

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

2024

LAS ANIMAS COUNTY

AND

HUERFANO COUNTY

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

The Third Judicial District encompasses two counties, Huerfano and Las Animas. Both county courts and district courts are maintained in Walsenburg in Huerfano County, and Trinidad in Las Animas County. Each county has a full time District Judge. Historically, both counties have part time County Judges, 80% in Las Animas County and 55% in Huerfano County. In 2017, Huerfano County Court Judgeship was reduced to 35% due to declining case filings and currently sits at 45% and 50% magistrate. In Las Animas County, the County Judge is currently 75% and 25% magistrate. Administratively, the District operates offices of the Combined Courts in both Trinidad and Walsenburg.

The Third Judicial District serves a population of approximately 20,000. Both principal cities in the district are located on Interstate Highway 25. We are the least populated judicial district in the state, although Huerfano and Las Animas counties are two of the largest counties, geographically, among the 63 counties in Colorado.

The Judicial staff of the District is comprised as follows:

Las Animas County

Pierce Fowler, District Judge

Date Appointed: 01-10-2023 Term Expires: 01/2027

John D. Mochel, County Court Judge

Date Appointed: 01-07-19 Term Expires: 01/2027

Dawn M. Mann, Magistrate

Date Appointed: 07-15-19 Term Expires: 07/2027

John D. Mochel, Magistrate

Date Appointed: 07-01-21 Term Expires: 01/2025

Huerfano County

John (Clay) McKisson, Chief Judge

Date Appointed: 01-07-19 Term Expires: 01/2025

Dawn M. Mann, County Court Judge

Date Appointed: 01-07-19 Term Expires: 01/2027

Dawn M. Mann, Magistrate

Date Appointed: 07-15-19 Term Expires: 07/2027

The case load for the district is as follows: (Last three years averaged)

District Court	1338
County Court	3506

The District Court in each county handles civil, criminal, juvenile, domestic, probate, and mental health cases.

The County Courts in each county handle all traffic, criminal, misdemeanors, civil cases involving less than \$25,000, and small claims.

District Judge John “Clay” McKisson serves as Chief Judge of the District.

The support staff for each court is as follows:

LAS ANIMAS COUNTY

Robert Kreiman	Court Executive II
Joanne Montero	Clerk of Court III
Kelsey Maes	Administrative Office Supervisor
Stacy Garcia	Specialist
Teressa Brown	.6 Court Judicial Assistant / .4 Protective Proceedings Monitor
Brittany Casias	.50 Court Judicial Assistant / .50 Jury Commissioner
Lisa Lucero	Court Judicial Assistant
Amy Collins	Court Judicial Assistant
Jenifer Blan	Court Judicial Assistant
Dawna Avila	Court Judicial Assistant
Marina Olguin	Court Judicial Assistant
Kerry Gabrielson	.85 Family Court Facilitator
Sam Benson	Self-Represented Litigant Coordinator
Katerina Gallagher	Collections Investigator
Vacant	.25 Supervisor I
Martin Malouff	Chief Probation Officer I
Jo Lynne Mangino	Probation Supervisor
Brandon Gollaher	Probation Officer

Katelyn Bueno	Probation Officer
Raye Munoz	.6 Probation Officer
Rachel King	Probation Officer
Lisa Duran	Administrative Office Specialist II
Holly Giron	Support Services
Josephine Harriman	.5 PSC Coordinator

Total Employees: 24

District Total: 37

HUERFANO COUNTY

Lorraine A. Cisneros	Clerk of Court III
Destiny Dominguez	Court Judicial Assistant
Renee Sandoval	.5 Court Judicial Assistant / .5 Collections Investigator
Sandra Vigil	Court Judicial Assistant
Sara Scott	Court Judicial Assistant
Faith Espinoza	Court Judicial Assistant
Kirsten Simons	Probation Supervisor
Leslie Cordova	.75 Support Services / .10 UPS Case Manager
Josephine Harriman	.5 PSC Coordinator
Nancy Larson	Probation Officer
Joyce Vasquez	Probation Officer
Emily McCullar	Probation Officer
Liz Kreiman	CYDC Coordinator

Total Employees: 13

District Total: 37

A private prison facility opened in Huerfano County in November, 1997 and a State prison facility opened in early 2002 in Las Animas County. These new prisons have created new jobs and increased population in our District. However, the private prison in Walsenburg lost 700 inmates due to contract with Arizona expiring March of 2010 and has remained closed and unoccupied since. This has severely impacted employment availability in Huerfano County.

A significant portion of the district's population lives below the poverty level, and is poorly educated. Teen pregnancies and unwed mothers are typically above the median in the 3rd Judicial District.

As case filings decreases in the 3rd and statewide, the percentage of county court judgeships could decrease as well when we have an opening for county court Judge in either location.