

SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY

January 2014

The Sixteenth Judicial District encompasses all of Bent, Crowley and Otero counties with an estimated combined population of 29,836. (Crowley – 5,365; Bent - 5,773; and Otero – 18,698 according to 2012 U.S. Census estimates).

Currently, the district is served by two district judges (Judge Mark MacDonnell and Judge Michael Schiferl), who travel from La Junta to Bent and Crowley counties on a rotating basis. The 16th Judicial District has one district administrator. There are three correctional facilities within the district. Privately-owned facilities are operated in Las Animas and Olney Springs, and a state facility, the Arkansas Valley Correctional Facility, is located at Crowley.

The 16th Judicial District began operating the useful public service program for the three-county area on January 1, 2006. A part-time UPS Case Manager joined our staff and the program operates through the Otero Combined Court. During 2009 the 16th Judicial District began operating an Integrated Treatment Court. Court participants are eligible high-risk defendants who receive a comprehensive and judicially-monitored program of drug treatment and other rehabilitation services. Also in 2009, the District began operating Truancy Court for students that habitually fail to attend public schools in our District. In 2013, the District hired a half-time Self-Represented Litigant Coordinator to assist self-represented litigants in the effective and efficient processing of court cases.

Bent County Combined Court is staffed by one Clerk of Court, one full-time court judicial assistant, one part-time court judicial assistant, and a half-time collections investigator. Crowley County is staffed by one Clerk of Court, and one part-time court judicial assistant. Each county also has a part-time county judge: Judge Vigil in Bent County; Judge Grant in Crowley County; and Judge Manley in Otero County. The Otero Combined Court staff consists of one Clerk of Court, six full-time court judicial assistants, two part-time court judicial assistants, one half-time protective proceedings monitor, one half-time family court facilitator, one half-time self-represented litigant coordinator, one half-time administrative specialist, one half-time collections investigator, and one quarter-time jury commissioner.

The probation department for the District has one Chief Probation Officer, eight probation officers, one supervisor, one three-quarter time support services staff member, one administrative specialist, one quarter-time integrated treatment court coordinator, and one half-time collections investigator. The department also has one three-quarter time senate bill coordinator/juvenile tracker. The probation department is located in La Junta, but also staffs satellite offices in Las Animas, Ordway, and Rocky Ford.

The case filings for the county courts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, were as follows:

Bent County	690
Crowley County	422
Otero County	<u>2740</u>
TOTAL	3852

The case types handled in County Court include: small claims, traffic, infractions, misdemeanor, preliminary hearings in felony cases, and civil cases up to \$15,000. These filings represent an increase of 3% from the previous year.

The filings for the same period for the district courts were as follows:

Bent County	320
Crowley County	205
Otero County	<u>914</u>
TOTAL	1439

The case types handled in District Court include: civil, criminal, domestic relations, juvenile, mental health, and probate. Total filings in District Court cases have decreased 19% from the previous year.

Sixteenth Judicial District Nominating Commission

(Crowley, Otero, and Bent Counties) - (Less than 35,000 population)
Updated: January 1, 2014

Name	Party	Atty. or Non-Atty	Term of Office		County of Residence
			Beginning	Ending	
Nathan Shultz	R	Attorney	01/23/13	12/31/18	Otero
Phillip Malouff, Jr.	R	Attorney	01/01/12	12/31/17	Otero
Sarah E. Fults	D	Attorney	01/01/10	12/31/15	Otero
Randall Losey	D	Non-Atty	08/21/13	12/31/17	Bent
Robert Stwalley	U	Non-Atty	01/01/14	12/31/19	Bent
Dwight Gardner	D	Non-Atty	01/01/14	12/31/19	Crowley
Katherine Tompkins	R	Non-Atty	07/06/10	12/31/15	Otero

SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PERSONNEL

District Judges

	First Sworn In	Term Expires
Mark A. MacDonnell	2/03/13	1/17 - Provisional
Michael Schiferl	4/19/02	1/17

County Court Judges

Samuel S. Vigil Bent County	2/19/13	1/17 - Provisional
Suzanne A. Grant Crowley County	9/07/07	1/15
Douglas R. Manley Otero County	6/07/04	1/15

District Administrator

Wendy Larsen

Probation

Tobin Wright, Chief Probation Officer

Bent Combined Court

Robyn Dunham, Clerk of Court

Crowley Combined Court

Andrea Cruz, Clerk of Court

Otero Combined Court

Chris Fleischacker, Clerk of Court

Rules of Procedure for Sixteenth Judicial District Nominating Commission

Adopted November 19, 1979
(Amended July 21, 1993)

I. Notification and Proposals of Names

- A. Persons may submit to any member of the Commission their own names or the names of others by letter filed by a given date (and members of the Commission may submit the names of others).
- B. Members of the Commission may request persons to permit their names to be considered.

II. Commission Procedures

- A. The Commission shall elect one of its members as the Secretary. The Secretary's term shall be for one year or until a successor is elected.
- B. A quorum for the Commission shall be four voting members. The Commission may act by a majority vote of the voting members present except in the selection of nominees, when it must act by a majority of all voting members, and in interviewing, when it may act through subcommittees of two or more.
- C. Every applicant shall receive and submit a questionnaire substantially in the form prescribed by the Commission.
- D. The Commission may conduct investigations of the personal and professional qualifications of the applicants.
- E. The Secretary shall keep a record of the Commission's official actions. The record shall show when and where meetings were held and persons present at each meeting.
- F. At the time the names of the nominees are presented to the Governor, the Chair shall issue a press release identifying the names of the nominees.
- G. After nominations to fill a vacancy are presented to the Governor, the Secretary shall seal and forward to the Clerk of the Supreme Court the record required by Paragraph II E above. The Clerk shall maintain these materials as a confidential record, to be opened only upon order of the Judicial District Nominating Commission, and then only after approval of a majority of the voting members. Five years after the Governor's appointment to fill a vacancy, the record of the proceedings for that vacancy may be destroyed.
- H. When selecting nominees, the Commission shall give consideration to the following factors and questions, among others, with respect to each applicant:
 - 1. The applicant's integrity and moral courage.
 - 2. The applicant's legal ability and experience.
 - 3. The applicant's intelligence and wisdom.
 - 4. Will the applicant be deliberate and fair minded in reaching decisions?

5. Will the applicant be industrious and prompt in performing the duties of a judge?

6. Are the applicant's personal habits and outside activities compatible with judicial office?

7. Will the applicant be courteous and considerate on the bench?

- I. All Commission records, proceedings and business shall be confidential and may not be discussed outside Commission meetings except among Commission members, or as made necessary by II D, and II F above or as required by law.

III. Transmittal to the Governor

- A. At the time nominees for any vacancy are selected by the Commission, it also shall determine the extent of information concerning the nominees which shall be submitted to the Governor and whether any preference among the nominees will be expressed to the Governor.