

SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OVERVIEW

January 2025

The Sixth Judicial District encompasses La Plata, Archuleta and San Juan Counties. The county seats for the three named counties are Durango, Pagosa Springs and Silverton.

The population in the Sixth Judicial District is growing. La Plata County now has a population more than 50,000. The population in Archuleta and San Juan Counties are significantly smaller at 15,000 and 600. According to the Colorado Judicial Branch Statistical Report for July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, the totals for the Sixth Judicial District are:

District Court Filings	2,236	District Court Terminations	2,234
County Court Filings	5,262	County Court Terminations	5,126
Water Court Filings	69	Water Court Terminations	no record yet
Water Court Claims	138		

District Court filings increased 18% and County Court filings increased 11%. Water Court claims increased 34%.

There are four district court judges, three county court judges, and two part-time magistrates that handle the case workload.

The four district court judges handle a mixed caseload of domestic relations, felony criminal matters, juvenile delinquent cases, water cases, all types of civil cases, probate, adoption and relinquishment cases, mental health and alcohol abuse commitments and dependency and neglect cases.

The county court judges handle traffic and misdemeanor cases, felony preliminary hearings, domestic abuse restraining orders and civil matters within their jurisdiction. The county judges in Archuleta and San Juan Counties are part-time.

The magistrates handle DV fast track, protection orders and miscellaneous court county and district court cases.

The Sixth Judicial District operates a domestic violence court and adult wellness court.

In addition to the judges and magistrates, there are approximately 70 support staff positions. These positions include clerks of court, supervisors, jury commissioner, court reporters, administrative office supervisor, staff assistant, water clerk, protective proceedings monitor, problem solving court coordinator, family court facilitator, court judicial assistants, legal research attorneys, collections staff, and probation department employees.

The District Judges are Chief Judge Jeffrey R. Wilson, Suzanne F. Carlson, Kim S. Shropshire and A. Nathaniel Baca. The County Judges are Reid Stewart (La Plata), Justin Fay (Archuleta) and Anthony Edwards (San Juan). The District Court Magistrates are Sarah F. Law and Justin Fay.

For additional information, please contact Eric Hogue, Court Executive, La Plata County Courthouse, 1060 East Second Avenue, Durango, CO 81301.