



Annual Report

DENVER COUNTY COURT
KERRI LOMBARDI, PRESIDING JUDGE

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

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A Message from the Presiding Judge



It is with deep pride and gratitude that I present Denver County Court's 2025 Annual Report—one of the most demanding years in recent memory, and one of the most defining.

Denver faced a significant budget shortfall in 2025, with further shortfalls forecast for 2026, and this Court was not insulated. We navigated hiring freezes, furloughs, layoffs, and the discontinuation of long-standing programs, including the Parking Magistrate's Office and Passport Office. These were not easy moments, yet our judges, magistrates, administrators, and staff met them with professionalism, grace, and an unwavering commitment to the people we serve. This resilience is the measure of us.

Amid these challenges, it was also a year of meaningful progress. Our Competency Diversion Program, launched with Denver District Court, gained traction and earned national recognition: we were selected by the National Center for State Courts as a competency diversion evaluation site. We also advanced a new treatment court, completing a stakeholder retreat and laying the foundation for a program serving some of our most vulnerable community members. ABOTA-Colorado presented us its 2025 Jury Appreciation Award, and Judge Isabel Pallarés received the Colorado Women's Bar Association's 2025 Judicial Excellence Award.

2025 also brought significant investment in access to justice: a full website overhaul with new digital accessibility features, expanded online bonding to out-of-county cases, and broadened criminal e-filing. Justice must not only be fair, it must also be reachable.

We held two Fresh Start Warrant Clearance events, helping community members resolve outstanding warrants and move toward stability. Record attendance at our Free Legal Resource Day reflects the community's trust in this Court as a resource, not only a forum. We also welcomed students into our courtrooms, planting seeds for a new generation of public servants.

None of this would be possible without the people of this institution. Our employee survey yielded record participation and outstanding results—a testament to the culture our team sustains even in challenging times. This dedication is felt in every courtroom, every interaction, and every page of this report.

Nine judges were sworn in for new terms: Judges Spahn, Rodarte, Pallarés, Rudolph, Schwartz, Simonet, Cherry, Blackett, and Goble. We also celebrated the appointment of Judge Margaret Conboy and marked the retirement of the Honorable Clarisse Gonzales, who served Denver with extraordinary distinction over nearly two decades. Her legacy is woven into the fabric of this institution.

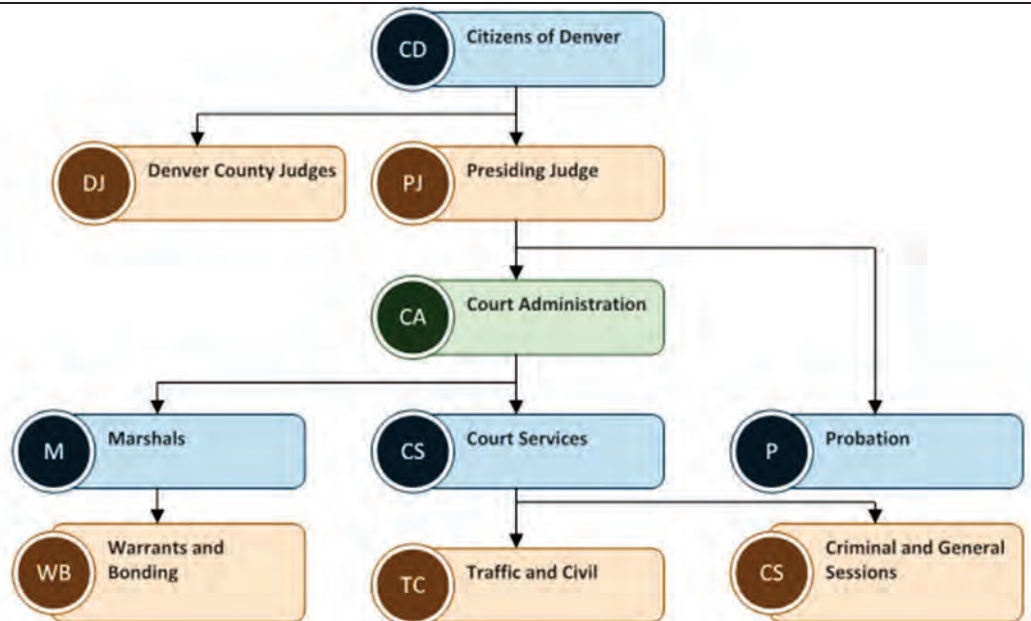
I offer my deepest gratitude to my colleagues on the bench, our leadership team, and every member of this Court's staff. I look forward to all that we will accomplish in the year ahead.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kerri Lombardi".

The Honorable Kerri Lombardi
Denver County Court Presiding Judge

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 of Denver County Court

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 (DCC) which officially launched on January 12, 1965.

About the Court

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. Denver County Court is a state and municipal court and is one of the largest courts in the State of Colorado; processing 100,000 cases annually. The Court is comprised of 19 judges, four full-time magistrates, and approximately 250 staff.

As Denver's third branch of government, Denver County Court offers the residents of Denver and the State of Colorado a neutral venue in which to settle disputes and uphold the law fairly and even-handedly. The Court's purpose is to administer justice, safeguard liberty, resolve conflicts, preserve the rule of law, extend equal protection to all, and secure due process under the law. Through Denver's criminal and civil courts, parties are given the chance to have their cases heard and decided consistently and impartially by a neutral judge or jury.

Beyond adjudication, the Court carries out rehabilitative and administrative roles. Its rehabilitative function ensures that individuals who have been adjudicated and placed on community supervision receive the resources and referrals they need to meet basic needs and obtain treatment, helping them build productive lives free of further justice system involvement. The Court likewise connects victims with information, support, and referrals to services. Its administrative function, in turn, ensures that the disputes and matters brought before it are resolved promptly and efficiently.

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 (Retired on April 1, 2025)
 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
 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
 Marguerite Conboy, Appointed April 4, 2025

2025 Administration	
Presiding Judge	The Honorable 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 Composition



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 Gonzales. ***Not featured: Judge Andre Rudolph, Judge Beth Faragher, Judge Barry Schwartz, Judge Isabel Pallarés, Judge Marguerite Conboy, Magistrate Arnie Beckman, and Magistrate Michelle Kline.

The Denver County Court takes pride in the diversity of its bench. Judges with varied backgrounds, including different genders, races, ethnicities, socioeconomic experiences, and professional paths, bring a broad range of perspectives to the judicial process. This diversity can enhance understanding of the challenges that various communities face in accessing justice and help ensure courts are responsive to the needs of all residents. A diverse judiciary also fosters public confidence by allowing individuals to see themselves reflected in those entrusted with making important legal decisions.

Female	73%
Male	27%
White	64%
Black	18%
Hispanic/Latino	14%
Asian	4%

**The table represents the diversity of the judges and magistrates of Denver County Court.*

Denver County Court Employee Composition



The Denver County Court employs approximately 250 staff members. As you can see from the data below, the Denver County Court employee base is also diverse.

Female		68%
Male		31%
Other		1%
White		45%
Hispanic/Latino		37%
Black		6%
Asian		5%
Two or More Races		4%
Decline		2%
American Indian or Alaska Native or Pacific Islander		<1%

**The table represents the diversity of the employees of the Denver County Court*

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. 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.

	2023	2024	2025
Expenditures by Type			
Personnel Services	30,931,362	33,696,910	35,929,896
Services and Supplies	2,254,728	2,653,245	3,115,376
Capital Equipment	12,000	-	-
Internal Services and Misc.	7,500	7,500	7,500
Expenditures by Type Total	33,205,590	36,357,655	39,052,772

**The table provides a breakdown of Denver County Court's appropriated budgets*

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 the Court's commitment to efficiency, fairness, and service excellence during the reporting period.

Units	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual
Dispositions Reached within 180 Days	90%	90%	89%
Cases Reaching Disposition	84%	85%	85%
Probation One Year Recidivism Rate	16%	16%	16%
Sobriety Court One Year Recidivism Rate	10%	9%	10%
Successful Completion of Probation	66%	66%	63%
Current Year Fines/Costs Collected	65%	67%	64%
Felony Filings	8,205	8,739	7,841
Criminal (State and Municipal) Filings	26,801	29,447	21,737
Traffic and Civil Filings	62,132	63,161	69,599
Active Number of Open Probation Cases	2,415	2,486	2757

Comparison of Case Filings 2023 to 2025:

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 Type:

Year	Civil	Protection Orders	Small Claims	Traffic RTD Photo Parking	Misdemeanor	Felony	Municipal Criminal	General Violations	Municipal Juvenile	Total Annual
2023	24,394	1,552	1,004	35,219	8,122	7,386	11,126	794	566	90,163
2024	28,480	1,550	1,064	31,512	8,306	7,793	12,793	666	562	92,726
2025	29,976	1,578	1,063	36,972	7,622	6,991	13,175	608	528	98,513

**Numbers can differ from prior year's report*

Court Operations by Division

Administration and Court Services Division

Administration and Court Services provide comprehensive oversight and coordination across all court and probation operations. Its functions include strategic planning and goal setting; policy development and implementation; program administration; legislative compliance; public information and media relations; procurement and contract management; financial administration; court registry management; human resources and staff development; and information technology infrastructure, including cybersecurity and data management.

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

Record Requests Completed	75
Data Requests Completed	183
Legislative Bills Reviewed	70 (totaling 947 pages)
Legislation Implemented	30
Media Inquiries Received	239

Accounting

The Accounting Division of Denver County Court is committed to excellence in financial stewardship and supporting the Court's broader institutional goals. As stewards of public funds, this division upholds the highest standards of fiscal integrity and transparent financial management while supporting the Court's mission of administering justice.

Highlights:

- Received approximately \$851,000 in restitution payments for victims.
- General fund receipts for 2025 increased by about 5%, totaling approximately \$13.6 million. The largest contributor to this increase was in the collection of research fees, including past due accounts (45%).
- Processed approximately \$33,000 in various chargebacks and short checks representing a 90% decrease from 2024.
- Reduced credit chargeback losses by implementing new bond payment procedures and improving transaction security and accountability.
- Successfully transitioned all custodial accounts (bond, restitution, civil, and VAVC) to a new banking institution.

The table below represents the 2025 Collection amounts by type:

Type	2025
Traffic Violations	\$ 3,553,700
Bond Forfeitures	\$ 303,300
Research Fees	\$ 5,172,300
Supervision Fees	\$ 612,700
Total Traffic, Criminal, Municipal	\$ 11,877,200
Civil	\$ 1,723,300
Total all General Fund Collections	\$ 13,600,500

The table below represents the Special Revenue Fund amounts by type:

Type	2024	2025
UPS Special Revenue Fund	\$ 95,800	\$83,700
OJW Fee – City	\$ 30,300	\$15,100
Total Special Revenue Fund	\$ 126,100	\$98,800

Human Resources (HR)

The Human Resources Division supports the Court's most valuable resource, its employees. It is responsible for overseeing the full employee lifecycle, from recruitment and hiring to retirement. The Human Resources Division guided the Court through a year of change with care, clarity, and a people-centered focus. By supporting employees and strengthening leadership, the team helped the organization navigate challenges, maintain stability, and build a foundation for a brighter, more resilient future. In 2025, the court experienced organizational and operational changes. The Human Resources Division played a central role in supporting workforce reductions, departmental reorganizations, budget-driven impacts, and multiple rule and policy changes. These efforts were further shaped by transitions in

leadership with key stakeholders across the court's city partners, requiring ongoing coordination, guidance, and communication with both employees and management.

Highlights:

- Conducted employee focus groups to inform leadership discussions regarding morale and emerging concern and adjusted communication strategies and identified areas requiring additional support.
- Transitioned from a reallocation-based hiring process to a more equitable and competitive, merit-based recruitment processes which broadened employee access to advancement opportunities while reducing the potential for favoritism or bias.
- Created a formal recognition initiative that included letters of commendation and leave awards for employees who demonstrated Thriving and Excellent performance ensuring they felt acknowledged and valued during a financially constrained year.
- Held three employee-appreciation events; the Pin Ceremony, the Employee Appreciation Luncheon, and the Holiday Wassail using personal funds contributed by Court leaders.
- Redesigned the Court's new-hire program to better foster psychologically safe environments where first-time employees feel supported and empowered from day one.
- Reinforced the Court's commitment to mental health, psychological safety, and long-term workforce sustainability by holding employee discussions on burnout, stress, and resilience in high-demand work environments in collaboration with Nicoletti-Flater Associates.
- Strengthened community engagement and education partnerships by hosting a group of Denver Public Schools students exploring career opportunities in the public sector and by presenting to paralegal students at Arapahoe Community College.

	2024	2025
Average Headcount (all non-judicial officer positions)	242	245
Voluntary Separations	28	28
Involuntary Separations	6	9
Reduction in Force Separations	0	14
Contract, On-Call Separation and Non-Starts	0	5
Overall Retention Rate (all non-judicial officer does not include RIF, Contract, or no start)	86%	85%
New Hires	39	28
Rehires	8	6
Promotions	18	14
Transfers	11	7
Days to Fill Vacant Positions	43	47
Vacant Positions Filled	80	55
Declined Job Offers	9	9
Employees Served in New Employee Orientation	41	41
Average Monthly FMLA/ADA Cases	34.5	53.75
Total FMLA/ADA Cases		150

**The table represents key Human Resources statistics*

Information Technology (IT)

The IT Division manages the full spectrum of technology services for the Court and leads strategic modernization initiatives. These initiatives strengthen the Court’s digital ecosystem in support of its mission to administer justice fairly, efficiently, and effectively, while providing excellent customer service. By enhancing infrastructure and expanding user-centered systems, the division is building a secure, reliable foundation that improves service delivery for judicial officers, staff, partners, and the public.

In 2025, the IT Division made meaningful progress under its annual theme, “Continuing to Modernize.” This effort began to take tangible shape through the development of impactful features designed to improve court efficiency and daily operations. In collaboration with key stakeholders and judicial officers, IT achieved significant expansion of the Court’s electronic filing (eFile) system. Through a new development pathway, IT also accelerated modernization of the Court’s case management system, “Themis,” with several Civil Division enhancements nearing production readiness.

Highlights:

- Supported the Traffic and Civil Division’s return to in-person traffic dockets through collaboration with the Denver Police Department.
- Completed the transition to the city’s new payment processor, for bond and case payments by developing new system integrations and implementing updated financial accounting designations.
- Designed and implemented new audio bench conferencing standards to improve consistency and ensure bench conference recordings are accurately captured as part of the official court record.
- Achieved WCAG 2.1 AA website accessibility compliance for the Court’s public websites and online platforms.
- Continued modernization of Civil case management platform, with 80% of civil case management functionality successfully developed.
- Implemented safeguards to prevent incorrect filing of TI charges in the Criminal (CR) and General Sessions (GS) divisions through collaboration with Denver law enforcement and State and Municipal prosecutors.
- Launched an out-of-county bonding process utilizing secure Microsoft Forms and updated bonding division procedures.
- Expanded electronic filing (eFile) capabilities in the Criminal (CR) and General Sessions (GS) divisions, including automatic attorney assignment, eService functionality, an expanded list of eligible eFile documents, and Phase 2 of probation-related filings.
- Enhanced the Court’s physical technology infrastructure by increasing system capacity and available technical resources.

	2024	2025
Number of Helpdesk Tickets Received	4,374	4,297
Number of Tickets Resolved	4,316 (98.67% Resolution Rate)	4,265 (99.25% Resolution Rate)
First Contact Resolution Rate	80.78%	85.68%
Average Resolution Time per Ticket	15 hours	17 hours

**The table represents IT Helpdesk statistics*

Denver County Court Marshals

The Marshals are responsible for locating and arresting individuals who are in violation of bond or pretrial community supervision and who present great safety risks to the community. The Marshals also provide mutual aid to other law enforcement agencies and executive protection details for judicial officers and other city leaders, as needed. In 2025, the Marshals Office Fugitive Team consisted of 10 Colorado POST-certified peace officers and one judicial associate.

Highlights:

The Marshals Division's scope expanded significantly in 2025 following an organizational restructuring that brought the Court's Warrants and Bonding Division under its oversight. This realignment consolidates all safety, security, custody, and law enforcement-related functions of Denver County Court under a single office, strengthening coordination and efficiency across these critical operations. This brings all safety, security, custody, and law enforcement-related functions under the Marshals Office, including:

- Reorganized to include Warrant and Bonding Office, NCIC/CCIC access and record entry, fugitive apprehension, pre-employment background checks, employee badging, security awareness training, and CJIS Security Policy compliance for employees, contractors, and vendors.
- Prioritized and assigned Marshals to high-risk fugitive warrants the same day they were issued, with particular focus on defendants who were non-compliant with Pretrial GPS supervision.
- Expanded efforts to connect wanted defendants with the court process through Order In appearances, allowing bond matters to be addressed without requiring jail booking. This expansion led to 192 instances in 2025 of a fugitive going directly to Court without being booked into city jail.

	2024	2025
New Fugitive Cases Opened	783	1,490
Cases Cleared by Arrest	201	226
Cases Cleared by Order In	70	192
Total Cases Closed	601	1,522
Clearance Rate	45.1%	52.4%

** The table represents cases handled by the Marshals*

Warrants and Bonding

The Warrants and Bonding team serve as the essential link between judicial orders and their enforcement while managing the critical functions of the NCIC/CCIC and bonding processes. Operating nearly 24 hours per day, seven days per week (including holidays) this team manages the issuance, validation, maintenance and cancellation of all warrants and protections orders issued out of all DCC divisions. The staff are the face of the court with law enforcement officers and agencies across the state and across the country who contact defendants with active warrants and protection orders. The team also operates the public-facing Warrants and Bonding Office located in the Van Cise-Simonet Downtown Detention Center and ensures efficient coordination of defendant transportation, court appearances and timely document processing to facilitate prompt release upon bond posting.

Highlights:

- Expanded the existing online bonding capabilities and introduced Online Out of County Bonds.
- Updated processes so that Individuals and professional sureties are able to post bonds online for inmates of the Denver Detention Center who are being held on warrants out of other jurisdictions.

	2024	2025
Warrants Entered	26,606	24,182
Active Warrants as of E.O.Y.	52,146	52,646
Protection Orders Entered	8,340	9,040
Number of Bonds Posted	14,192	9,562
Total Amount of Bonds Posted		\$6,824,466

**The table represents Warrants and Bonding statistics*

Traffic and Civil (TRCV)

The Civil and Traffic Division adjudicates approximately 60,000 cases annually across two primary areas. The Civil Division handles all civil lawsuits and monetary disputes up to \$25,000, along with name changes, replevins, nuisance abatement cases, and landlord-tenant and eviction matters; Small Claims Court adjudicates civil matters up to \$7,500. Among its responsibilities are emergency protection order cases. Denver County Court is the only court in Colorado providing a dedicated courtroom and judge exclusively for protection order matters. The Traffic Division processes all municipal and state traffic and parking violations, including RTD and photo radar violations. Most traffic violations carry payable fines that may be resolved before the scheduled court date without requiring an appearance.

2025 presented the division with an exceptionally demanding operational environment, including major project implementations, hiring constraints, staff shortages, and workforce reductions. Despite these pressures, division staff demonstrated consistent professionalism and commitment, maintaining service levels and fulfilling their responsibilities without interruption. Beyond the volume of work performed, staff approached their roles with a genuine sense of stewardship, for the public, the division, judicial officers, and stakeholders alike. Perhaps the division's most significant achievement is the sustained collaboration between staff and supervisors in managing a high volume of work while delivering consistent service to the public, always with the integrity and mission of the Court as the guiding priority. That shared commitment, reflected across customer service, Self-Help Center, courtroom staff, supervisors, and rovers, defines how the division approaches its work at Denver County Court.

Traffic Highlights:

- Reassessed operational structure of the division following significant changes staffing and operations.
 - This included developing and implementing new processes and procedures to set Parking Final Hearings and parking motions division absorbed a significant increase in docketing responsibilities following the closure of the Parking Magistrate's Office in August.
 - The return to in-person traffic arraignments in July prompted the division's supervisory team to comprehensively reassess operational structure.
 - The elimination of night court created an opportunity to reimagine scheduling for all customer service staff. Through a collaborative planning process, supervisors and staff worked together to analyze workload distribution, staffing requirements, and coverage needs, ultimately developing a viable four-day, 10-hour alternate work schedule available to qualifying staff.

- The initiative provided a meaningful boost to staff morale during a period of significant organizational uncertainty.

	2025
Traffic	32,613 / 33,100(DURs)
RTD LightRail	365
Photo Radar	830
Parking	3,164
Total Filings	36,972 37,459(DURs)

**Traffic cases filed by type*

The Denver County Court Civil division handles non-criminal cases involving legal disputes between two or more parties. These parties may be individuals, businesses, or a government involved in the pursuance of a judgment. Another critical component of the civil division is the issuance of temporary and permanent protection orders. 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 differently 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 that is routinely escalated. The Denver County Court Self Help Center provides free, in-person assistance to civil litigants not represented by an attorney.

Civil Highlights

- **The Small Claims Court** managed 1065 cases
 - With mandatory mediation, greater than 60% were resolved without requiring a court hearing or trial.
 - Cases that do not resolve are set for trial within a few weeks following mediation. The process ensures that once the case is set for trial, it is given time so it can properly be heard without a backlog of other cases docketed. The efficiency created through mandatory mediation ensures Small Claims court is a true access to justice courtroom.
- **The Protection Order** courtroom and judge are dedicated to hearing only Protection Order cases.
 - Having a dedicated protection order courtroom benefits the public in numerous ways.
 - Judges who serve in protection orders develop an expertise in protection order statutes and law.
 - Staff develops an expertise in providing direct, individualized service to self-represented 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 2025, 1,578 protection orders were issued which is an increase from 1,550 protection orders the prior year.
- **The Self-Help Center (SHC)** had another record-setting year and broke last year's record in assisting 13,445 contacts which is a sharp increase from 2024's 10,489 contacts.
 - On average, every day that SHC team was open, the team of two assisted 54 contacts with their civil needs. This represents the largest year-to-year increase in contacts in the SHC's history.
 - Overall, in 2025, 56% of contacts were made in-person with the remaining 44% coming by email or telephone. This change was not, however, unexpected as 2025 was the first year in the last several years that the SHC was operating in-person every weekday.
 - The most frequently used language in the SHC other than English was Spanish, accounting for approximately 7% of all interactions and reflected a 2% increase from the prior year.
 - The Self-Help Center staff are not Spanish speakers and must utilize Court resources to communicate with these litigants. The Chief Justice Directive for Self-Represented Litigant Coordinators allows Self-Help staff to write Court pleadings for non-English speakers, so long as the scribed content is a verbatim transcription of the spoken content. Spanish-speaking litigants accounted for 7% of all contacts in 2025, and the majority of those interactions took significantly more time than the average encounter in English.
 - When using the consecutive interpretation services offered by the court's on demand interpretation vendor, each interaction takes twice as long as the same interaction would in English.
 - The Self-Help Center staff also organize and operate the annual Free Legal Resource Day in October in support of the annual national Pro Bono Week.
 - The Self-Help Center is becoming increasingly busy, and its breadth of reach is also expanding.

Civil - Money	3,866
Civil – Forceable Entry and Detainer	3,594
Small Claims	2,793
Protection Order	1,632
Name Change - Adult	306
District - Domestic	228
District - Civil	195
Criminal / General Sessions	132
Civil - Replevin	131
Name Change - Minor	91
Traffic	80
Nuisance - Vehicle	70
Other	65
Probate	47
Warranty of Habitability	46
Unlawful Eviction	44
Nuisance - Building	10
Juvenile	7
Gender Marker Change	3
Toll Appeal	2

**Contacts by case type*

	2024	2025
Eviction	15,854	15,953
Eviction - Commercial	77	64
Money	11,771	13,494
Nuisance	860	794
Name Change	724	609
Elderly	166	120
Petition for Civil Enforcement	97	60
Replevin	33	40
Foreign Judgment	12	7
Restrictive Housing	2	0
Wages	2	0
Abandoned Vehicle	3	1

**Civil cases filed by type*

Plaintiffs	63.60%
Defendants	35%
Remaining: Garnishees, witnesses, and victims	1.4%

**Contacts by party type, overall*

	Plaintiff		Defendant	
Civil - Money	2,089	54.79%	1,729	45.21%
Civil - FED	1,733	48.53%	1,831	51.47%
Small Claims	2,382	85.62%	400	14.38%
Protection Order	1,282	79.18%	337	20.82%
Name Change - Adult	301	100%	0	0%

**Most popular case type by party type*

Criminal & Municipal Division

The Criminal Division presides over approximately 35,000 cases annually. These include felony matters, which the division processes through preliminary hearing and bind-over to District Court, as well as state misdemeanor cases and municipal ordinance violations, which the division adjudicates to disposition. The division conducts advisements, bond hearings, motion proceedings, disposition hearings, and bench and jury trials for non-traffic municipal ordinance and state criminal law violations. It also operates seven specialized accountability and problem-solving courts accredited through the Colorado Judicial Department's problem-solving court accreditation program.

Highlights:

- Operated seven accountability and specialty court programs focused on rehabilitation and community-based treatment alternatives.
- Sobriety Court, a treatment program for repeat DUI offenders (2nd and 3rd offenses), maintained certification through the Colorado Judicial Department's problem-solving court accreditation program.
- The Backpack Program and Blood Drive Program continued to provide alternative pathways for community service, with 5,415 backpacks prepared for children in need and 5,090 blood donations made.

Case Type	2024	2025
DUI/DWAI	1,152	1,155
Other Misdemeanors	6,649	6,019
Felony	7,726	6,948
Municipal	12,793	13,175
General Violations	666	608
Municipal Juvenile	562	528
Total Criminal	29,548	28,433

**Criminal case filings by type*

Specialty Courts and Programs

Denver County Court's Specialty Courts function as specialized dockets designed to address the underlying mental health and substance use disorders that often contribute to a person's involvement with the justice system. These courts

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 broader Denver community. The Forensic Peer Support Program also addresses mental health and substance use challenges for adults in the justice system with a team of trained professionals in recovery themselves.

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

PROGRAM	WHAT IT DOES	2025 HIGHLIGHTS
Forensic Peer Support Peer support	Certified peers connect justice-involved individuals to recovery, housing, jobs, and treatment resources.	1,695 participants served · 3,709 contacts · 80% connection rate 3,078 referrals — top needs: substance use, housing, basic needs, mental health 56% did not recidivate one year after closure
Wellness Program Concluded Aug 2025	Harm reduction for quick-release individuals with behavioral health needs; completion of the program results in case dismissal.	300 eligible · 160 enrolled (53%) · 41% completed successfully Provided motel/taxi vouchers, bus passes, phones, hygiene items, food & clothing
Outreach Court Community court	Brings court to community for people experiencing housing instability; resolves municipal citations/warrants on-site.	383 cases resolved for 209 individuals All connected to services · Hosted at Denver Public Library & Denver Human Services
Competency Diversion Mental health	Diverts individuals unlikely to be competent to proceed into community mental health treatment instead of formal proceedings. This serves both misdemeanor and felony cases.	269 referrals in 2025 Services: MH treatment, substance use, housing, benefits, medication 65% successful diversion rate
Competency Support Docket Mental health	Specialized docket for misdemeanor competency cases and cases accepted into Competency Diversion; routes people to alternative pathways and services.	407 individuals transferred · 88% misdemeanor, 12% felony Added Adaptive Behavioral Evaluations & IQ testing with Rocky Mountain Human Services
Sobriety Court DUI treatment	Accredited treatment court for repeat DUI offenders; intensive treatment and supervision.	66 active participants · 14 graduated · 75% compliance rate 1-yr recidivism: 6% · 3-yr recidivism: 18% (well below national average)
HEM Program Drug misdemeanor	Voluntary program for Drug Misdemeanor (DM1) charges; connects participants to resources. In this program completion results in case dismissal.	626 participants (↑ from 499 in 2024) · 248 successful completions 1,076 community connections made 2025 updates: brain injury screening, enhanced goal setting, exit surveys

Probation Division

The Probation Division advances public safety and victim reparation through client accountability, skill and competency development, and community service. The division supervises an average daily population of approximately 3,000 individuals sentenced to community supervision by the Court. Specialized units address varying client needs while working to achieve positive behavioral change and ensure community safety. Using evidence-based practices and innovative technology, the division allocates resources efficiently to maintain public safety and support client rehabilitation and reintegration, with the goal of reducing recidivism. Its staff administers risk and needs assessments, prepare pre-sentence investigation reports, provide sentencing recommendations, conduct home visits, and develop individualized case plans with appropriate service referrals.

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. During a time with limited resources, the team exhibited superb professionalism, resiliency, and productivity while effectively meeting business objectives efficiently.

Highlights:

- In 2025, 35 probation officers supervised approximately 2,719 cases.
- Reorganized into teams to best support optimal utilization of resources while navigating short staffing across critical business functions, support cross-training, professional development, elevate the quality of work deliverables, and sustain compliance with non-deferrable legal deadlines per case type. These reorganized teams now comprise the following units:
 - DUI/DWAI
 - DV/Family Violence/Special Crimes
 - Sobriety Court
 - Sex Offender Management
 - Mental Health
 - PSI
 - Home Visits
 - Interstate Compact
 - Victim Advocate – Post Sentence Support Services
- Adopted the new IDA – DUI Assessment to evaluate justice-involved individuals on active supervision for driving under the influence offenses. Probation officers and supervisors were trained in the administration of the IDA in alignment with probation professionals in Colorado.
- In 2025 Probation experienced a 5% increase in Referrals, a 9% increase in case load, a 12% increase in PSIs, and an 8% increase in Terminations.

The tables below reflect the Probation Division's caseload for 2025, providing details about probation supervision activity across the division's cases.

	Average Caseload	Revoked	Complaint	Other
Male	2047	34 %	60%	6%
Female	668	23%	72%	5%

**Cases by gender and probation status*

Female	Compliant	Revoked	Other
White	73 %	21 %	6 %
Hispanic/Latino	78 %	20 %	2 %
Black or African American	57 %	38 %	6 %
Asian	88 %	0 %	13 %
Indian	63 %	38 %	0 %
Unknown or Decline			

	Cases	
White	1489	55 %
Hispanic/Latino	591	22 %
Black or African American	518	19 %
Asian	64	2 %
Indian	26	1 %
Unknown or Decline	33	1 %

**Caseloads by race and ethnicity*

Male	Compliant	Revoked	Other
White	60 %	32 %	7 %
Hispanic/Latino	71 %	25 %	4 %
Black or African American	44 %	49 %	7 %
Asian	73 %	21 %	6 %
Indian	50 %	44 %	6 %
Unknown or Decline	100 %		

The tables below provide key statistics about Client Services in 2025.

Voucher Totals	
Vouchers:	900,279.82
Paid Invoices:	664,789.25
Voided:	235,490.57
Number of Vouchers Issued	16,878
Number of Clients Vouchered	2,349
Percentage Paid	74%

Treatment	
Authorized Vouchers:	635,473.82
Paid Invoices:	473,289.75
Voided:	162,184.07
Number of Vouchers Issued	4,888

Sentry	
Authorized Vouchers:	264,806.00
Paid Invoices:	191,499.50
Voided:	73,306.50
Number of Vouchers Paid	11,990

The table below reflects paid treatment types:

Paid TX Type			
Service	# Vouchers Issued	Paid	%
OSM	54	2,706.00	0.4%
Evaluations	191	41,954.00	6.3%
Intake	389	47,529.00	7.1%
Polygraph	9	1,590.00	0.2%
SCRAM		28,694.51	4.3%
Treatment	8563	322,499.24	48.5%
Sentry		191,499.50	28.8%
Transportation		27,225.00	4.1%
Materials	23	1,092.00	0.2%
Total		664,789.25	100%

Conclusion

As Denver County Court reflects on 2025, we do so with a clear sense of purpose and gratitude. This year brought real challenges, including budget reductions, organizational change, and difficult decisions that affected our people and our programs. It also demonstrated the resilience, professionalism, and dedication of the judges, magistrates, leadership team, and staff who continued to serve the public with integrity and care.

The Court remains committed to building on this year's progress. We look to the future with a continued focus on access to justice, innovation, public service, and strong partnerships that help us meet the evolving needs of the community. As we move forward, we will continue working to ensure that Denver County Court remains fair, accessible, efficient, and responsive to all those we serve.

We extend our sincere thanks to our justice partners, community organizations, stakeholders, and the people of Denver for their continued trust and support. We are also grateful to everyone who took the time to read this report and learn more about the work of the Court. Together, we will continue advancing a court system that serves the public with fairness, accountability, and respect.



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