



DENVER COUNTY COURT

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

JUDGES & MAGISTRATES

JUDGES

Rear row (left – right): Judges Andre Rudolph, Gary Jackson, Larry Bohning, Claudia Jordan

3rd Row (left – right): Presiding Judge John Marcucci, Judges Alfred Harrell, Raymond Satter and Robert Crew

2nd Row (left – right): Judges Kerry Hada, James Breese, Doris Burd and Mary Celeste

Front Row (left – right): Judges Brian Campbell, Dianne Briscoe, Clarisse Gonzales-Mangnall, Johnny Barajas and Nicole Rodarte



MAGISTRATES

Back Row (left – right): Magistrates Paul Quinn, Beth Faragher, Cyrus Callum, and Mark Muller

Middle Row (left – right): Magistrates Kate Boland, Howard Slavin and Donald Gentry

Front Row (left – right): Magistrates John Hoffman and Catherine Cary

Not shown: Magistrates Alan Bucholtz, Randall Davis, Elisabeth Fedde, Philip James, Mollie Moul and Terry Tomsick





Denver County Court

CITY AND COUNTY BUILDING

1437 Bannock Street

Denver, Colorado 80202

March 30, 2013

Honorable John Barajas
Honorable Larry Bohning
Honorable James Breese
Honorable Dianne Briscoe
Honorable Doris Burd
Honorable Brian Campbell

Honorable Mary Celeste
Honorable Robert Crew
Honorable Clarisse Gonzales-Mangnall
Honorable Kerry Hada
Honorable Alfred Harrell
Honorable Gary Jackson

Honorable Claudia Jordan
Honorable John Marcucci
Honorable Nicole Rodarte
Honorable Andre Rudolph
Honorable Raymond Satter

Dear Judges:

If one were to pick a word to define the year 2012, it might be 'process.' Court employees and administration worked diligently to identify more efficient ways to streamline court operations, upgrade systems and improve customer service.

Managers and IT staff continued to work with a multi-agency Integrated Criminal Justice (ICJ) team, which is implementing a system to share case information between the Denver Police and Sheriff's Departments, the City and District Attorneys' Offices and the court. This data sharing will increase speed and accuracy of information, and also allow for better use of each agency's resources. This project is slated to be fully implemented in 2013.

The presiding judge and court administrators worked closely with the state legislature to change RTD ticket violations from a criminal charge to a traffic infraction, which not only clears up outstanding cases faster but also spares the individual from having a criminal record. A new warrant cancellation fee was implemented, allowing an individual who has missed his first court date to pay a fee and have his hearing rescheduled without fear of arrest. Additionally, Failure to Pay (FTP) warrants were no longer issued. Instead, these matters were addressed through other methods of collection, allowing cases to reach closure in a more timely manner.

Scanners have been put to use throughout the court, digitizing court documents and attaching them directly to the court's case management record during hearings; our goal is to use and retain significantly less paper. Microfiche and film records dating back decades have been converted as well. Hundreds of thousands of archived records are now available at the push of a button, and the massive amount of physical space formerly used to house these documents can now be used for other purposes.

With funding from the Crime Prevention and Control Commission and assistance from a website development vendor, the court was able to design a website that is fully interactive; providing valuable information and the ability to pay tickets online, cancel warrants, print and file forms, and interact with court personnel. The much anticipated www.denvercountycourt.org went live in February, 2013.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the continued dedication and hard work shown by the employees of the Denver County Court.

The court ended the year by saying goodbye to two judges who have been with the Denver County Court for a combined 47 years on the bench. Judges Andrew Armatas and Aleene Ortiz-White retired in December of 2012.

Sincerely,


Matthew M. McConville
Court Administrator

COURT ADMINISTRATION

- In 2012, with funding from the Crime Prevention and Control Commission and support from an outside vendor, the court was able to begin the process of designing and developing a new Denver County Court website. The new website will be far more user friendly, and will also allow citizens to pay certain tickets online, cancel warrants, download and submit various forms, and interact with court staff. The greatly anticipated website is slated to go live in early 2013.
- Court administration worked with the legislature to decriminalize RTD tickets. A conviction of failure to pay an RTD fare used to result in a ticket that came with a criminal record. Now, the violation is treated as a traffic infraction.
- The court no longer issues Failure to Pay (FTP) warrants. Instead, the court has been successful in collecting delinquent fines by issuing wage assignments or referring to a private collection agency.
- Another innovative method used to reduce the amount of warrants and potential arrests is a new Warrant Cancellation Fee. Previously, anyone who Failed To Appear was issued an FTA warrant, and was subject to arrest. The new warrant cancellation fee is only available to defendants who have missed their first hearing on their offense. The defendant can pay a fee of \$100, reschedule the hearing date and not be concerned about being arrested.

GENERAL SESSIONS/CRIMINAL DIVISION

- Enormous technological advancement was made, ranging from the use of e-court, a computer program which allows judges to dispose of matters electronically from the bench, to the pilot implementation of the City's Integrated Criminal Justice (ICJ) system. ICJ allows the Denver Police Department to file cases electronically, disbursing case records to all appropriate agencies at one time. While not yet fully implemented, the court is well into the pilot phase, and all aspects are favorably pointing toward a complete implementation in 2013.
- The division made a huge push to store records electronically, which involved the scanning of thousands of records into Themis, the court's case management system. Access to digitized court records is changing the way the court conducts business, making it more efficient than ever before. Staff can access records from their workstations instead of having to travel to various locations throughout the courthouse to find a paper file. Digitizing records also frees a vast amount of physical space, previously used for record storage, for repurposing.
- New quality control measures were implemented, resulting in a 15% improvement in the accuracy of the court's record.

TRAFFIC/CIVIL DIVISION

- Traffic/civil managers continued to work with IT staff to update the civil case management program. The court has also provided representation on the state's Integrated Colorado Courts E-Filing System (ICCES) Oversight Board, as well as the Colorado Rules Committee for county court civil rules.
- In early 2012, the state made sweeping statutory changes defining how time was calculated when meeting deadlines for notices, hearings and filings. Additionally the state ordered a temporary fee reduction on all civil matters. Implementation involved a significant amount of modifications within the court's case management and accounting protocols. These changes were accommodated within a very short turnaround time.
- Staff purged 13,000 - 15,000 civil cases dated prior to 2006. Additionally, thousands of older civil cases previously archived on microfilm were digitized by a third party vendor, and can now be accessed from the court's case management system. This not only preserved the archived record, but also increased access and efficiency.
- Before attaching digital records to the case management system, court staff reviewed 994,000 civil and traffic media files, with a 99.9963% accuracy rate.
- RTD tickets were decriminalized in June of 2012, and returned to the traffic division from general sessions. The court's IT staff electronically sealed approximately 5,000 cases and the traffic division created a new process to receive and adjudicate the new RTD ticket.

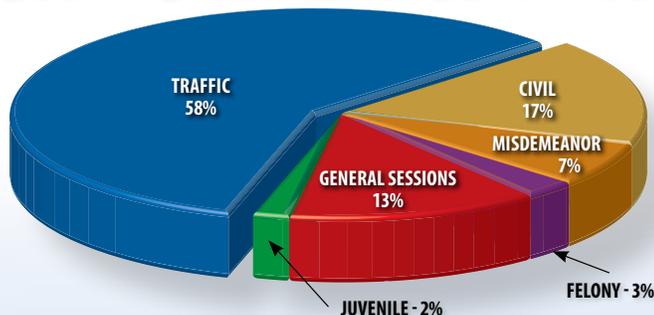
General Fund Revenues - Fees & Fines	2012	2011	% CHANGE
Civil	1,937,025	2,041,932	-5.14%
Criminal	1,258,891	1,066,265	18.07%
General Sessions	667,940	664,950	0.45%
Juvenile	41,449	64,215	-35.45%
Probation	2,489,894	2,284,551	8.99%
Traffic	16,010,744	16,894,513	-5.23%
Other	1,257,859	2,527,668	-50.24%
Total General Fund Revenue	23,663,801	25,544,094	-7.36%

General Fund Expenditures	2012	2011	% CHANGE
Personnel	17,932,945	17,848,464	0.47%
Operating Costs	2,819,543	2,837,436	-0.63%
Total General Fund Expenditures	20,752,487	20,685,900	0.32%

Restitution Paid to Victims	2012	2011	% CHANGE
	802,090	680,649	17.84%

Fees Collected for the State of Colorado	2012	2011	% CHANGE
Family Friendly Fund	9,393	8,059	16.55%
Judicial Enhancement Late Fee	6,113	6,396	-4.42%
OJW	354,840	358,260	-0.95%
Evaluations & Law Enforcement	577,486	576,814	0.12%
Public Defender's Fee	2,668	1,384	92.77%
Drug Offender Surcharge	26,125	28,417	-8.07%
Sex Surcharge	95	1,175	-91.91%
Drunk Driver Surcharge	37,808	47,149	-19.81%
Justice Center Fund	1,317,398	1,438,675	-8.43%
Court Security Fee	194,738	213,381	-8.74%
Stabilization Fee	38,599	654,291	-94.10%
Brain Injury Surcharge	39,129	39,159	-0.08%
Offender Identification	41,701	39,779	4.83%
Victim's Compensation Fund	645,181	694,257	-7.07%
Victim's Assistance Fund	1,152,089	1,231,838	-6.47%
Total	4,443,363	5,339,034	-16.78%

COURT CASE FILING COMPARISON



	YTD 2012	YTD 2011	% CHANGE	FILING CHANGE
Civil	33,105	34,897	-5%	-1,792
Felony	5,869	5,236	12%	633
Misdemeanor	13,341	13,131	2%	210
Juvenile	3,608	3,550	2%	58
General Sessions	26,489	22,631	17%	3,858
Traffic	116,144	127,814	-9%	-11,670
Total	198,556	207,259	-4%	-8,703

- The goal of having all personnel cross-trained in traffic and civil division operations prior to January, 2013 was realized.

WARRANTS/BONDING OFFICE

- With cooperation from the Denver Sheriff's Department, the warrants division was able to restructure and ultimately phase out its graveyard shift. Two employees and their associated duties were transferred to the day shift, a third employee retired, and 50% of night shift warrant confirmation and bond generation was moved to the sheriff's department. This change allowed the warrants division to more effectively manage its workload, while still ensuring that critical warrant and bonding functions remain available during graveyard hours.
- Warrant office supervisors attended a protection order summit and worked to implement changes and protocol for reporting and correcting protection order (PO) errors. A network was formed with various city agencies (city attorney, DPD victim's advocate, pre trial, etc) to create a consistent and efficient means to report and correct PO errors.
- The warrant office worked with the city attorney's office on a major warrant dismissal project, in which 9,000 older GS/GV/JV court warrants were reviewed and closed out.
- Warrant supervisors worked with criminal and IT supervisors to implement Phase II of ICJ, pertaining to defendants arrested on court warrants filed electronically.
- The warrant office implemented procedures to issue and confirm nationwide extraditable warrants which fall within the interstate compact requirements.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT

- The department reorganized, creating a supervision unit and an investigation unit. Officers now specialize in the supervision of certain cases, such as first time DUI's, repeat DUI offenders, Sobriety Court, domestic violence offenders, and sex offenders.
- A Day Reporting Center was created for high risk and high need clients, who can now receive immediate specialized and individualized services and supervision in order to assist with their success while on probation.
- The department began using a remote online reporting system called MonitorConnect. It allows lower risk clients to report in online at their convenience, rather than having to meet with their probation officer in person. Online reporting reduces the costs of transportation, parking, child care, and missed work for clients, and allows for more effective use of time for probation officers.
- A Field Training Officer program was developed and implemented to coach new staff in on-the-job skills.
- The first-ever Basic Probation Officer Training Academy, a five-week course taught in collaboration with the Denver Police and Sheriff's Departments, was created.
- Eight probation officers were added to assist in the supervision of cases, reducing many caseloads to less than 300 per officer.
- An agreement was created in which the Denver Safe City Office and the Juvenile Probation Department's TASC program took over supervision and case management of all juvenile probation clients in order to offer increased services, home visits, school contacts, and family involvement. A probation officer still has oversight over all juvenile clients and programs; however, much of the day-to-day process is managed at the provider level.
- A new partnership began with the Gang Reduction Initiative of Denver (GRID) project stakeholders in order to combat gang violence through a specialized Ceasefire Program, where supervised gang members are offered increased services and supervision.

COURT MARSHALS

The court marshals had a very productive year in 2012, in which they:

- Actively worked 5,943 warrants.
- Cleared 737 warrants by arrest or order-in to court offices.
- Working with probation officers, performed 424 home visits of Sobriety Court defendants.

- Assisted collections staff by calling 1,506 defendants who had missed their payment date. This resulted in 1,057 payments made, totaling \$120,625.
- Filled a vacant position and became fully staffed for the first time in two years.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

During 2012, IT staff kept the court's PCs, servers, email, websites, network infrastructure and case management systems operational nearly 100% of the time. They continue to improve data sharing with external agencies. Project highlights included:

- The design and development of a court website (www.denvercountycourt.org). The website is expected to be launched in early 2013.
- Continued work on improving and adding functionality to the Integrated Criminal Justice (ICJ) project. This project is a continuation from 2011, involving electronically sharing data with the police department, sheriff's department, city attorney, district attorney and the city's technology services division.
- Continuing major enhancements made to the court case management systems and intranet (CourtNet). This included upgrades to e-court and adding ICJ e-court; an automated warrant cancellation process; improving the look and feel of the intranet; and making application changes to the civil management system in order to add functionality and fix program problems.
- Upgrading the court network infrastructure by replacing outdated equipment, improving the network performance and increasing systems security. Twenty-three courtrooms now electronically store their audio recording, and no longer require CD recordings. The probation video and audio system was replaced. Ninety-five percent of all court PCs are now running Windows 7.
- Designing and implementing an automated process for electronically storing and organizing scanned documents directly into Themis, the court's case management system. The court strives to ultimately become a paperless court. To date, over 50 scanners have been installed throughout the court, in order that documents may be immediately scanned and become part of the electronic record.
- Reviewing and utilizing new technologies. This includes using iPads and touch screen monitors, as well as cloud technologies to host a court website and case data.

PARKING MAGISTRATES

- Customers disputed 36,134 parking citations in person within the parking magistrate's office, while another 15,528 disputed their citations in writing.
- Five parking magistrates addressed 56,874 individual citations. Some citizens disputed more than one citation per hearing. Parking magistrates also held arraignments, penalty hearings, and vehicle impoundment hearings.
- In August, 2012, magistrates began requiring a photo ID from individuals appearing in person to contest parking matters. This helped address security concerns.

INTERPRETERS' OFFICE

- Court interpreters provided interpretation services for individuals with limited English proficiency in both the general sessions/criminal and traffic/civil divisions during 2012. With the addition of civil matters to interpreter coverage, more time has been spent in longer settings such as mediations than ever before. In 2012 the office provided Spanish interpretation for 14,916 cases. The office provided an array of non-Spanish language interpreters for court cases as well.
- Colorado continued to maintain a vigorous program which promotes training, certification, and therefore quality court interpreters. All Spanish and Russian court interpreters used by the Denver County Court, as well as a Vietnamese contractor, are certified.
- The interpreters' office assures that all legal documents are translated by ATA (American Translator's Association) certified translators.

MOST VALUABLE EMPLOYEES

In 2012, the court's dedicated employees faced each challenge with professionalism, grace and determination. Every employee of the Denver County Court deserves commendation, but the following were selected by their peers for additional recognition:



Most Valuable Team
Website Team



Most Valuable Manager
Anne Stein



Most Valuable Support Staff
Esperanza Garza & Claire Geiger



Most Valuable Probation Officer
Danielle Cruz



Most Valuable Courtroom Clerk
Liz Marquez



Most Valuable Clerk's Office Staff
Jessica Portillo & Julia Todd



Quest for Excellence
Fanta Harkiso

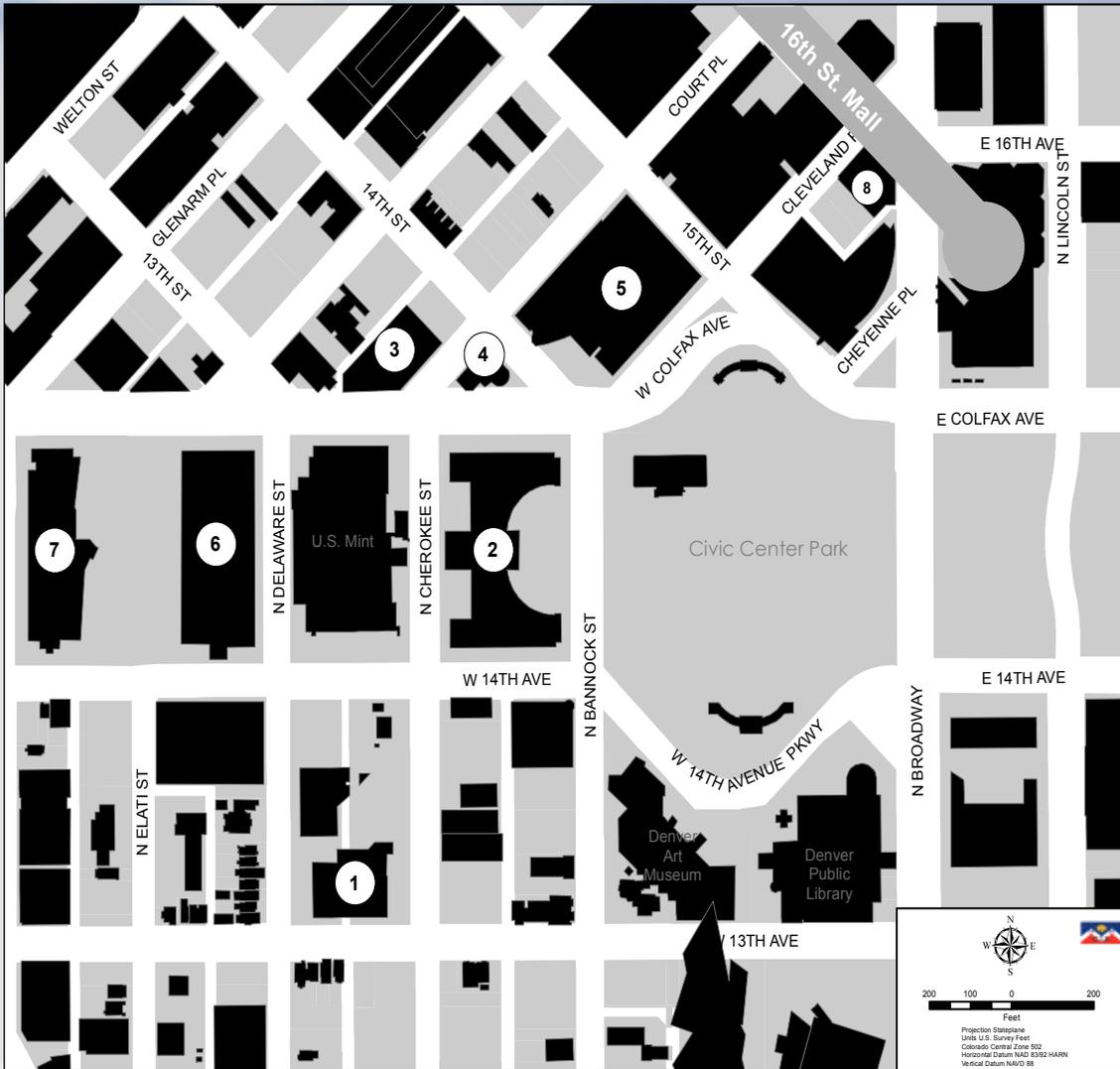


Outstanding Accomplishment
Terrie Langham & Scott Armbruster



Most Valuable Rookies
Blanca Madera & Katy Cline

DENVER COUNTY COURT LOCATOR MAP



DEPARTMENT	BLDG. #
Bonding Office 720-337-0062	First Floor 6
Court Child Care Center 720-865-9930	4
City Attorney 720-913-8050	Dept 1207 5
Clerk & Recorder 720-865-8400	First Floor 5
Collections & Community Service 720-337-0410	Room 160 7
Courtroom 2100 720-337-0082	6
Courtroom 2300 720-337-0078	6
Detention Facility 720-337-0400	6
District Attorney 720-913-9000	Dept. 802 5
General Sessions & Criminal Division 720-337-0410	Room 160 7
Parking & Cashiers 720-913-5300	First Floor 5
Police Department 720-913-2000	1
Probation Department 720-913-8300	Suite 800 3
Public Defender (Municipal) 720-337-0407	Room 150 7
Public Defender (State) 303-620-4999	Suite 300 8
Traffic & Civil Division 720-865-7840	Room 135 2
Warrants Division 720-337-1464	Room 147 7
BUILDING ADDRESSES	
DPD Administration Building 1331 Cherokee Street	1
City & County Building 1437 Bannock Street	2
Minoru Yasui Building 303 W. Colfax Avenue	3
Warm Welcome Childcare Center 270 14th Street	4
Wellington Webb Building 201 W. Colfax Avenue	5
VanCise-Simonet Detention Center 490 W. Colfax Avenue	6
Lindsey-Flanigan Courthouse 520 W. Colfax Avenue	7
State Public Defender's Office 1560 Broadway	8

JURISDICTIONS

DIVISION	JURISDICTION	FACTS TO KNOW
Civil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil suits up to \$15,000 Small claims suits up to \$7,500 Eviction actions Name changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil suits can be filed by either an individual or a business. Parties must represent themselves in small claims cases - lawyers may not be involved.
Criminal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colorado Revised Statute violations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DUI, DUS, 3rd degree assault and 2nd or 3rd degree burglary are example of misdemeanor violations. Felony cases including 1st or 2nd degree assault and 1st degree burglary are heard by a Denver County Court judge at the preliminary hearing stage only.
General Sessions/ General Violations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Denver Municipal Ordinance violations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disturbing the peace, assault, and loitering are examples of general sessions violations. Building and zoning code violations and dog license violations are examples of general violations.
Juvenile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Denver Municipal Ordinance violations committed by those under age 18 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Petty theft, trespass, and curfew violations are examples of juvenile violations.
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parking violations in the City and County of Denver 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parking magistrate available to negotiate parking fines
Protective Orders Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permanent and temporary civil restraining orders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Denver County Court is one of the few courts in the United States to handle TROs and PROs in a single courtroom dedicated to that purpose.
Traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Denver Municipal Ordinance and Colorado Revised statute violations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The traffic division adjudicates municipal ordinance infractions, such as failure to stop at a stop sign and state statute offenses, such as no operator's license or expired plates.



MISSION STATEMENT

In our quest to be the best court anywhere, the Denver County Court's mission is to:

- Administer justice fairly, efficiently and effectively.
- Provide excellent customer service.
- Foster a positive environment where employees enjoy their work.



DENVER COUNTY COURT

1437 Bannock Street • Denver, Colorado 80202

Phone: 720-865-7800 • Fax: 720-865-8250 • www.denvercountycourt.org