

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

2010

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. Both counties have part time County Judges, 80% in Las Animas County and 55% in Huerfano County. Administratively, the District operates offices of the Combined Courts in both Trinidad and Walsenburg.

The Third Judicial District serves a population of approximately 25,000. 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 among the 63 counties in Colorado.

The Judicial staff of the District is comprised as follows:

Las Animas County

Leslie J. Gerbracht, District Judge

Date Appointed: 01-10-07 Term Expires: 01/2011

Bruce A. Billings, County Court Judge

Date Appointed: 03-03-03 Term Expires: 01/2011

Huerfano County

Claude W. Appel, Chief Judge

Date Appointed: 01-08-85 Term Expires: 01/2013

Gary R. Stork, County Court Judge

Date Appointed: 1-13-08 Term Expires: 01/2013

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

Las Animas County	District Court	779
	County Court	3,318
Huerfano County	District Court	502
	County Court	1,603

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 \$15,000, and small claims.

District Judge Claude Appel serves as Chief Judge of the District.

The support staff for each court is as follows:

LAS ANIMAS COUNTY

Robert L. Kreiman	District Administrator/Clerk of Court
Joanne A. Montoya	Supervisor
Debbie A. Butero	Specialist
Gary Vigil	Court Judicial Assistant & Jury Commissioner
Rebecca A. Galasso	Court Judicial Assistant
Stacy Garcia	Court Judicial Assistant
Mary D. Bulson	Court Judicial Assistant
Emma Thompson	Court Judicial Assistant
Robert J. Major	Family Court Facilitator (.50 fte), Electronic Recording Operator (.30 fte)
Sheri R. Hart	Collections Investigator (.60 fte)
Tom E. Gonzales	Probation Officer
Jackie J. Vallejos, Jr.	Probation Officer
Vacant	Probation Secretary III Serves Both Las Animas & Huerfano (.80fte)
Danika Craig-Gonzales	Probation Officer
Pat Fletcher	Probation Officer
Jo Lynne Mangino	Probation Officer
Lisa DuRan	Useful Public Service Coordinator (.70fte) Secretary II (.30fte)
Rita Medina	Interpreter/Baliff (as needed)

Total Employees: 17

District Total: 29 (1/25/10)

HUERFANO COUNTY

Lorraine A. Lucero	Clerk Of Court
Susan L. Valdez	Supervisor
Esther D. Hibpshman	Court Judicial Assistant
Vacant	Court Judicial Assistant/Jury Commissioner
Wanda Britt	Court Judicial Assistant
Denise Guerrero	Court Judicial Assistant
Debbie Garcia	Court Reporter
Bernie J. Fay	Chief Probation Officer I
Yolanda Chivira	Probation Officer
Cindy Franciscotti	Probation Officer
Amanda Rios	Collection Investigator (.20fte) Staff Assistant (.50fte) Admin support, UPS coordinator
Priscilla Sandoval	Bailiff & Interpreter (as needed)
Tom Coseno	Collections investigator, UPS Coordinator, Admin support
Total Employees: 12	District Total: 29 (1/25/10)

Both counties have experienced economic and population growth the past four years. 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 is scheduled to lose 700 inmates due to contract with Arizona expiring March of 2010. This could severely impact the prison's ability to remain open if a new contract is not negotiated.

A significant portion of the district's population lives below the poverty level and is poorly educated.

Third Judicial District Nominating Commission

(Huerfano and Las Animas Counties) - Less than 35,000 Population
Updated: April 24, 2012

Name	Party	Atty. or Non-Atty	Term of Office		County of Residence
			Beginning	Ending	
James Colt	R	Non-Atty	04/02/12	12/31/17	Las Animas
Raymond McMillan	D	Non-Atty	04/02/12	12/31/17	Las Animas
Nancy Lake	D	Attorney	01/01/10	12/31/15	Las Animas
Sisto Mazza	D	Attorney	04/13/12	12/31/17	Las Animas
Anthony Abeyta	D	Non-Atty	01/01/10	12/31/15	Las Animas
John Galusha	U	Non-Atty	01/01/11	12/31/16	Huerfano
William Aaroe	R	Non-Atty	01/01/11	12/31/16	Las animas

Rules of Procedure for Third Judicial District Nominating Commission

Adopted 8/7/84

I. Notification and Proposals of Names.

- A. No later than ten days after a judicial vacancy occurs, the Commission Chairperson shall notify each Commission member of the vacancy and shall call a meeting of the Commission to be held no later than twenty eight days after the vacancy occurs. Nothing herein shall prevent the Chairperson or Commission from acting before actual occurrence of a vacancy where an impending resignation becomes know.)
- B. The Chairperson shall issue a press release to all daily and weekly newspapers within the district or county, announcing the existence of the vacancy, and further announcing that applications may be obtained from and filed by a certain date with the Chairperson.
- C. Members of the commission may request persons to permit their names to be considered.
- D. Applications shall be treated as confidential.

II. Commission Procedures.

- A. The commission shall elect one of its members as 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 majority vote of voting members present, except in the selection of nominees, except in the selection of nominees, when it must act by a majority of all voting members.
- C. Every proposed nominee 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 proposed nominees.
- E. The Secretary shall keep a record of the Commission's official actions and shall maintain a list of names considered for each vacancy. The record shall show when and where meetings were held and persons present at each meeting.
- F. After nominations to fill a vacancy are presented to the Governor, the Chairperson shall seal and forward to the Clerk of the Supreme Court the record required by paragraph 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 proceedings for that vacancy may be destroyed.
- G. When selecting nominees, the commission shall give consideration to the following factors and questions, among others, with respect to each proposed nominee:

1. Integrity and moral courage.

2. Legal ability and experience.
3. Intelligence and wisdom.
4. Deliberate and fair minded in reaching decisions.
5. Industrious and prompt in performing judicial duties.
6. Whether the personal habits and outside activities are compatible with judicial office.
7. Courteousness and consideration on the bench.

- H. 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) above, or III (C) below.

III. Transmittal to the Governor.

- A. Within thirty days after a vacancy occurs, the Commission shall submit to the Governor the names of nominees for such vacancy in the number required by the Constitution.
- B. The names of the nominees, along with their questionnaire and such other letters or documents as were considered by the Commission, shall be submitted to the Governor by the Chairperson. The Commission may indicate a preference as to any nominee or submit the names alphabetically.
- C. The names of the nominees shall be made public after submission to the Governor. The release of the names to the public shall be in alphabetical order.

Amended 8/16/89