

12th Judicial District
January 2023

The 12th Judicial District of the State of Colorado encompasses the six counties of the San Luis Valley: Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache. Considered a model judicial district, it serves an estimated population of 46,000 people.

The district court is Colorado's trial court of general jurisdiction. It has original jurisdiction over felony criminal (35% of active district court cases); civil claims in any amount (17%); domestic relations (16%); juvenile (12%); mental health (16%); and probate (4%) cases. It has appellate jurisdiction in connection with appeals from county court.

New Filings in District Court average between 2,700 and 2,900 cases annually. Most recent annual filings in the county court are as follows: Alamosa (2374); Conejos (585); Costilla (673); Mineral (336); Rio Grande (1,266); and Saguache (749).

Water court, a specialized division of district court, is located at Alamosa. Over 6,400 cases have been filed in Water Division Three (Rio Grande Basin) since its creation in 1969. In FY22 there were 83 filings and 132 structures affected.

The county court is a trial court of limited jurisdiction and hears matters as follows: civil up to \$25,000 (22% of active county court cases); felony complaints (12%); misdemeanors (17%); infractions (26%); small claims (1%); and traffic (22%). County court judges primarily handle the caseload of traffic and traffic infraction matters, including the 273 DUI filings in the San Luis Valley during FY22.

The four district judges in the San Luis Valley serve full-time. The county judges serve part-time based on the current workload. The percentage served is as follows: Alamosa (100%); Conejos (40%); Costilla (30%); Mineral (20%); Rio Grande (55%); and Saguache (20%).

In addition to the judges, there are 61 full or part-time staff positions in the 12th Judicial District Courts and Probation. These positions include court executive, water referee, magistrates, clerks of court, judicial assistants, bailiffs, family court facilitator, self-represented litigant coordinator, interpreter, collections, chief probation officer, probation supervisors, probation officers and probation support staff.

For further information, please contact the Court Executive, Alamosa County Justice Center, 8955 Independence Way, Alamosa, Colorado 81101, telephone number (719) 589-7605. Court proceedings are open to the public, and you are welcome to visit the courts.

District Court

Judge	Date Sworn In
Michael A. Gonzales	01/01/2011
Amanda Hopkins	07/10/2018
Crista Newmyer-Olsen	01/14/2020
Kimberly Cortez	04/01/2022

County Court

Judge	County	Date Sworn In
Daniel A. Walzl	Alamosa	11/09/2011
Jason T. Kelly	Conejos	04/29/2022
Tamara M. Sullivan	Costilla	01/10/2023
Ruth M. Acheson	Mineral	01/08/2013
John Stenger	Rio Grande	06/01/2022
Craig K. Schuenemann	Saguache	11/29/2021