

2024



Annual Report

DENVER COUNTY COURT
KERRI LOMBARDI, PRESIDING JUDGE

DENVER COUNTY COURT | 1437 Bannock St., Room 108, Denver Colorado 80202

Table of Contents

Message from the Presiding Judge	2
Organization Chart, Mission, and History	3
About, Summary and Administration	4
Denver County Court Bench	5
Bench Composition	6
Staff Composition	7
Court Operations - Budget Detail and Performance Metrics	8
Case Filing Statistics	9
Court Operations by Division	9
Administration and Court Services	9
Accounting	10
Human Resources	11
Information Technology (IT)	12
Marshals Division	14
Warrants and Bonding Division	14
Traffic and Civil Division	15
Small Claims Court	16
Protection Order Court	16
Parking Magistrate's Office	17
Self-Help Center	17
Criminal and Municipal Division & Specialty Courts	17
Peer Navigators, Wellness Program, Outreach Court, Competency Diversion, Sobriety Court	19
HEM Program	20
Probation Division	20
Court Notables	25



Presiding Judge Kerri Lombardi

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDING JUDGE

It is with great pride and a profound sense of responsibility that I present the Annual Report of our Court for the 2024-2025 judicial year. As we reflect on the past twelve months, we recognize both our accomplishments and the challenges we have faced in our ongoing mission to uphold justice, maintain the rule of law, and serve the public with distinction.

This year has tested our resilience and adaptability as we continued to modernize our operations while maintaining the timeless principles that guide our judicial system. Our judges, magistrates, administrators, and staff have demonstrated extraordinary commitment to ensuring that justice remains accessible, efficient, and equitable for all who come before this Court.

Among our most significant achievements, I am pleased to report the successful launch of our competency support and diversion dockets, the strides we have made with our stakeholders to improve safety and security for all in our buildings, keeping up with the language access needs of our evolving community, being leaders in live streaming proceedings and access to justice initiatives including on-line bonding, establishing a new commission on judicial performance, an overhaul of the rules on judicial discipline and for retaining an incredible and truly dedicated staff of public servants.

We have also strengthened our community outreach programs, recognizing that public confidence in the judiciary depends not only on fair outcomes but also on transparent processes and educational engagement. Our judges participated in several community events, engaged in valuable speaking engagements, and volunteered with several fantastic organizations.

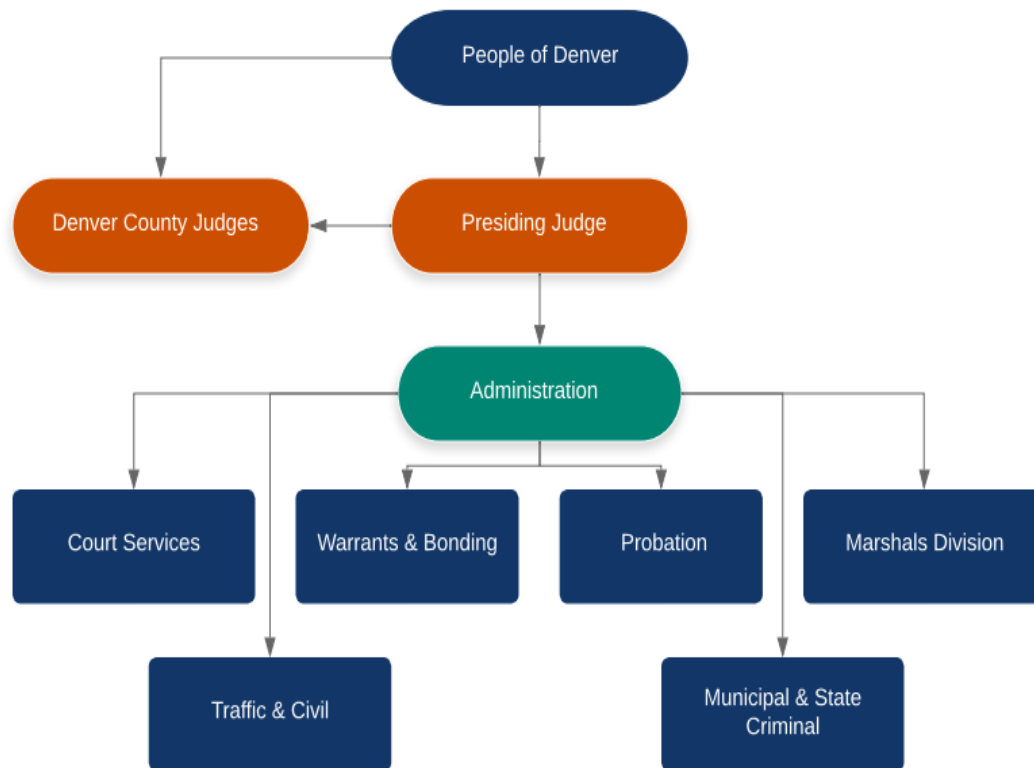
Despite these accomplishments, we acknowledge that challenges remain. The growing complexity of cases, particularly in areas of evolving social concerns, demands our continued growth and adaptation. Resource constraints continue to test our ability to serve justice promptly, though we have made significant strides in doing more with what we have been allocated. Our staff has managed to step up in every way to make sure we serve our community.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to the fundamental principles that guide our work: equal justice under law, judicial independence, procedural fairness, and respect for the dignity of all who appear before us. These principles are not merely aspirational; they are the foundation of every decision we make and every innovation we implement.

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to my judicial colleagues, our dedicated staff, and our partners throughout the legal community. Your unwavering commitment to justice and public service makes our achievements possible and inspires confidence in our continued progress.

The pages that follow provide a detailed accounting of our Court's activities, statistics, and initiatives. They tell the story not just of cases processed and matters resolved, but of a living institution dedicated to the ideal that justice, administered fairly and impartially, is the cornerstone of a free and democratic society.

Organization Structure



Mission

To administer justice fairly, efficiently, and effectively, provide excellent customer service and foster a positive work environment where employees enjoy their work.

History

In 1902, the City and County of Denver consolidated into a single municipality, forming a unified governing body that manages both local and state affairs. The municipality operates independently within Colorado as a separate governing entity, empowered by the Colorado Constitution and the Denver Charter to adopt its own ordinances and rules. This authority provides the City and County of Denver with a level of self-governance, allowing Colorado's capital city to function with relative autonomy from the state. The state recognized the need for a court uniquely designed to adjudicate both municipal and state laws within the consolidated City and County of Denver. In 1962, Colorado voters approved a Constitutional Amendment that created Denver County Court which officially launched on January 12, 1965.

About

In Denver, the county and municipal courts are integrated and administratively separate from the state court system and are specifically recognized in the Colorado Constitution as being unique from all other Courts in the state. The Denver County Court is a state and municipal court and is one of the largest courts in the State of Colorado; processing nearly 100,000 cases annually. The Court is comprised of 19 judges, four full-time magistrates, and just over 280 staff.

Summary

Denver County Court provides an impartial forum for the people of Denver and the State of Colorado to resolve disputes and enforce laws in a fair and neutral manner. The Court serves as Denver's third branch of government and exists to administer justice, guarantee liberty, resolve disputes, maintain the rule of law, provide equal protection for all, and ensure due process under the law. Denver criminal and civil courts provide the opportunity for parties to have their cases heard and decided in a fair and consistent manner by a neutral judge or jury.

The Court also has habilitative and administrative functions. The Court's habilitative function ensures those adjudicated and sentenced to community supervision are provided resources and referrals to assist them in meeting their basic needs and necessary treatment to achieve a productive lifestyle free of justice system involvement. The Court also provides information, support, and referral for services to victims. The Court's administrative function ensures timely and efficient resolution of the disputes and actions brought before it.

2024 Administration

Presiding Judge, Kerri Lombardi

Court Executive, Kristin Wood

Deputy Court Executive, Bill Heaney

Clerk of Court, DeAnna Maes

Chief Probation Officer, Yessenia Guzman

Deputy Chief Probation Officer, Demond Harper

Chief Marshal, Jeff Peitersen

IT Director, Jonathan Moskoe

Human Resources Director, Dawn Palutke

Finance Director, Gary Schulz

Public Information Officer, Carolyn Tyler

Denver County Court Bench

Kerri Lombardi, Appointed April 30, 2015

Appointed Presiding Judge February 1, 2024

Andre Rudolph, Appointed January 7, 2005

Clarisse Gonzales, Appointed January 2, 2007

Nicole Rodarte, Appointed January 8, 2013

Served as Presiding Judge from January 2, 2022 – January 31, 2024

Beth Faragher, Appointed June 27, 2014

Theresa Spahn, Appointed October 2, 2014

Served as Presiding Judge from January 6, 2017– January 1, 2022

Olympia Fay, Appointed January 13, 2015

Andrea Eddy, Appointed July 7, 2016

Chelsea Malone, Appointed July 7, 2016

Barry Schwartz, Appointed January 10, 2017

Frances Simonet, Appointed September 29, 2017

Isabel Pallarés, Appointed October 27, 2017

Judith Smith, Appointed January 9, 2019

Jamie Zobel, Appointed February 1, 2020

Resigned September 6, 2024

Michelle Martinez-Thomas, Appointed March 1, 2020

Reneé Goble, Appointed March 1, 2021

Kelly Cherry, Appointed September 19, 2021

David Blackett, Appointed December 14, 2021

Isaam Shamsid-Deen, Appointed May 23, 2023

Brian Williamson, Appointed December 6, 2024



Bottom from left: Judge Brian Williamson, Judge Michelle Martinez-Thomas, Judge Olympia Fay, Judge Chelsea Malone, Judge Nicole Rodarte, Presiding Judge Kerri Lombardi, Judge Theresa Spahn, Judge Andrea Eddy, Magistrate Melissa Annis. Top from left: Magistrate AnnMarie Spain, Judge Frances Simonet, Judge Kelly Cherry, Judge Isaam Shamsid-Deen, Judge Reneé Goble, Judge David Blackett, Judge Judith Smith, Judge Clarisse Gonzalez. ***Not featured: Judge Andre Rudolph, Judge Beth Faragher, Judge Barry Schwartz, Judge Isabel Pallarés, Judge James Zobel, Magistrate Arnie Beckman, and Magistrate Michelle Kline.

2024 Denver County Court Bench

The Denver County Court (DCC) is proud of its diverse bench. When judges come from varied backgrounds—different genders, races, ethnicities, socioeconomic backgrounds, and professional experiences—they bring a wider range of perspectives to judicial decision-making.

Judges from diverse backgrounds may be more attuned to obstacles facing disadvantaged communities in accessing justice. This awareness can help courts better serve all citizens and where individuals can see themselves represented among those making decisions. The below table depicts the diversity of the 2024-2025 DCC Bench.

Composition of the Denver County Court Bench	
Female	74%
Male	26%
White	53%
Hispanic/Latino	21%
Black	21%
Asian	5%



The Denver County Court employs approximately 260 staff and is comprised of the following Divisions: Administration, Court Services, Criminal Trial Courts, Traffic and Civil Trial Courts, Warrants and Bonding, Marshals Office, and Probation Services.

The composition of Court staff is equally as diverse as the bench and the below table represents 2024 staffing.

Composition of the Denver County Court Staff	
Female	65%
Male	34%
Other	1%
White	48%
Hispanic/Latino	35%
Black	6%
Asian	4%
Two or More Races	3%
Decline	2%
American Indian or Alaska Native or Pacific Islander	<1%

2024 Court Operations – Summary View

Budget Detail

As courts continue to serve the public through increasingly complex legal landscapes, financial transparency remains essential for maintaining public trust and ensuring operational efficiency. This budget breakdown provides an overview of Denver County Court's 2024 appropriated budget.

Major expenditure categories are personnel (judicial officers and staff, compensation, and benefits), access to justice initiatives, client services, technology infrastructure and modernization, training and professional development and standard operating.

Denver County Court Expenditures by Type	2022 Actuals	2023 Appropriated	2024 Appropriated	\$ Change	% Change
Personnel Services	26,665,427	30,931,362	33,696,910	2,765,548	8.94%
Services and Supplies	1,706,658	2,254,728	2,653,245	398,517	17.67%
Capital Equipment	21,128	12,000	-	-12,000	-100%
Internal Services and Misc.	13,763	7,500	7,500	-	0.00%
Expenditures by Type Total	28,406,977	33,205,590	36,357,655	3,152,065	9.49%

Performance Metrics

The measurement of court performance is essential for ensuring access to justice, accountability to the public, and continuous improvement of judicial operations. This section presents key performance metrics that demonstrate our court's commitment to efficiency, fairness, and service excellence during the reporting period.

Units	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Actual
Percent of Dispositions Within 180 days	88%	90%	90%
Percent of Cases Reaching Disposition	89%	84%	85%
Percent Reoffending Within One Year	15%	16%	16%
Sobriety Court Recidivism Rate	14%	10%	9%
Percent Successful Completion of Probation	73%	66%	66%
Percent of Current Year Fines/Costs Collected	68%	65%	67%
Felony Number of Filings	7,796	8,205	8,739
Criminal (State and Municipal) Number of Filings	23,660	26,801	29,447
Traffic and Civil Number of Filings	55,056	62,132	63,161
Active Number of Open Probation Cases	2,450	2415	2,486

Comparison of Case Filings, 2022-2024

The analysis of case filing statistics provides critical insight into the volume, nature, and trends of legal matters brought before the court during the reporting period. These statistics serve as fundamental indicators of both community needs and court workload, informing resource allocation and strategic planning decisions.

Case Filings by Case Class

Year	Civil	Protection Orders	Small Claims	Traffic RTD Photo	Misd.	Felony	Municipal Criminal	General Violations	Municipal Juvenile	Total Annual
2022	20,209	1539	650	32,658	6,370	7,796	9,494	606	424	79,746
2023	23,744	1555	829	36,004	7,471	8,205	11,125	794	566	90,293
2024	28,461	1550	1064	32,086	7,910	8,739	12,798	665	562	93,835

2024 statistical insights include: steady post covid filing recovery in criminal, civil and small claims filings, a marked and record increase in eviction filings; 2024 was a record year with 15,960 eviction filings, a significant increase in photo radar tickets likely due to legislation, and a significant and consistent decline from pre-covid traffic filings, likely attributed to a shift in enforcement priorities.

2024 Court Operations by Division

Administration and Court Services the Administration Division of the Court serves as the central operational foundation that supports and enables the effective functioning of all judicial departments and services. Throughout the year, the division has provided essential leadership and organizational management across the full spectrum of the Court's administrative functions, striving for operational excellence and strategic advancement of the Court's mission.

The administrative team has effectively coordinated the Court's comprehensive operations, from fiscal stewardship through budget development and oversight to facilities management, procurement, and contractual services, safety and security enhancements, personnel management and professional development, technological modernization and cyber security enhancements, media relations and public information management and implementation support for legislative changes affecting court operations. The division has skillfully balanced day-to-day operational demands with forward-looking strategic initiatives that strengthen the Court's institutional capacity and public service capabilities.

The below table provides a few stats followed by department specific narratives and analyses.

<i>CORA Requests Completed</i>	76
<i>Data Requests Completed</i>	178
<i>Legislative Bills Reviewed</i>	70 (totaling 947 pages)
<i>Legislative Bills Implemented</i>	30
<i>Press Releases Issued</i>	4
<i>Media Inquiries Received by PIO</i>	200

The **Accounting Division** of the Court has maintained its commitment to fiscal integrity and transparent financial management throughout 2024. As stewards of public funds, this division continues to uphold the highest standards of accountability while supporting the Court’s mission of administering justice.

In 2024, the Accounting Division focused on enhancing internal controls, streamlining financial processes, and implementing technology solutions to improve efficiency. These efforts have resulted in timely financial reporting, successful completion of required audits, and responsible management of court resources.

2024 Collection Highlights

<i>Type</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Variance from 2023</i>	
<i>Court Fines</i>	\$ 4,204,870	(\$220,854)	-5.0%
<i>Bonds</i>	\$ 404,298	\$179,303	79.7%
<i>Court Costs</i>	\$ 680,036	\$22,035	3.3%
<i>Other Fees</i>	\$ 6,024,230	(\$924,398)	-13.3%
<i>Total Traffic, Criminal, Municipal</i>	\$ 11,313,434	(\$943,914)	-7.7%
<i>Civil</i>	\$ 1,649,804	225,402	15.8%
<i>Total all General Fund Collections</i>	\$ 12,963,328	(\$718,512)	-5.3%

<i>Type</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Variance from 2023</i>	
<i>UPS Special Revenue Fund</i>	\$ 95,777	\$1,462	1.6%
<i>OJW Fee – City</i>	\$ 30,345	\$8,934	41.7%
<i>Total Special Revenue Fund</i>	\$ 126,122	\$10,395	9.0%

<i>Type</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Variance From 2023</i>	
<i>Victim’s Comp</i>	\$ 233,329	\$38,928	20%
<i>Victim’s Assistance</i>	\$ 423,574	\$118,958	39.1%
<i>Restitution</i>	\$ 770,856	\$191,962	33.2%
<i>Total collected for Victims</i>	\$ 1,427,759	\$349,848	27.9%

<i>Credit Card Analysis</i>			
<i>Total Credit Card Payments</i>	\$ 11,453,445		47.7%
<i>Credit Card Payments Made Online</i>	\$ 5,446,142		47.6%

Highlights of Financial Analysis

- General fund receipts for 2024 declined by 5.3%, totaling approximately \$12.96 million. The largest contributors to this decline were traffic citations (-6.3%) and research fees (-13.3%).
- Civil fees increased by 15.8% from the prior year, reaching approximately \$1.65 million.
- Received approximately \$657,000 in Victim’s Assistance and Victim’s Compensation payments, reflecting a 32% increase compared to the previous year.
- Received approximately \$771,000 in Restitution payments for victims.
- Credit card chargebacks and short checks surged by 356%, with the DCC Accounting Division processing approximately \$303,000 in various chargebacks and short checks.

Accounting Achievements:

- Reduced credit chargeback losses by implementing new bond payment procedures and improving transaction security and accountability.
- Established new revenue accounts in response to updated civil legislation, ensuring accurate tracking and compliance with regulatory changes.
- Successfully utilized all ARPA grant allocations, maximizing the impact of available funding while meeting all reporting and audit requirements.

As we look toward the coming year, the Accounting Division remains committed to excellence in financial stewardship and supporting the Court's broader institutional goals.

The **Human Resources Division** of the Court has continued to serve as a vital cornerstone of our organizational infrastructure, focusing on our most valuable asset—our people. Throughout 2024, the division has worked tirelessly to cultivate a workplace environment that promotes excellence, diversity, and professional growth across all levels of the Court.

Our HR professionals have successfully navigated the complex landscape of personnel management within the judicial framework, balancing administrative requirements with the unique needs of court staff, judicial officers, and support personnel. The division has implemented strategic initiatives to enhance recruitment processes, develop comprehensive training programs, and foster employee engagement and retention.

2024 HR Highlights

2024 Human Resources Employee Relations Data

<i>Average Head Count, non-judicial officer</i>	284
<i>Voluntary Separations</i>	28
<i>Involuntary Separations</i>	6
<i>Overall Retention Rate</i>	88.73%
<i>New hires</i>	39
<i>Rehires</i>	8
<i>Promotions</i>	18
<i>Transfers</i>	11
<i>Demotions</i>	4
<i>Time to fill vacant positions (days)</i>	42.7
<i>Job offer declinations</i>	9
<i>Employees served in New Employee Orientation</i>	41
<i>Average FMLA/ADA Cases</i>	34.5

2024 Market Increases and Equity Adjustments

The following outlines our human capital management achievements, professional development programs and organizational initiatives for the reporting period.

In 2024, the Human Resources team focused on improving marketing strategies, expanding training, and introducing incentives for training. Key initiatives included implementing Code of Ethics training and hosting their first Mini-Conference with self-evaluation and career workshops.

HR Goals Achieved:

- Assisted in the creation of new roles and opportunities including additional supervisors and court operations specialists.
- Enhanced engagement through updated marketing techniques, HR office hours, and an HR ticketing system.
- Leveraged committees: IDEA = B, employee onboarding, and employee engagement to update practices and obtain new thought partners to connect with employees.
- HR team received a 4.65 out of 5 rating in overall customer satisfaction.

Market Surveys and Salary Adjustments: Ten employees underwent position audits or equity reviews which resulted in salary increases with an overall budget impact of \$103,906.00. Seven employees were reallocated from Judicial Assistant or Probation Officer to a higher level II or III position with an overall budget impact of \$62,335.

Professional Development: HR conducted a total of 18 Court academies and training sessions, including a two-day mini conference for court staff. As a result, employee training attendance rose by 140% compared to the previous year. In February 2024, all supervisors began the Ignite Leadership program—a tailored leadership development curriculum—and successfully completed it in May 2024.

Employee Engagement and Recognition: The Engagement Committee sponsored four events: Pin Ceremony, Court Picnic, Employee Appreciation Luncheon, and the Holiday Wassail.

Employee Satisfaction: The City and County of Denver administers an employee satisfaction survey every two years. The DCC goal this year was to surpass our 2022 response rate and increase our overall favorability. Below are the 2024 survey result highlights:

- A record 91% of employees responded to the employee satisfaction survey
- Increased overall favorability by 3%
- Realized an increase in favorability in 7 of 8 measured categories
- Substantial improvements were made in the following key areas:
 - Supervisor Support & Effectiveness
 - Pay & Employee Autonomy
 - Comfort in Voicing Opinions & Offering Suggestions
 - Work Flexibility and Well-Being Commitment
- Opportunities for improvement include:
 - Addressing Employee Burnout
 - Enhancing Transparent Communication.

One theme remained clear: Denver County Court employees take great pride in their work, recognize its significance, and understand their role in supporting the community.

As we advance into the next year, the Human Resources Division remains dedicated to building and maintaining a skilled, diverse, and engaged workforce that upholds the high standards of our judicial institution.

The Information Technology (IT) Division of the Court has remained at the forefront of judicial technological advancement, providing essential digital infrastructure and innovative solutions throughout the year. As the technological backbone of our judicial operations, the division consistently delivers reliable systems that enhance access to justice while maintaining the highest standards of security and data integrity.

In 2024, the Information Technology Division focused on strengthening cybersecurity protocols, expanding digital access initiatives, and optimizing core judicial systems to improve efficiency and reliability. These strategic priorities have enhanced our technological resilience, improved service delivery, and reinforced the Court's commitment to technological innovation in service of justice.

Additionally, the department continues to work on the modernization of digital platforms including public portal, electronic filing capabilities (EFile) and internal case management systems. IT expanded its resources by hiring two new skilled programming developers in response to a senior member's retirement; and continues to build a culture of inclusivity, collaboration, and innovation which fosters technical and professional growth for all its staff members.

The IT department manages its own helpdesk, desktop support, network, infrastructure, and cybersecurity functions. Some notable statistics from the department's Service Now ticketing system include:

<i>2024 Service Now Statistics</i>	
<i># of Tickets Created / Received</i>	4,374
<i># of Tickets Resolved (Created in 2024)</i>	4,316 (98.67% Resolution Rate)
<i>First Contact Resolution Rate</i>	80.78%
<i>Average Resolution Time per Ticket</i>	15 hours

Additionally, some notable accomplishments from IT include:

- Establishment of Digital Accessibility Initiatives for online platforms pursuant to HB21-1110 & HB24-1454.
- Exploration and integration of AI usage for online advisement videos.
- Decommission of various legacy public online functions such as "Warrant Cancellation" and "Paid Name Search" in support of website relaunch.
- Successful relaunch of the Court's front facing website with an emphasis on search engine optimization, accessibility, and clarity of information for the public.
- Successful migration of "Government Access" to the Court's electronic filing platform (DCC EFile).
- Successful re-architecture and continued enhancements to the Court's EFile Approvals system, including courtroom & judge inboxes, judicial orders, and rulings in preparation for expansion to all court divisions.
- Successful activation of professional surety ability to post bonds online leveraging 2-factor authentication, insurance linkage and power of attorney upload.
- Successful support and development to the City's initiative for online credit card and payment gateway transition to Euna and integration to DCC's public portal.
- Successful development of ThemisWeb Accounting system in support of the City's banking institution switch to US Bank for bond, restitution, and civil registry check printing.
- Successful support of the quarterly "Auto-Seal" initiatives pursuant to SB22-099.
- Successful navigation and response to City ITGC (Information Technology General Controls) audit from City Auditor's Office.
- Successful with major upgrade of the Court's database platform version SQL 2019.
- Successful virtualization and upgrade of the Court's gallery server which contains over 17 million pdf documents.
- Continued migration of infrastructure resources from CCB to LFC datacenter.

The Denver County Court Information Technology Division is committed to the Court’s mission to administer justice fairly by enabling its staff to have efficient and effective technology for daily operations; and strives for exceptional customer service and technology guidance to all stakeholders. IT continues to promote collaboration and innovation to foster a thriving work environment for its staff and the Court as a whole. IT has aligned several major initiatives for 2025 and beyond and is working diligently for quicker impact of the modernization projects, much of which are coming to focus already.

The **Marshals Division** consists of ten certified peace officers and one judicial associate. The Marshals are responsible for arresting individuals who are in violation of bond or pretrial community supervision and present great safety risk to the community. The Marshals also provide mutual aid to other law enforcement agencies and executive protection detail to judicial officers and other city leaders, as needed. The Marshal’s Office also oversees CJIS security requirements and certification as it pertains to employees and vendors and their approved access to court locations and systems.

Despite not being fully staffed, the Marshals worked an all-time high 783 new fugitive cases in 2024. Warrants for defendants who are non-compliant with Pre-Trial GPS Supervision represent the highest priority cases, and all were assigned to a Marshal on the day of issuance. Cooperative investigations with the Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Marshals Service also resulted in the arrest and extradition of multiple fugitives from out of state. In addition to their assigned fugitive duties, Marshals also worked extensively with local, state, and federal agencies to provide for the security of the 2024 national election. The table depicted below provides additional details regarding the Marshal’s workload in 2024.

<u>2024</u>	
NEW FUGITIVE CASES OPENED	783
CLEARED BY ARREST	201
CLEARED BY ORDER IN	70
TOTAL CASES CLOSED	601
CLEARANCE RATE	45.1%

In 2024, the Marshals Division took on additional responsibilities for the Court and are now responsible for conducting all employee fingerprinting and background checks which is an added function in support of the CJIS security oversight. Additionally in 2024, the Marshals Office worked closely with court consultants in conducting a comprehensive security risk assessment of court and probation facilities and provided security and safety awareness training. The Marshals Office will be working to incorporate this training as part of the new employee onboarding program.

The **Warrants and Bonding Division** of Denver County Court has fulfilled its pivotal role in the administration of justice throughout the fiscal year, serving as the essential link between judicial orders and their enforcement while managing the critical functions of the bail process. This division operates at the intersection of the judiciary, law enforcement, and the public, ensuring that court directives are properly executed and that defendants are afforded appropriate pretrial release mechanisms. This division effectuates the issuance, cancellation, and maintenance of state and municipal criminal, traffic, and civil warrants, as well as protection orders issued by the Court. This vital division manages over 25,000 new bonds annually while maintaining approximately 50,000 active warrants and protection orders at any given time. The division ensures efficient coordination of defendant transportation, court appearances, and timely document processing to facilitate prompt release upon bond posting. Bond payments are accepted in person at the Van Cise-Simonet Detention Center 20 hours daily, seven days a week, including holidays.

2024 Warrants and Bonding Highlights

The below table depicts the volume of warrants, bonds and protection orders processed during 2024.

Warrants and Bonding Stats

<i>Warrants Entered</i>	26,606
<i>Warrants Cleared</i>	19,861
<i>Outstanding Warrants</i>	52,146
<i>False Arrest Rate</i>	.0007%
<i>Protection Orders Entered</i>	8,340
<i>Protection Orders Canceled</i>	6,873
<i>Protection Order Modified</i>	1,777
<i>Number of Bonds Posted Online</i>	3,646
<i>Number of Bonds Posted in Person</i>	10,546
<i>Total Amount of Bonds Posted</i>	\$6,878,640.92

Following the successful 2022 launch of an online bonding platform for individuals to post bond for themselves or others, Warrants and Bonding and the IT Division expanded this digital service in 2024 to include professional sureties and bail bond agents—establishing Denver County Court as the first Court in Colorado to offer this comprehensive online bonding capability.

In 2024, a total of 3,646 bonds were posted online; 656 of these bonds were monetary bonds posted by an individual or professional surety for a total of \$1,632,048.00. The highest bond posted online was in the amount of \$100,000.00.

Looking ahead, the Warrants and Bonding Office remains committed to the continuous improvement of operations while supporting the Court's fundamental mission of ensuring justice, public safety, and respect for individual rights.

The **Traffic and Civil Division** hears all municipal and state county court level traffic and civil cases. Included in traffic are RTD and photo radar violations. Most traffic violations carry a payable fine amount. This fine may be paid before the court date and does not require an appearance. Civil cases include lawsuits or money cases with a value up to \$25,000, name changes, replevins, nuisance abatement cases, and landlord-tenant/eviction matters. This year, eviction filings hit a record of 15,960 case filings. The Civil Division works collaboratively with Denver's Office of Housing Stability (HOST) and Colorado Legal Services (CLS), to provide free eviction clinics. Small Claims Court, also known as "the people's court," adjudicates civil matters up to \$7,500. A very critical component of civil court are emergency cases involving protection orders. Denver County Court provides a dedicated courtroom and judicial officer to hear all protection order matters. Included in the Traffic and Civil Division is the Parking Magistrate's Office. This Office reviews and resolves appeals on parking citations issued by Right of Way Enforcement.

The Traffic and Civil Division of the Court has continued to serve as a foundation of our judicial system throughout the fiscal year, efficiently processing a substantial volume of cases while ensuring fair and consistent application of the law. As the primary point of contact for many citizens interacting with our court system, this division has maintained its commitment to accessibility, procedural fairness, and timely resolution of matters. Denver County Court's Traffic and Civil Division presided over 63,161 cases which is approximately 61% of all court cases filed in 2024.

The below table illustrates the breakdown of civil filings for 2024.

<i>Case Type</i>	<i>Number of Filings</i>	<i>% Difference from prior year</i>
<i>Eviction</i>	15,960	+21.1%
<i>Eviction – Commercial</i>	77	Not captured - Legislation
<i>Money</i>	11,773	+6.6%
<i>Nuisance</i>	860	+9.8%
<i>Name Change</i>	724	+17.9%
<i>Elderly</i>	166	+5.6%
<i>Petition for Civil Enforcement</i>	97	+96.1%
<i>Replevin</i>	33	+6.3%
<i>Foreign Judgment</i>	12	-8%
<i>Restrictive Housing</i>	2	-85%
<i>Wages</i>	2	Not captured - Legislation
<i>Abandoned Vehicle</i>	3	+40%

2024 Civil Highlights

In 2024, **Small Claims Court** handled 1,064 new case filings with approximately 85% of the parties appearing pro se. Every third Thursday of the month, Small Claims Court provided a monthly clinic open to all members of the public. The court clinic, comprising a county court judicial officer, self-represented litigant coordinator, and professional mediator, provided an overview of the small claims court process, jurisdictional requirements, and the mandatory mediation program. Mediation is ordered in all cases and successfully resolved approximately 62% of matters without requiring a court hearing or trial in 2024. Of the total caseload, including post judgment filings, 333 cases participated in mandatory mediation, 208 cases were settled through stipulation, 238 cases proceeded to trial, and 296 cases were dismissed.

Protection Order Court. Denver County Court has a courtroom and judge dedicated to only hearing Protection Order cases. The purpose of civil protection orders is to prevent assaults, threatened bodily harm, domestic violence, domestic abuse, emotional abuse of the elderly or at-risk adults, sexual violence, and stalking. This courtroom operates uniquely from all other courtrooms. Cases are opened directly in the courtroom, rather than the clerks' office, a distinct entry process is used, and packets are prepared advising petitioners how to serve process and prepare for their hearings. Courtroom staff are public facing and interact with a population which is routinely escalated.

Having a dedicated protection order courtroom benefits the people we serve in numerous ways. Judges who serve in protection orders develop an expertise in protection order statutes and law, staff develops an expertise in providing up close and personal service to pro se parties who are often highly emotional. A dedicated judge allows for a consistent application of the legal standards required for the issuance of a protection order. A dedicated courtroom allows for the courtroom to be physically set up in a way that addresses safety concerns for the parties, staff, and judge. It also lessens opportunities for parties to engage in acts of intimidation. In 2024, the layout for the courtroom was modified to better separate the parties, create more paths to and from petitioner and respondent tables, and remove barriers for movement in case of an emergency. Lastly, a dedicated courtroom creates better opportunities to connect parties with services and resources, for example Project Safeguard and the Rose Andom Center which assists victims of domestic violence.

In 2024, the **Parking Magistrate's Office**, consisting of a five-person team, processed 66,378 parking appeals and 10 Final Parking Hearings. This team worked collaboratively with a variety of city stakeholders, including Right of Way Enforcement, the Parking Violation Bureau, Denver County Vehicle Impound, and Passport, Inc. Software.

The **Self-Help Center** celebrated its 10th anniversary of providing free, in-person assistance to civil litigants who are not represented by an attorney. Approximately 10,400 visitors came to the Self-Help Center seeking assistance with evictions (30%), money demands (30%), small claims (25%), protection orders (10%), and other case types (5%). An increasing number of people appear in court without an attorney and to better meet the increased demands of the public, the Self-Help Center added one new litigant coordinator in 2024. Now, the team of two provides information and direction concerning civil laws, rules, forms, and procedures without providing legal advice.

The Self-Help Center, in collaboration with other courts, community service providers, nonprofit organizations, and legal-system stakeholders, successfully hosted its annual Free Legal Resource Day. The event attracted over 325 participants who attended both in-person and online sessions covering diverse topics including landlord/tenant issues, divorce and custody proceedings, mental health concerns, and estate planning. Attendees also benefited from complimentary one-on-one consultations with attorneys. Also, in 2024, the Self-Help Center partnered with city officials to engage residents of Denver's East Colfax Community Collective and Hidden Brook Apartments, informing them of available Self-Help resources and the jury selection process.

The **Criminal and Municipal Division & Specialty Courts** serve as the cornerstone of Denver's criminal justice system, handling a diverse range of cases from felonies (through bind-over to District Court) to state misdemeanors and municipal ordinance violations. Our judicial officers conduct comprehensive proceedings including advisements, bond settings, motions, and disposition hearings, and preside over both court and jury trials to adjudicate non-traffic city ordinance and state criminal law violations.

Included in this division is the operation of eight distinct accountability and specialty court programs. The Sobriety Court program, treatment court program targeting repeat DUI offenders (2nd & 3rd DUI offense), has earned, and maintained certification through the rigorous standards established by the Colorado Judicial Department's problem-solving court accreditation program. These specialty courts function as specialized dockets designed to address underlying mental health and substance use disorders that often contribute to justice system involvement. Rather than focusing solely on punishment, the specialty court programs emphasize rehabilitation through treatment and connections to community resources and support. This innovative approach brings together judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, treatment providers, and community partners in collaborative efforts to provide community-based treatment alternatives to incarceration, ultimately supporting better outcomes for individuals and the community at large.

2024 Criminal and Specialty Court Highlights

2024 cases filings in the Criminal Division have increased eight and a half percent overall.

The below table shows 2023 and 2024 criminal case filing comparison.

<i>Case Type</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>+/- % Difference</i>
<i>DUI/DWAI</i>	1063	1103	+3.69%
<i>Other Misdemeanors</i>	6408	6807	+6.03%
<i>Felony</i>	8205	8739	+6.30%
<i>Municipal</i>	11,125	12,798	+13.98%
<i>General Violations</i>	794	665	-17.68%
<i>Municipal Juvenile</i>	566	562	-0.70%

In 2023, the Criminal Division implemented two innovative alternative sentencing programs: the **Backpack Program** and the **Blood Drive Program**. These initiatives provide defendants with community service sentences additional pathways to fulfill their obligations. Participants can either donate blood or purchase and stock backpacks that are distributed to children in need through the Denver Department of Human Services. During 2024, these programs saw significant adoption, with **2,400 individuals enrolling in one of these alternative sentencing options to earn credit toward their community service requirements.**

The Court has seven **Specialty Court Programs**. The chart below highlights the programs and their purpose.

Peer Navigators	A team of peer support specialists who aid any justice system involved individual. Peer Navigators use their own recovery experiences and training in peer support to help others facing similar problems by connecting individuals to resources in the community for recovery, jobs, housing, treatment, and more.	In 2024 the peer navigators engaged and provided support to 1,478 clients. Navigators made 3,057 referrals to 1300 distinct providers. The top 2024 providers were the AID Center and Second Chance Center, Wellpower for MH and case management, brain injury provider, and housing resources: CCH, Tribe, and Hazelbrook. Sixty-one percent of those who have utilized navigator services have not recidivated one year post closure from the program.
Wellness Program	A voluntary harm reduction program designed to address the quick release process for individuals with municipal-level cases and behavioral health needs. Individuals are immediately connected to a case manager upon release from custody and connected with service providers. Completion of the program results in case dismissal.	In 2024, of the 391 individuals identified as eligible for the Wellness Program, 321 individuals (82%) accepted program entry. Motel vouchers, taxi vouchers, bus passes, cell phones, hygiene items, basic food assistance and clothing were provided to participants. The program experienced an impressive decline in recidivism with just 7% of program participants reoffending.
Outreach Court	Outreach Court is held in the community and helps individuals with municipal-level citations or warrants and provides direct, immediate access to services and resources. Immediate community service options are available to complete court requirements.	In 2024, 414 cases were resolved in Outreach Court for 202 individuals, all of whom were connected to services. Outreach Court has partnerships with eight service providers and was highlighted in a local 9News story.
Competency Diversion Program	Identifies individuals who are not likely competent to proceed and diverts them directly to community mental health treatment and services. Through a collaborative partnership effort, the individual is supported in completing an individualized treatment plan designed to reduce barriers and facilitate access to continuing mental health care and resources. The focus is on continuity of care, increased recovery rates and a reduction in formal competency filings and referrals.	In 2024, 661 referrals were received for Competency Diversion. The program accepted a total of 387 cases (228 individuals) for participation. Of the 387 cases, 48% were for a misdemeanor offense and 52% were for a felony offense. The program has a successful diversion rate of 73%.
Competency Support Docket	An expert docket for all misdemeanor cases in which competency has been questioned or raised. The goal of this docket is to redirect as many misdemeanor cases as possible from the formal state competency process to alternative case avenues with care and service coordination. This docket is staffed by designated stakeholders who have an expertise in competency-related resources, case proceedings, and guidance through justice-involved programs, case pathways, and dismissals. This approach supports equitable and procedural justice in that all docketed individuals for whom competency is questioned, or formally raised, have the same opportunities for connection to programs, resources, services, and specialized expertise of the stakeholders handling the cases.	In 2024, 540 cases, totaling 371 individuals, transferred to the Competency Support Docket either for misdemeanor offenses (85.5%) or felony offenses (14.5%). The Competency Support Docket has support from nine treatment and service providers who attend docket weekly for client support and warm handoffs. This docket also provides direct access to evaluations, screens, and testing, to expedite support for needs such as brain injuries, intellectual disabilities, and out of custody competency evaluations.
Sobriety Court	An alternative treatment court for repeat DUI offenders. This program identifies, assesses, and provides intensive treatment and supervision to eligible participants. In 2024, after rigorous evaluation, the State of Colorado reaccredited this program as a certified problem-solving court, recognizing its commitment to implementing evidence-based and research-proven practices.	During 2024, there were 53 active participants in the program of which 17 successfully graduated in 2024. 2024 yielded a program compliance rate of 85%, a 2% increase from 2023. One Year Post-Program (Term Years 2021-2023) yielded an 8% recidivism rate. Three Years Post-Program (Term Years 2020-2022) yielded a recidivism rate of 20%, well below the national standard.
<div>19</div>		

HEM	This voluntary short-term, harm reduction program is for individuals charged with a Drug Misdemeanor (DM1). HEM participants are offered an opportunity to connect to resources and services that address the potential underlying issues of substance abuse and misuse that contributed to system involvement. Successful completion results in case dismissal.	In 2024, 499 individuals participated in DCC's HEM Court, an increase from 374 participants in 2023. The program served a total of 611 people for the year with some carried over from 2023. 248 HEM participants successfully completed the program. HEM made 623 connections to various community resources including substance use treatment, sober living, employment services, housing assistance, public benefits, and sober support groups.
-----	--	--

The **Probation Division** of Denver County Court serves as a critical component of our criminal justice system, providing supervision, support, and accountability for individuals sentenced to probation. Our dedicated team of probation officers works diligently to promote public safety while facilitating the rehabilitation and successful community reintegration of probationers. The division oversees a diverse caseload of adult and juvenile clients who have been granted probation as an alternative to incarceration. Through evidence-based practices and individualized case management, our officers monitor compliance with court-ordered conditions while connecting probationers with appropriate resources to address underlying factors that contribute to criminal behavior.

This Division's supervision strategies are tailored to each probationer's risk level and specific needs, encompassing substance abuse treatment, mental health services, educational programming, employment assistance, and cognitive behavioral interventions. Regular reporting, drug and alcohol testing, and ongoing assessment ensure that probationers remain accountable throughout their term of supervision. The Probation Division collaborates closely with judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, treatment providers, and community organizations to develop comprehensive supervision plans that balance enforcement with support. This collaborative approach has proven effective in reducing recidivism rates and promoting positive behavioral change among probationers.

Client Service Costs Denver County Court receives a budget allocation, both from the general fund and state and local grants, to remove financial barriers from those who do not have the funds to pay for court ordered assessment and treatment. The below table demonstrates the amount spent on client services and inflationary costs of those services over the last seven years.

DCCP COST OF SERVICES

Year	Total Paid in Invoices	Year	Average Cost of UA	Average Cost of DV TX Session	Average Cost of DV Intake & Eval	Average Cost of DUI TX Session	Average Cost of DUI Intake	Average Cost of SO TX session	Average Cost of SO Eval	Average Cost of SO Poly	Average Cost of MH Eval
2018	\$468,946.55	2018	\$13.00	\$27.00	\$68.00	\$26.00	\$47.00	\$60.00	\$550.00	\$120.00	\$166.00
2019	\$502,362.10	2019	\$12.00	\$29.00	\$81.00	\$27.00	\$49.00	\$64.00	\$850.00	\$245.00	\$239.00
2020	\$543,309.68	2020	\$14.00	\$31.00	\$97.00	\$29.00	\$59.00	\$64.00	\$850.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
2021	\$704,620.42	2021	\$18.00	\$32.00	\$148.00	\$30.00	\$66.00	\$64.00	\$850.00	\$250.00	\$240.00
2022	\$630,950.00	2022	\$18.00	\$36.00	\$134.00	\$31.00	\$75.00	\$64.00	\$884.00	\$224.00	\$257.00
2023	\$655,878.28	2023	\$21.00	\$38.00	\$136.00	\$33.00	\$78.00	\$70.00	\$897.00	\$253.00	\$249.00
2024	\$790,971.53	2024	\$22.39	\$40.00	\$175.00	\$34.00	\$80.00	\$81.00	\$982.00	\$250.00	\$281.00
		%increase '23- '24	7%	5%	29%	3%	3%	16%	9%	-1%	13%

Probation Workload Highlights

The Denver Probation Department conducts presentence investigation reports for the Court to help inform sentencing and LSI Assessments (level of supervision inventory) to help inform the level of supervision required for a defendant sentenced to probation. The below tables indicate the volume of this workload in 2024 comparatively over the years.

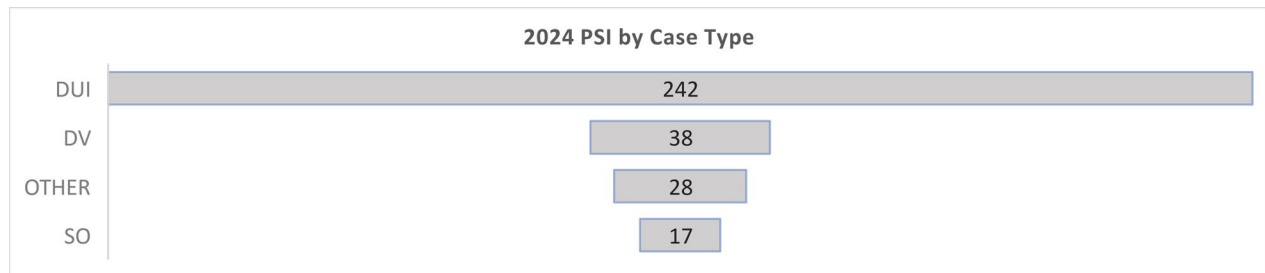
The below table represents the number of new referrals to the Probation Department in 2024.

Referrals to Probation	Total	+/- YTD	Q1	+/- YTD	Q2	+/- YTD	Q3	+/- YTD	Q4	+/- YTD
2024	2418	5%	522	-7%	597	0%	663	14%	636	9%
2023	2309	-1%	561	-6%	598	-7%	571	-6%	579	16%
2022	2322	-	593	100%	641	100%	603	100%	485	100%

The below table represents the total number of completed presentence investigation reports prepared for the Court, by probation officers in 2024.

Year	Presentence Investigation Reports Conducted	+/- YTD Comparison
2024	325	-18%
2023	385	9%
2022	352	20%
2021	282	-

The below table represents the number of presentence investigation reports by case type ordered by the Court in 2024.



LSIs – Risk assessment tool. Conducted on each new case at intake and then every six months.

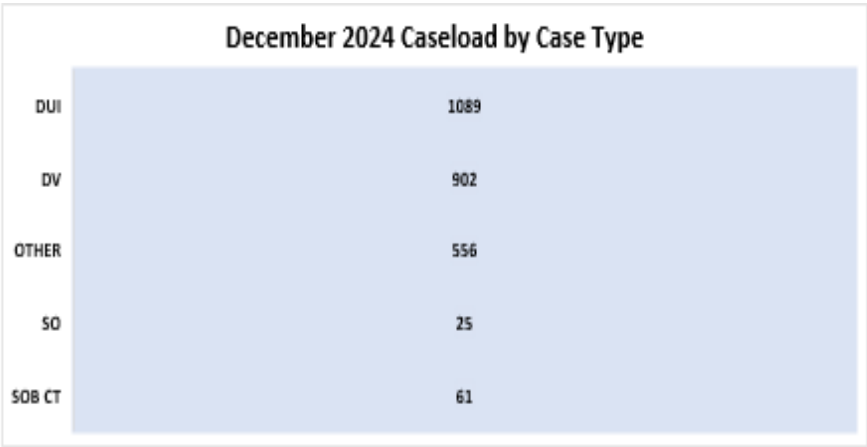
Year	Number of LSIs Conducted	+/- YTD Comparison
2024	4383	5%
2023	4159	5%
2022	3964	-

Caseload

The below table illustrates the average daily population of clients placed on probation supervision accompanied by a breakdown of that population by case type. The numbers below do not include clients in DCC’s diversion or speciality court programs.

Caseload Information

Year	Average Caseload	+/- YTD Comparison
2024	2,486	3%
2023	2,419	-5%
2022	2,529	-5%
2021	2,651	



2024 Average Caseload Demographics

Female	25%
Male	75%
Asian	2%
Black	20%
Hispanic	20%
Indian/Native American	1%
White	57%
10-19	2%
20-29	35%
30-39	36%
40-49	17%
50-59	7%
60-69	2%
70+	1%

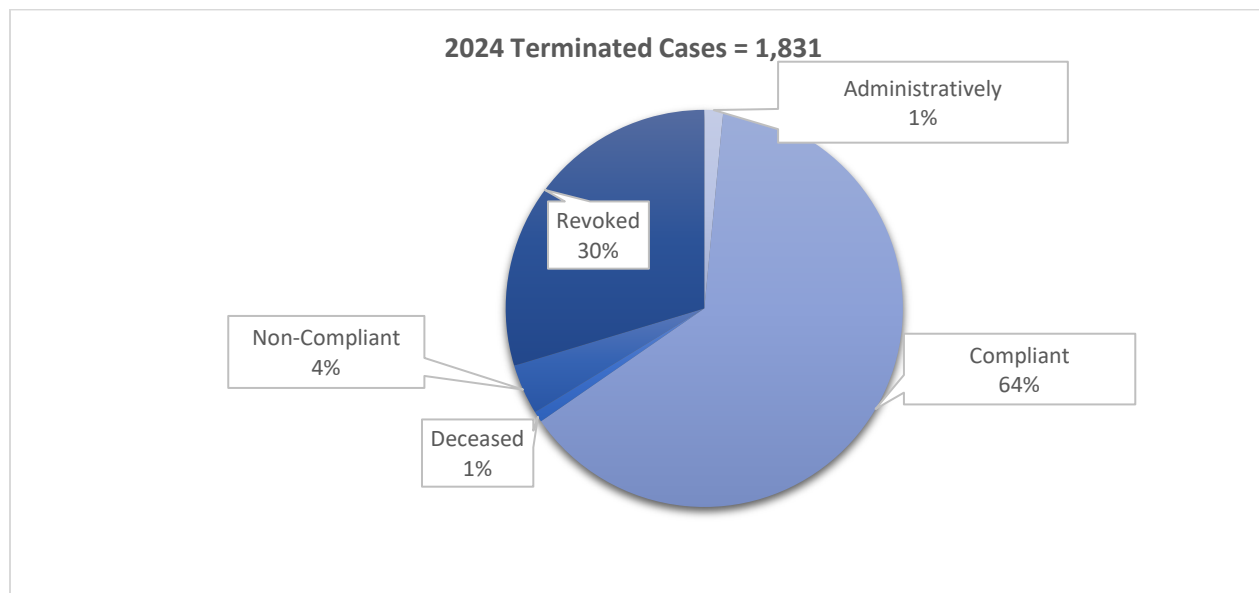
Probation Supervision Completion Data

Probation Termination Data: This dataset reflects the conclusion of defendants' probation periods. Terminations are categorized as:

1. **Successful Termination:** Cases where defendants completed all court-ordered requirements (such as treatment programs, community service, and payment of fines/restitution) and remained compliant throughout their supervision period.
2. **Early Termination:** Cases where the court granted release from probation before the originally scheduled end date, typically due to exceptional compliance and demonstrated rehabilitation.
3. **Revocation termination:** Cases terminated due to significant or repeated violation of probation conditions, often resulting in alternative sanctions or sentencing, including incarceration.
4. **Unsuccessful Termination:** Cases terminated unsuccessfully. This may occur when certain conditions remain outstanding, but do not warrant revocation of probation supervision.
5. **Administrative Termination:** Cases concluded due to technical or jurisdictional factors such as case transfers, defendant relocation to another jurisdiction, or other administrative circumstances.

This data helps measure the effectiveness of DCC’s probation programs and supervision strategies in promoting successful rehabilitation and community reintegration.

The tables below demonstrate 2024 probation termination data.



The below table provides information on termination demographics.

<i>2024 Terminated</i>	<i>Total Individuals</i>	<i>Compliant</i>	<i>Non- Compliant</i>	<i>Admin</i>	<i>Deceased</i>	<i>Revoked</i>
<i>Female</i>	462	346	15	5	1	95
<i>Asian</i>	2	2	0	0	0	0
<i>Black</i>	76	41	4	2	0	29
<i>Hispanic</i>	77	60	1	0	0	16
<i>Indian</i>	10	6	1	2	0	2
<i>White</i>	294	234	9	2	1	48
<i>Unknown</i>	3	3	0	0	0	0

<i>2024 Terminated</i>	<i>Total Individuals</i>	<i>Compliant</i>	<i>Non- Compliant</i>	<i>Admin</i>	<i>Deceased</i>	<i>Revoked</i>
<i>Female</i>	462	346	15	5	1	95
<i>10-19</i>	3	3	0	0	0	0
<i>20-29</i>	189	146	5	1	0	37
<i>30-39</i>	166	118	6	1	1	40
<i>40-49</i>	71	54	2	3	0	12
<i>50-59</i>	24	16	2	0	0	6
<i>60-69</i>	7	7	0	0	0	0
<i>70+</i>	2	2	0	0	0	0

<i>2024 Terminated</i>	<i>Total Individuals</i>	<i>Compliant</i>	<i>Non- Compliant</i>	<i>Admin</i>	<i>Deceased</i>	<i>Revoked</i>
<i>Male</i>	1369	823	60	23	15	448
<i>Asian</i>	23	14	0	0	0	9
<i>Black</i>	302	145	14	9	4	130
<i>Hispanic</i>	255	178	7	0	0	70
<i>Indian</i>	9	2	0	0	1	6
<i>White</i>	765	473	38	13	10	231
<i>Unknown</i>	15	11	1	1	0	2

<i>2024 Terminated</i>	<i>Total Individuals</i>	<i>Compliant</i>	<i>Non- Compliant</i>	<i>Admin</i>	<i>Deceased</i>	<i>Revoked</i>
<i>Male</i>	1369	823	60	23	15	448
<i>10-19</i>	11	5	1	0	2	3
<i>20-29</i>	408	238	12	9	5	144
<i>30-39</i>	534	332	23	5	3	171
<i>40-49</i>	267	148	15	6	3	95
<i>50-59</i>	103	70	7	1	1	24
<i>60-69</i>	38	23	2	2	1	10
<i>70+</i>	8	7	0	0	0	1

Probation measures its success not only through compliance rates and successful probation terminations but also through meaningful life changes demonstrated by probationers who have improved their circumstances, addressed underlying issues, and developed the skills necessary to lead law-abiding, productive lives.

Other Court Notables in 2024

Awards: In 2024, DCC's bench celebrated Judge Olympia Fay as she received the Colorado Women's Bar Association Judicial Excellence Award and Judge Isabel Pallarés who received the Denver Bar Association's Judicial Excellence Award.

Retirements and Appointments: To address the Court's expanding operational requirements, the judiciary established a fourth full-time magistrate position designated for the Criminal Arraignment Courtroom. In January 2024, the Court welcomed Magistrate Michelle Kline upon her swearing-in ceremony and subsequent assignment to this critical judicial role.

August 2024 marked a significant transition as Judge Jamie Zobel concluded his distinguished tenure on the bench, resigning from his judge position and continuing his service to the Court in a part-time magistrate capacity.

The judicial calendar year concluded with the December 2024 investiture of Judge Brian Williamson, who represents Mayor Mike Johnston's inaugural judicial appointment. Judge Williamson assumed his position within the Civil Division, joining three esteemed colleagues in adjudicating matters in this jurisdiction.

Livestreaming Court Proceedings: Following a 2023 legislative change mandating remote public access to criminal court proceedings, Denver County Court equipped all courtrooms with livestreaming capabilities. While judges maintain discretion to determine whether specific proceedings will be livestreamed, this technological upgrade across all Denver County Court courtrooms now enables enhanced remote viewing in criminal proceedings.

Website Modernization Initiative: This year marked the successful implementation of Denver County Court's comprehensive website redesign, featuring enhanced navigational architecture to optimize user access to essential services and information. The redesigned platform fully complies with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, ensuring equitable information access for individuals with disabilities. Additional enhancements include multilingual advisement videos for traffic and civil matters in both English and Spanish, partially developed using Artificial Intelligence technology—representing the Court's inaugural implementation of AI-assisted resources.

Warrant Clearance Events: For the second consecutive year, Denver County Court successfully conducted two "Fresh Start" warrant clearance events, furthering the Court's commitment to accessible justice and community engagement. These structured events provide individuals with outstanding low-level warrants the opportunity to resolve pending matters, reinstate compliance, and access vital support services in a non-custodial environment.

The Fresh Start initiative represents a multifaceted approach to justice that benefits participants, court operations, and municipal resources alike. By creating a safe pathway for warrant resolution, the program enables individuals to address legal obligations and reestablish stability in their lives. Concurrently, the Court benefits from reduced case backlogs and more efficient docket management, while the City and County of Denver realize meaningful cost savings through decreased incarceration expenses. In November 2024, 108 cases representing 92 individuals were resolved by Denver County Court and 38 cases, representing 35 individuals were resolved by Denver District Court.

Both spring and fall Fresh Start events were hosted at The AID Center, which provided an accessible, service-oriented venue for participants. The fall program marked a significant expansion through the inclusion of additional judicial districts, implementing a virtual resolution system that allowed participants to address warrants across multiple jurisdictions simultaneously—a substantial enhancement to the program's scope and effectiveness.

Launched the Competency Support Docket: In July 2024, Denver County Court established the innovative Competency Court, a specialized docket designed to address the unique challenges presented by cases involving defendants with potential competency concerns. This initiative represents a significant advancement in the Court's approach to addressing mental health issues within the judicial process.

The Competency Court serves a dual purpose: connecting defendants with essential mental health support services while facilitating the timely progression of legal proceedings. By consolidating resource-intensive cases within a single courtroom staffed by professionals with specialized expertise in competency matters, the Court aims to enhance public safety outcomes and reduce recidivism rates. Additionally, this focused approach is expected to decrease referrals to state hospital facilities, thereby contributing to the reduction of the competency evaluation backlog across the system.

This specialized docket commenced operations in summer 2024 and demonstrated significant utilization by year's end, with 228 participants representing 387 cases accepted into the program. The distribution of cases has been relatively balanced between felony matters (48.06%) and misdemeanor offenses (51.94%), indicating the program's capacity to address competency concerns across various offense categories.

Awarded \$1M Caring for Denver Grant: In August 2024, Denver County Court secured a significant \$1 million grant from the Caring for Denver Foundation, marking a substantial advancement in the Court's ability to implement public health-oriented approaches when serving adults with behavioral health needs. This strategic funding allocation supports five specialized court programs: the Competency Support Docket, the Forensic Peer Navigator Program, Competency Diversion, Sobriety Court, and the HEM Program.

The comprehensive grant initiative aims to enhance and expand resources across these specialized programs, allowing the Court to provide participants with improved and more equitable access to community supports and services—regardless of charge type. This approach is grounded in the understanding that addressing behavioral health needs effectively contributes to improved community safety and quality of life for all Denver residents. Research consistently demonstrates that when the judicial system addresses the underlying causes that bring individuals into contact with courts, outcomes improve measurably for the individual, the justice system, and the broader community.

"We're excited to partner with Denver County Court to ensure Denverites receive the vital care they deserve. The courts are expanding access to care, emphasizing an innovative problem-solving model that connects people to the right services to reduce further contact with the legal system," stated Lorez Meinhold, Executive Director of the Caring for Denver Foundation.

New Commission on Judicial Performance: In 2023, Denver County Court established a significant advancement in judicial oversight through a collaborative initiative with the Colorado Office of Judicial Performance Evaluation (OJPE). This partnership resulted in the creation of a dedicated, independent Commission specifically tasked with conducting neutral evaluations of Denver County Court judges to determine their adherence to established performance standards.

Prior to this development, Denver County Court judges were evaluated within the broader framework of the Second Judicial District's Commission on Judicial Performance. The substantial growth of both District and County Court

operations necessitated the implementation of a separate evaluation process tailored to address the unique jurisdictional characteristics and operational context of Denver County Court.

The evaluations conducted by this specialized Commission serve a critical public information function, as they form the foundation for the judicial performance narratives published in the official "Blue Book" distributed to voters. This comprehensive evaluation methodology is designed to capture a multidimensional assessment of each judge's performance across various metrics and competencies.

During the November 2024 election cycle, ten Denver County Court judges stood for retention election. The electorate benefited from this empirically informed evaluation process that effectively balances judicial independence with public accountability through thorough, transparent, objective, and credible performance assessments.

New Rules for Commission on Judicial Discipline: In 2024, the Denver County Court Judicial Discipline Commission implemented the first comprehensive revision of its rules governing judicial conduct and disability since 2002. Operating under the authority granted by the Denver Charter, the Commission—of which the Denver County Court Presiding Judge serves as a non-voting *Ex-Officio* member—is empowered to establish and enforce the Denver Rules of Judicial Discipline.

The revised regulatory framework significantly enhances public access, transparency, and due process protections through more precise guidelines for Commission membership and the implementation of a formal Code of Conduct for Commission members. A cornerstone of the reform is the structural separation of investigatory and adjudicative functions through the establishment of a neutral panel of Special Masters. Additionally, the rules expand evidentiary procedures to provide clearer guidelines and improve consistency in disciplinary proceedings.

Further advancing the Commission's oversight capabilities, the revised rules strengthen information-sharing mechanisms with entities responsible for monitoring judicial conduct. Concurrently, the reforms institute important protections for judges, including the explicit right to counsel and safeguards addressing mental and physical disabilities that may affect judicial performance.

These comprehensive revisions represent a significant advancement in the Commission's ongoing commitment to upholding high ethical standards, ensuring judicial accountability, maintaining procedural fairness, and fostering public trust in the Denver County Court. The refined disciplinary framework reinforces the expectation that judges serve the public honorably while adhering to the highest standards of justice.