

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

January 2014

The Eighth Judicial District is comprised of Larimer and Jackson Counties with court facilities in Fort Collins, Loveland and Walden. Larimer County is the sixth largest county in Colorado based upon its population estimate of 310,487 and the population of Jackson County is estimated at 1,348 (United States Census Bureau). Fort Collins is the county seat and largest city in Larimer County with an estimated population in 2012 of 148,612 (United States Census Bureau). Other cities located in Larimer County include Loveland, Estes Park, Berthoud, Wellington and Timnath.

Fort Collins is home to Colorado State University and was ranked 7th on Best Places for Business and Careers, 9th on Education, and 19th for Job Growth according to Forbes' Magazine top 100 lists (2013). Important industries in the Fort Collins area include many high-tech companies; however, agriculture is still important in the northern Colorado area.

DISTRICT COURT

During fiscal year 2013 (July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012) a total of 10,833 cases were filed in the Larimer County District Court and 54 cases were filed in the Jackson County District Court. A complete breakdown on the following pages set forth total filings for probate, mental health, adoption, juvenile and other cases in Larimer and Jackson Counties.

There are eight district judges hearing a mixed or diversified docket consisting of civil, criminal, domestic, probate, juvenile and mental health cases. These eight district judges preside over both Jackson and Larimer Counties. There are also four district court magistrates who are assigned dockets by the Chief Judge consisting of domestic and juvenile cases in Larimer County. Larimer County has successfully implemented innovative alternative programs such as a very successful drug court program for both juveniles and adults. The District will be implementing a mental health court sometime in early 2014. In addition, litigants are encouraged to participate in Alternative Dispute Resolution and the district began an Early Neutral Assessment program in 2013. Settlement conferences are advocated by the district.

NAME	DATE BEGAN	TELEPHONE NUMBER
Chief Judge Stephen J. Schapanski	07/10/07	(970) 494-3600
Judge Daniel J. Kaup	11/26/01	(970) 494-3720
Judge Gregory M. Lammons	07/01/08	(970) 494-3810
Judge Devin R. Odell	10/23/09	(970) 494-3800
Judge Thomas R. French	01/06/11	(970) 494-3820
Judge Julie Kunce Field	01/11/11	(970) 494-3610
Judge Stephen E. Howard	01/11/11	(970) 494-3620
Judge C. Michelle Brinegar	12/23/13	(970) 494-3700
Magistrate John A. Jostad	08/26/04	(970) 494-3710
Magistrate Kent S. Spangler	08/01/08	(970) 494-3570
Magistrate Carolyn B. Pannell	10/01/11	(970) 494-3560
Magistrate Linda K. Connors	06/01/13	(970) 494-3540

COUNTY COURT

25,207 county court cases were filed in Larimer County during fiscal year 2012. A complete breakdown of case filings is set forth on the following pages for Larimer and Jackson Counties. In Larimer County there are five county judges (three located in the Larimer County Justice Center in Fort Collins and two in Loveland at the Loveland Police and Courts Building) and one and one-quarter time magistrates who hear Larimer county court cases. There is a one-fifth time county judge who heard 192 cases filed in the county court of Jackson County during fiscal year 2012. A first appearance center has been in operation in Larimer County since fiscal year 2001 and continues to help litigants reach a quick and efficient disposition of routine traffic, traffic infractions, and misdemeanor cases. In addition, the district implemented a specialized DUI court in July, 2010 which has recently been expanded in 2013.

NAME	DATE BEGAN	TELEPHONE NUMBER
<u>Larimer County Court</u>		
Presiding Judge Peter E. Schoon, Jr	02/27/03	(970) 622-2120
Judge Robert A. Rand	12/01/09	(970) 494-3730
Judge Thomas L. Lynch	12/01/10	(970) 622-2120
Judge Mary Joan Berenato	05/01/13	(970) 494-3830
Judge Kraig S. Ecton	01/24/14	(970) 494-3630
Magistrate Matthew R. Zehe	10/30/06	(970) 494-3550
Magistrate Allen R. Schwartz (0.25 small claims)	10/02/06	(970) 494-3500
<u>Jackson County Court</u>		
Judge Cindy L. Wilson (0.20)	02/10/11	(970) 723-4363

There are 177.15 full time equivalent (79.75 trial court/97.4 probation) non-judicial officer support staff positions in the 8th Judicial District that include court judicial assistants, jury commissioner, law clerks, court reporters, probate registrar, probate monitor, self-represented litigant coordinators, collections investigators, family court facilitator, probation officers, secretaries and supervisors. Due to the growth experienced in northern Colorado over the past several years, the 8th District was appropriated two judgeships in fiscal year 2008 and one additional judgeship in fiscal year 2010, which brought the total number of district court judges in the 8th Judicial District to eight as of January, 2011.

The combined trial court and probation department personal services and operating budget for fiscal year 2014 is approximately \$12,934,287.

The Larimer County Justice Center is located in Old Town Fort Collins at 201 Laporte Avenue and opened in September 2000, while the Loveland Police & Courts Building is located at 810 East 10th Street and opened in Loveland in February 2002 with two county courtrooms. These buildings were constructed to meet the growing needs of the courts and communities in Larimer County. Three additional courtrooms were constructed in the Larimer County Justice Center in recent years, two in fiscal year 2008 and one in fiscal year 2010, to accommodate newly appropriated judgeships and court staff. With the construction of these three courtrooms completed, Larimer County Facilities has utilized the last remaining space in the Justice Center to accommodate the increase in judicial officers received by the district over the last few years.

The Jackson County Courthouse is located at 396 Lafever Street in Walden and is an historic landmark in Jackson County.

The Chief Judge is The Honorable Stephen J. Schapanski (970) 494-3600. The District Administrator is Janelle J. Brunin (970) 494-3593 and the Chief Probation Officer is Chris Gastelle (970) 494-3908. The Clerk of Court in Larimer County is Sherlyn Sampson (970) 494-3501, and the Clerk of Court in Jackson County is Salli Johnroe (970) 723-4363. Court proceedings are open to the public and the 8th Judicial District welcomes tours of the Larimer County Justice Center upon request. Please contact the district administrator at the above telephone number for further information.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT

For FY13, the 8th District Probation Department was staffed by 67.4 full time equivalent probation officers at four different locations, 2 in Fort Collins and two in Loveland. In addition to the probation officers, there are 8 probation supervisors, 12 support services staff, and the Chief Probation Officer.

In FY13, the department completed 1,312 Presentence Investigation Reports and 1,677 Alcohol Evaluations; and processed 1,723 new adult cases and 322 new juvenile cases (including adult and juvenile intensive programs).

At the end of the fiscal year, there were 4,688 adults and 309 juveniles under probation supervision, either through the state probation department or our contracted private provider. FY13 successful terminations rates were: 74% for regularly supervised adults (8% above the state average), 5% for Adult Intensive Supervision cases (6% below the state average), 100% for the Female Offender Program (34% above the state average), 50% for Sex Offender Intensive Supervision cases (5% above the state average), 83% for regularly supervised juveniles (11% above the state average), and 59% for Juvenile Intensive Supervision cases (14% above the state average). 5% of regularly supervised adults were charged with a new offense, while 3% of regularly supervised juveniles who terminated during the same time period were charged with a new offense while on probation.

8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
 FISCAL YEAR CASE FILINGS-July 1 through June 30
 FY 2000 – 2013

Fiscal Year	DR	CV	PR	JV	MH	CR	total	% change
2000	1624	1508	522	1647	186	1649	7136	
2001	1644	1453	552	1497	172	1716	7034	-1.45%
2002	1705	1461	571	1824	168	1927	7656	8.12%
2003	1707	1750	542	1852	150	2395	8396	8.81%
2004	1579	2104	603	1841	242	2418	8787	4.45%
2005	1581	2977	573	1776	301	2426	9634	8.79%
2006	1664	2533	509	2093	303	2189	9291	-3.69%
2007	1777	2773	487	1930	319	1944	9230	-0.66%
2008	1732	2740	555	2373	325	1939	9664	4.49%
2009	1709	2756	576	2316	316	1902	9575	-0.93%
2010	1885	4028	618	2081	322	1789	10723	11.99%
2011	1900	3998	713	1904	426	1862	10803	0.75%
2012	1890	5893	701	1720	409	1895	12508	15.78%
2013	1800	4259	810	1603	410	2005	10887	-12.96%

The percentage differences between FY12 and FY13 filings are as follows:

	<u>FY13 compared to FY12</u>
Domestic Relations	-5.00%
Civil	-38.37%
Probate	13.46%
Juvenile	-7.30%
Mental Health	0.24%
Criminal	5.49%

Projected FY14 case filings (based on filings 07/01/13 - 12/31/13)

Fiscal Year	DR	CV	PR	JV	MH	CR	total
2014 (6mos to 12/31/13)	916	2139	453	754	202	954	5418
Projected 2014	1832	4278	906	1508	404	1908	10836

8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
COUNTY COURT-LARIMER
 FISCAL YEAR CASE FILINGS-July 1 through June 30
 FY 2000-2013

Fiscal Year	C	S	T	R	M	total	% change
2000	7481	1030	8811	4915	6392	28629	
2001	7788	968	7709	4099	6160	26724	-7.13%
2002	7730	1056	7885	3547	6305	26523	-0.76%
2003	8675	1007	9007	4157	6492	29338	9.60%
2004	8813	879	9430	3883	6533	29538	0.68%
2005	9483	799	10478	5002	6073	31835	7.22%
2006	9754	796	11185	5116	6576	33427	4.76%
2007	9752	800	9272	4984	5874	30682	-8.95%
2008	10085	795	9662	4971	6047	31560	2.78%
2009	10763	694	8649	5473	5896	31475	-0.27%
2010	11725	626	7877	4034	5344	29606	-6.31%
2011	10691	543	6363	3595	5757	26949	-9.86%
2012	10404	518	6473	3524	6146	27065	0.43%
2013	9327	508	5585	4075	5904	25399	-6.56%

The percentage differences between FY12 and FY13 filings are as follows:

FY13 compared to FY12

Civil	-11.55%
Small Claims	-1.97%
Traffic	-15.90%
Infractions	13.52%
Misdemeanor	-4.10%

Projected FY14 case filings (based on 07/01/13-12/31/13)

Fiscal Year	C	S	T	R	M	TOTAL
2014 (6mos to 12/31/12)	4778	247	3351	1539	2800	12715
Projected 2014	9556	494	6702	3078	5600	25430

Eighth Judicial District Nominating Commission

(Jackson and Larimer Counties)
Updated: January, 2013

Name	Party	Atty. or Non-Atty	Term of Office		County of Residence
			Beginning	Ending	
Linda Miller	D	Attorney	01/01/10	12/31/15	Larimer
Jennifer Rice	U	Attorney	01/01/10	12/31/15	Larimer
Michael Liggett	D	Attorney	02/14/12	12/31/17	Larimer
Jeffrey Swanty	R	Non-Atty	01/01/10	12/31/15	Larimer
Kermit Allard	R	Non-Atty	02/07/12	12/31/17	Larimer
Linda Hutchinson	D	Non-Atty	11/12/10	12/31/15	Larimer
Michael Blanton	R	Non-Atty	01/01/13	12/31/18	Jackson

Rules of Procedure for Eighth Judicial District Nominating Commission

Adopted: May 8, 2001

These rules are adopted by the Judicial Nominating Commission for the Eighth Judicial District of the State of Colorado to provide guidelines in carrying out the provisions of Article VI, Sections 20 and 24 of the Constitution of Colorado.

I. Notification and Proposals of Names.

- A. When a judicial vacancy occurs, the Commission Chair shall notify each commission member of the vacancy and shall call a meeting of the Commission. Nothing herein shall prevent the Chair and Commission from meeting on organizational matters before the actual occurrence of a vacancy where there is a known impending vacancy.
- B. Without delay after a vacancy has occurred, the Chair shall issue a press release as to how and when names may be submitted for consideration. The Chair or the Commission or both shall publicize the press release by such means as the Chair and Commission determine will be reasonably calculated to bring the vacancy to the attention of persons qualified to apply for appointment to fill the vacancy and that an application will be accorded confidentiality. Prior to interviews, each commission member shall receive a file with a copy of each application and any letters or written information received about an applicant.

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. In the selection of nominees, the Commission must act by a majority of all voting members who have participated in the interviews, whether or not they are personally present to vote.
- C. Every proposed nominee shall receive and submit an Application for Colorado State Court Judgeship substantially in the form prescribed by the Colorado Supreme Court.
- D. The Commission may conduct investigations of the background and fitness of a nominee, which include the personal and professional qualifications of an applicant.
- E. Personal Interviews. Because of a large number of applicants, when the Chair and the Commission decide it is appropriate to do so, the Commission may limit the number of personal interviews. The objective, however, is to have personal interviews of all applicants. The nominees whose names are sent to the Governor shall be personally interviewed.
- F. The Chair and 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.

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 F above. The Clerk shall maintain these materials as a confidential record, to be opened only upon order of the Judicial District Nominating Commission with approval of a majority of the voting members, unless otherwise required by the Colorado Supreme Court. 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 should consider the following factors and questions, among others:

1. Integrity and moral courage.
2. Legal ability and experience.
3. 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 applicant's duties as 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?
8. The extent of current and past community, bar association, and other professional organization involvement of the applicant.

H. In order to encourage as many qualified persons as possible to apply for judicial positions and candid discussions, all Commission discussions, records, proceedings and business, including the names of applicants, except for the names of the nominees forwarded to the Governor, shall be confidential and shall not be discussed outside Commission meetings except among Commission members as to conduct and investigation of applicants. All communications, within or without the Commission, shall be marked "Confidential" and persons contacted by letter or orally shall be requested to treat the inquiry as confidential.

III. Transmittal to the Governor.

- A. At the time nominees for any vacancy are selected by the Commission, it shall also determine whether any preference will be expressed to the Governor. Any lack of unanimity shall be shown by stating only that there was not a consensus and the numerical vote only. Copies of the application, references, and written information about an applicant shall be included with the submission. Any response by a Commission member to a subsequent inquiry about a nominee or nominees from or for the Governor's office may be answered by a Commission member so long as the member clearly states the Commission member does not speak for the Commission and the Commission member does not reveal any discussion of the Commission or comments of any member.
- B. The names of nominees forwarded to the Governor may be released publicly after the presiding Justice has submitted the certification document to the Governor.

IV. Miscellaneous.

- A. The Chair is encouraged to promptly notify those selected as nominees for the Governor and to consider promptly contacting those applicants who were not selected and express appreciation for the time and effort in making the application.