

4th Judicial District

District Summary

The Fourth Judicial District encompasses all of El Paso and Teller Counties and includes both urban and rural populations spread over a sizeable geographic area. The 2020 Census lists El Paso County as the most populous county (2020 Census Bureau). The largest city in the District is Colorado Springs. In addition to the Fountain and Widefield areas, the District also serves Monument, Manitou Springs, Woodland Park, and Cripple Creek, where the Historic Teller County Courthouse is located.

The Fourth Judicial District serves a population of approximately 755,000 people. Unique to this demographic is an estimated 86,000 veterans living in the District. The District is home to five military installations (Ft. Carson Army Post, Peterson Space Force Base, Schriever Space Force Base, US Air Force Academy, and Cheyenne Mountain Space Force Station) (US Census Bureau).

El Paso County Combined Court is the largest court in the state of Colorado housed in one facility. During Fiscal Year 2023, which runs from July 2022 to June 2023, over 73,000 cases were filed: 23,078 cases filed in District Court and 50,833 cases filed in County Court. In FY22, the court combined to collect over 6.7 million dollars in restitution for victims of crime.

The caseload is the responsibility of 24 District Court Judges (one of which sits in Teller County), 11 County Court Judges (one of which sits in Teller County), and 18 Magistrates. The District also has 274.235 Authorized FTE in the Trial Court and 130 allocated FTE in Probation. In FY23, Probation completed over 4,000 evaluations and supervised (including Private Probation) over 9,000 offenders in the community.

The El Paso and Teller County Courts have several specialized programs. The Fourth Judicial District operates six Problem Solving Courts, which consists of four criminal courts—DUI Court, Veteran's Trauma Court, Recovery Court, Domestic Violence Court; a family treatment drug court; and one accountability court—Child Support Court-Responsible Parent Program. Court Care, an on-site childcare center located in the El Paso County Courthouse, has served over 66,000 children since opening its doors in May of 2003. Our Office of Dispute Resolution Program continues to be one of the most innovative and successful in the state and has included a criminal mediation component since 2018. Our Justice Colorado Corps program is in its 15th year. This program uses University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and Colorado College students under the AmeriCorps Program to assist the public with resources. The Fourth has 2.5 Self Represented Litigant Coordinators to assist self-represented parties better, further enhance services within the Courthouse, and establish cooperative relationships with community partners for self-represented parties.

The Honorable Erin Sokol is the Chief Judge of the Fourth Judicial District. She is assisted in administrative duties by a team of dedicated judicial officers who preside over Domestic, Civil, Probate, Juvenile, Criminal Court, and County Court areas. Please address any questions related to the Trial Courts to Scott Sosebee, Court Executive, at 719 452- 5270 or scott.osebee@judicial.state.co.us. Questions regarding Probation in the Fourth Judicial District may be directed to Ryan Mills, Chief Probation Officer, at 719 452- 5702 or ryan.mills@judicial.state.co.us. For more detailed information about any of our operational criminal and non-criminal Problem Solving Courts, please visit the Fourth Judicial District's website.

