

## TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY December 2023

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 168,000 people. In Fiscal Year 2023 there were 6,252 new filings in District Court (criminal, civil, probate, juvenile, domestic and mental health) and 12,533 (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 (three full time and one part time).

Pueblo District Court continues to have specialized case assignments. Most judges have mixed dockets, handling a minimum of two case types. Case types include criminal, 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, juvenile delinquency, and portions of probate. They also cover civil protection orders and daily criminal advisements. The Tenth Judicial District acts as Division Two Water Court, accepting 89 new filings in Fiscal Year 2023. 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 presides over the Behavioral Health problem solving court, delinquency, and some juvenile truancy. There were 359 DUI/DWAI's filed in the County Court along with 736 domestic violence cases. 782 Civil Protection Orders were issued in Fiscal Year 2023 with 141 of those being domestic abuse related.

The court has been operational in the 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 a dedicated Jury Assembly room and a Self-Help Center. The Jury Assembly room was utilized by over 6,800 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 2023 was coordinated by the Self-Help Center staff along with staff and community volunteers. It offered public informational sessions in the subject areas of evictions, representing yourself in court, custody & parenting time, divorce, estates, and small claims. 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 thirteenth year in a row the Tenth Judicial District was one of the National Adoption Day event sites serving to finalize the adoptions of 4 children with 4 permanent families.

For further information, please contact the Court Executive, Dennis Maes Pueblo Judicial Building, 501 N. Elizabeth, Pueblo, Colorado 81003, telephone number (719) 404-8700. Most court proceedings are open to the public and available via livestreaming through the Colorado Judicial website.