

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

2025

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. Due to changes in weighted caseload calculations, in Las Animas County, the County Judge is currently 100% and Huerfano is 60%. 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: 01-07-2023 Term Expires: 01/2027

Dawn M. Mann, Magistrate

Stephen Talbot, Magistrate

Huerfano County

John (Clay) McKisson, Chief Judge

Date Appointed: 01-09-2023 Term Expires: 01/2029

Dawn M. Mann, County Court Judge

Date Appointed: 01-09-2023 Term Expires: 01/2027

Dawn M. Mann, Magistrate

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

District Court	1065
County Court	3134

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 Saxton	Administrative Office Manager
Stacy Garcia	Court Supervisor I
Shelly Moltrer	Judicial Clerk I
Brittany Casias	.50 Judicial Clerk III/ .50 Jury Commissioner
Lisa Lucero	Judicial Clerk III
Christina Emerson	Judicial Clerk I
Jenifer Blan	Judicial Clerk II
Dawna Avila	Judicial Clerk II
Marina Olguin	Judicial Clerk II
Kerry Gabrielson	.85 Family Court Facilitator
Sam Benson	Self-Represented Litigant Coordinator
Susanne van der Meer	.04 Protective Proceedings Monitor
Katerina Gallagher	Collections Investigator
Josephine Harriman	.50 PSC Coordinator
Vacant	Peer Training Specialist
Martin Malouff	Chief Probation Officer I
Jo Lynne Mangino	Probation Supervisor
Brandon Gollaher	Senior Probation Officer
Katelyn Bueno	Senior Probation Officer

Jamie Mackey	.65 Probation Officer
Rachel King	Senior Probation Officer
Lisa Duran	Administrative Office Manager
Holly Giron	Support Services
Arlene Lopez	UPS Case Manager

Total Employees: 26

District Total: 39

HUERFANO COUNTY

Lorraine A. Cisneros	Clerk of Court III
Blanca Morales	Judicial Clerk I
Vacant	.50 Judicial Clerk I
Vacant	.50 Collections Investigator
Sandra Vigil	Judicial Clerk III
Sara Smith	Judicial Clerk II
Faith Espinoza	Judicial Clerk II
Josephine Harriman	.50 PSC Coordinator
Kirsten Simons	Probation Supervisor
Leslie Cordova	.75 Support Services / .10 UPS Case Manager
Nancy Larson	Senior Probation Officer
Emily McCullar	Senior Probation Officer
Jade Bullard	.60 Probation Officer
Liz Kreiman	CYDC Coordinator
Jamie Pike	Probation Officer
Total Employees: 13	District Total: 39

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 decrease 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.