County drug court in January of 2020. I was addicted to meth and opiates. My life had become unmanageable, and I was homeless and in and out of jail. I wanted to get better, but I just didn't know how or where to start picking up the pieces.

Drug court helped me. Bit by bit. I got clean first, then I got a great job and a place to live. I learned how to live a life of not just sobriety but in RECOVERY. I learned to be honest with myself and those around me, and to set healthy boundaries in my relationships. I learned how to be accountable to myself and to others. I learned how to get support and how to support others in recovery.

This month, on the 14th, I will celebrate 7 years of sobriety from meth and opiates! I am in a healthy marriage and we purchased a house just last year! My message to you is—you can do anything—if only you try and are honest!"

"Drug court saved my life. The life I was living before wasn't working. My coping skills at the time just got me into trouble and ruined relationships. I lost everything, except my life. Drug court taught me a new way to live. They kept me very busy with something to do every day. They made sure I had a good structure to start off.

Throughout drug court, I was very strict with myself, making sure I kept good boundaries and was mindful of my people, places, and things. I had to stay focused on myself in order to be successful. I met many people along the way, some of whom are still in my life now. Since graduating from drug court, I have still kept in touch with Probation, the drug court team, as well as drug court graduates who are doing good things with their lives.

In March, I will be sober for four years. Since graduating from drug court, I have given birth to two children, I got married (to a fellow drug court graduate), and this last month we bought a house. This is the happiest I've ever been, and I wouldn't trade it for anything."



Supreme Court Library

The Colorado Supreme Court library serves the legal information needs of the Colorado Judicial Department, other Colorado state agencies, attorneys, and the general public. The library employs six professional lawyer-librarians whose daily tasks range from helping self-represented litigants locate opinions and statutes to assisting trial court judges with complex legal research and analysis.

The Supreme Court Library is currently the only law library in the Denver metro area that is open to the public. Much of the library's attention is focused on fulfilling this fundamental civic function. The library provides free public access to powerful legal research databases and a broad range of Colorado and national legal publications.

8,516
Statutes and opinions accessed electronically

534
Email reference questions answered

1,926
In-person visits to the library



Judicial Learning Center

The Colorado Judicial Learning Center is a 3,700-square-foot interactive learning experience for visitors to the Ralph Carr building. It explains the Rule of Law and why it is important in a democratic society and is also a chance for the branch to tell the public directly who we are, what we do, and why that matters. Visitors range in age from grade school field trips to retirees.

The Learning Center is currently involved in a multi-year renovation, improving the visitor experience and adding a new exhibit for the first time since opening.

79

Tours provided

3,770

Total Visitors

Community Engagement

During fiscal year 2025, Colorado Supreme Court justices and Colorado Court of Appeals judges held oral arguments in front of nearly 1,200 students and educators at high schools in Lamar, Walsenburg, Peyton, Lakewood, and Northglenn, as well as Colorado Law in Boulder.

This program, known as Courts in the Community, was started on Law Day (May 1) in 1986 to give students across Colorado a firsthand look at how disputes are resolved in a democratic society and how the courts operate.

Using curriculum designed especially for this educational outreach program, teachers prepare students to hear oral arguments in real appellate cases that are selected to connect with student interests. Judges and staff from the judicial districts also play a key role in the program, meeting with high school students before or after the event, finding host high schools and more.

Since the program started, the courts have met with thousands of educators and students at high schools (and sometimes colleges and law schools) in nearly every judicial district. The Court of Appeals judges also visit elementary schools for a mock trial program, where Goldilocks is put on trial for trespass and theft.

"Our students had a great experience with both the lessons leading up to oral arguments as well as during the day of the event. I liked the fact that students and teachers got to interact with judges on a personal level."

-Lamar High School Principal

FY25 Highlights

We gathered feedback from nearly 120 administrators, teachers, and students. In general, people were very positive about the program's educational value and highly recommended it to other schools.

Respondents suggested updating the curriculum to better meet educational needs. Based on this feedback, the Supreme Court justices, local teachers and judicial staff rewrote the Courts in the Community lesson plans in May and June 2025. The new curriculum meets Colorado State Standards for civics, provides activities for diverse learners and contains lesson instructions, background for teachers, lecture notes, readings and more.



Social Media Engagement

Total Impressions	Total Engagements	New Followers	Total Followers
109,129	**24,216**	**2,340**	**9,710**

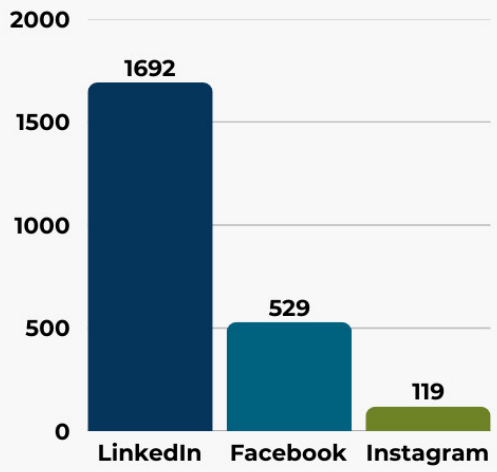
Average Monthly Engagement Rate	Channel Growth Rate
9.9%	**31.7%**

Engagement by Channel*

	Engagements	Rates
LinkedIn	21,720	9.7%
Facebook	2,252	10.7%
Instagram	224	19.2%

*Government channel benchmark rate=2.5%

Follower Growth by Channel



Goals and Outcomes

In FY25, the communications team created a new social media strategy for LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram as part of the branch's overall communications plan, which focuses on educating and engaging the public, building trust and understanding, explaining the judiciary's role, and promoting judicial outreach. To implement our social media strategy, we added an Instagram channel, refined our audiences, developed goal-focused content, designed targeted campaigns, drove traffic to the branch's website, and created robust analytics tools to measure engagement.

The approach is having an impact. Metrics for our channels show robust growth in followers, the highest number of engagements ever, and audience engagement rates that far exceed the 2.5% benchmark rate for government channels. Ongoing analysis of these metrics will continue to guide future social media content and campaigns.

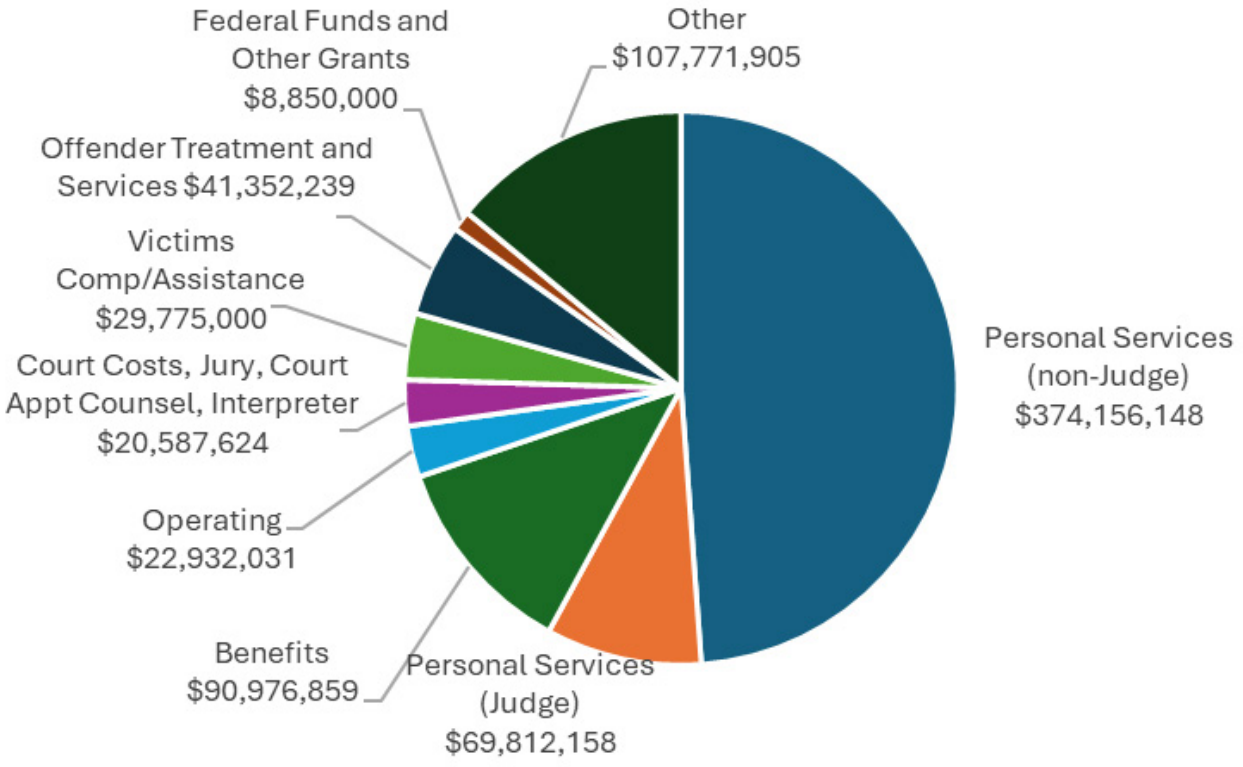
Financials

The Judicial Branch is comprised of the Judicial Department Courts, SCAO, and Probation; the Office of the Public Defender; the Office of the Alternate Defense Counsel; the Office of the Child's Representative; the Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel; the Office of the Child Protection Ombudsman; the Independent Ethics Commission; the Office of Public Guardianship; Bridges of Colorado; the Office of Administrative Services for Independent Agencies; and District Attorney Mandated Costs.

The fiscal year (FY) 2024-25 Judicial Department (Courts, SCAO, and Probation) budget was $766.2 million total funds (including $541.6 million General Fund, $194.8 million cash funds, $52.4 million reappropriated funds, and $4.4 million federal funds) and 4,197.1 full-time equivalent staff.

The total FY 2024-25 appropriation was $1.1 billion, representing 2.5% of the State of Colorado's operating budget. The FY 2024-25 Courts, SCAO, and Probation appropriation of $766.2 million represents 1.7% of the State's operating budget.

Courts, SCAO, and Probation Total Funds



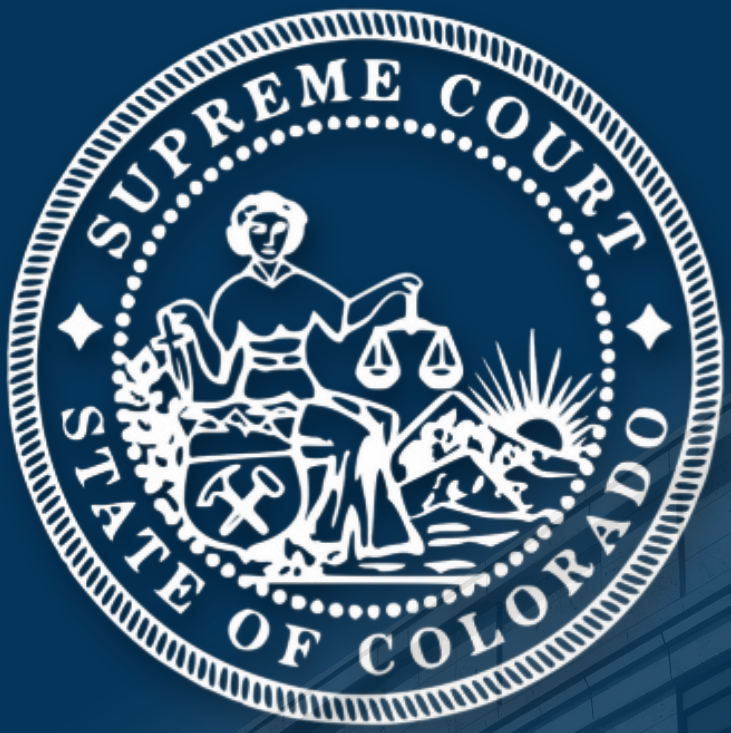
Revenue and Restitution Collections

The Collections Program is a statewide, cash-funded initiative promoting client success and victim reparation through restitution. A Collection Investigator is available to assist individuals with outstanding balances from traffic or criminal assessments due to the court, focusing on the individual's ability to pay. Approximately 93 percent of cases with financial assessments require the services of a Collections Investigator, who provides flexible payment options and education on budgeting and financial management strategies to promote economic stability.

The Office of Restitution Services (ORS) supports victims who are owed court-ordered restitution. The ORS web page, a transparent and informative resource, is maintained to answer general questions and provide easy contact with the office staff. Staff focuses on answering case-specific questions, offers training and support to various audiences, and generates semi-annual restitution statements upon victim request.

In FY 2024-25, the state courts in Colorado processed a significant $214 million in revenue and restitution. Collected revenue supports over 50 different statutory funds residing in various state departments and agencies. Key beneficiaries of this funding include the General Fund, Highway Users Trust Fund, Judicial Stabilization Fund, Correctional Treatment Cash Fund, Offender Services Fund, and many others.





Colorado Judicial Department

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Case announcements, oral argument schedules, rules, Chief Justice Directives, protocols, links to committees and commissions, and general information about the court is available on the Judicial Branch's website.

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