

Background on the Colorado Judgeship Act

The legislation authorizes three additional district judgeships for the District of Colorado. The District of Colorado's average weighted caseload per judge is well above that of the nation.

The District of Colorado, coterminous with state boundaries, serves all of Colorado and covers 104,100 square miles. Other than Alaska, Colorado is the federal judicial district with the largest geographic area and one primary courthouse (Denver). The District of Colorado consists of:

- 7 active district court judges (located in Denver)
- 4 senior district court judges (located in Denver)
- 7 full-time magistrate judges (6 located in Denver; one located in Colorado Springs)
- 2 part-time magistrate judges (located in Durango and Grand Junction)

The last Congressional authorization for a new judgeship in Colorado was in 1984. Colorado is the eighth largest state by area and since 1984, the population of the state has grown 81% from 3,174,844 people to 5,758,736 in 2019.

Congress determines through legislative action both the size and structure of the federal judiciary. Congress has, at numerous times over the years, authorized an increase in the number of such judgeships in order to meet the workload-based needs of the federal court system. Congress last enacted comprehensive judgeship legislation in 1990 and since then, the judiciary reported district court caseloads have risen by 47%.