



Colorado

Access to Justice Commission (ATJC)

Report to the Joint Judiciary Committee 2023

Elisa Overall (Emo)
Executive Director
elisa@coloradoaccesstojustice.org

Richard Murray
Commission Chair
rmurray@polsinelli.com

What we do:

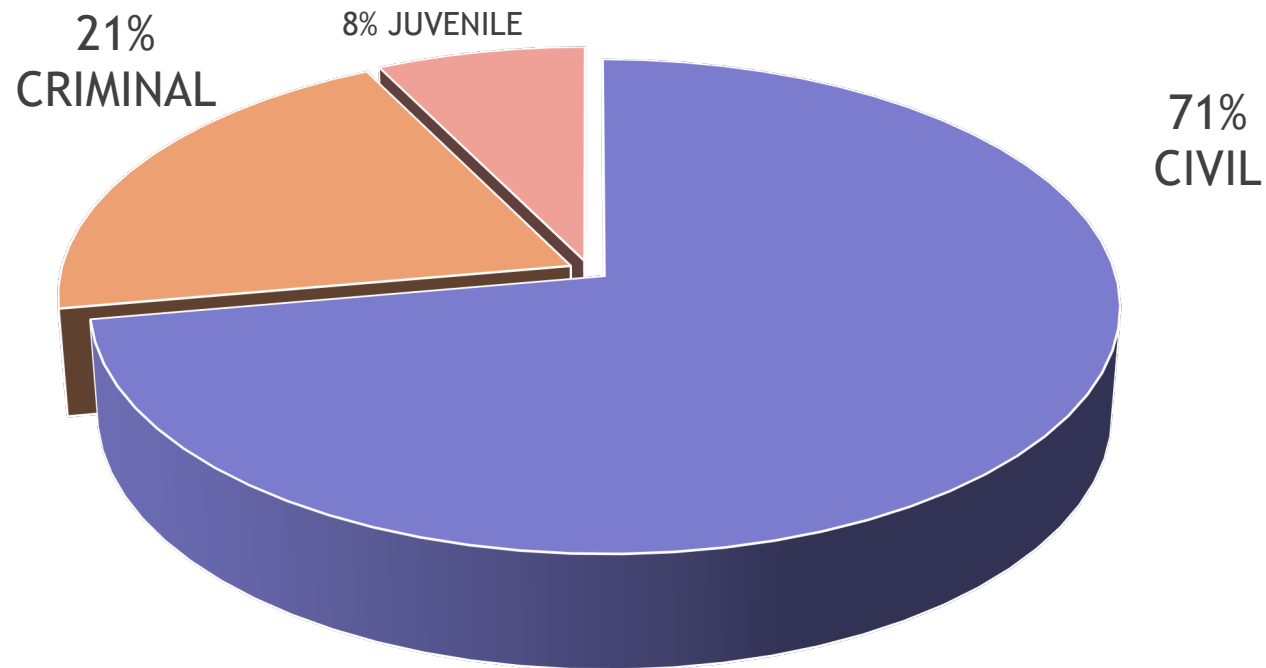
*The ATJC works to expand access to and enhance the quality of **civil justice** for all Coloradans.*



Civil Justice



Civil Cases filed in Colorado in 2022



Source: Colorado Judicial Branch Annual Statistical Report, FY2022

Civil Justice



HOUSING
(Rental Disputes,
Foreclosures)



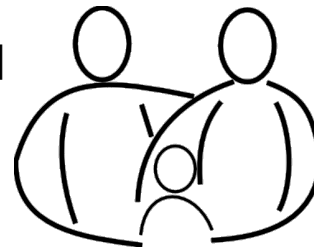
FINANCIAL SECURITY
(Employment,
Disability, Electricity,
Childcare, Food,
Cash Assistance)



**PHYSICAL
SAFETY**
(Protection
Orders)



**FAMILY
COMPOSITION**
(Divorce,
Custody,
Adoption)



HEALTH
(Medicaid,
Medicare,
Worker's
Comp.)



Civil Justice: inaccessible



Homelessness,
Foreclosure,
Bankruptcy,
Emergency social
services



Bankruptcy,
Unemployment, Food
insecurity, School
dropout, Poverty



Family
violence



Child
separation,
Parent
incarceration



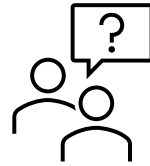
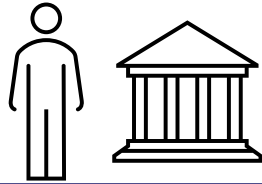
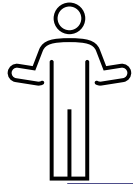
Emergency
medical
services,
Mental health
crises



Spectrum of Access to Justice Solutions

No legal help

Full representation
(start to finish)



Simplified Laws
& Procedures

Interpretation, ADA

Court Navigators

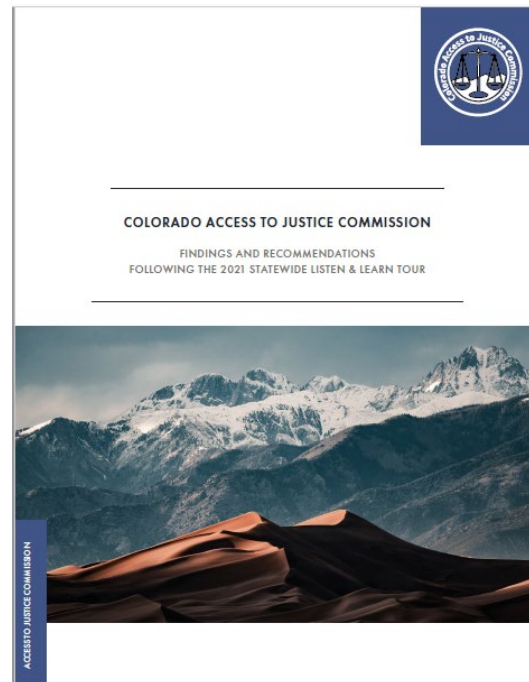
Legal Help Clinics

Eviction Diversion, Mediation

Pro Bono &
Legal Aid Attorneys



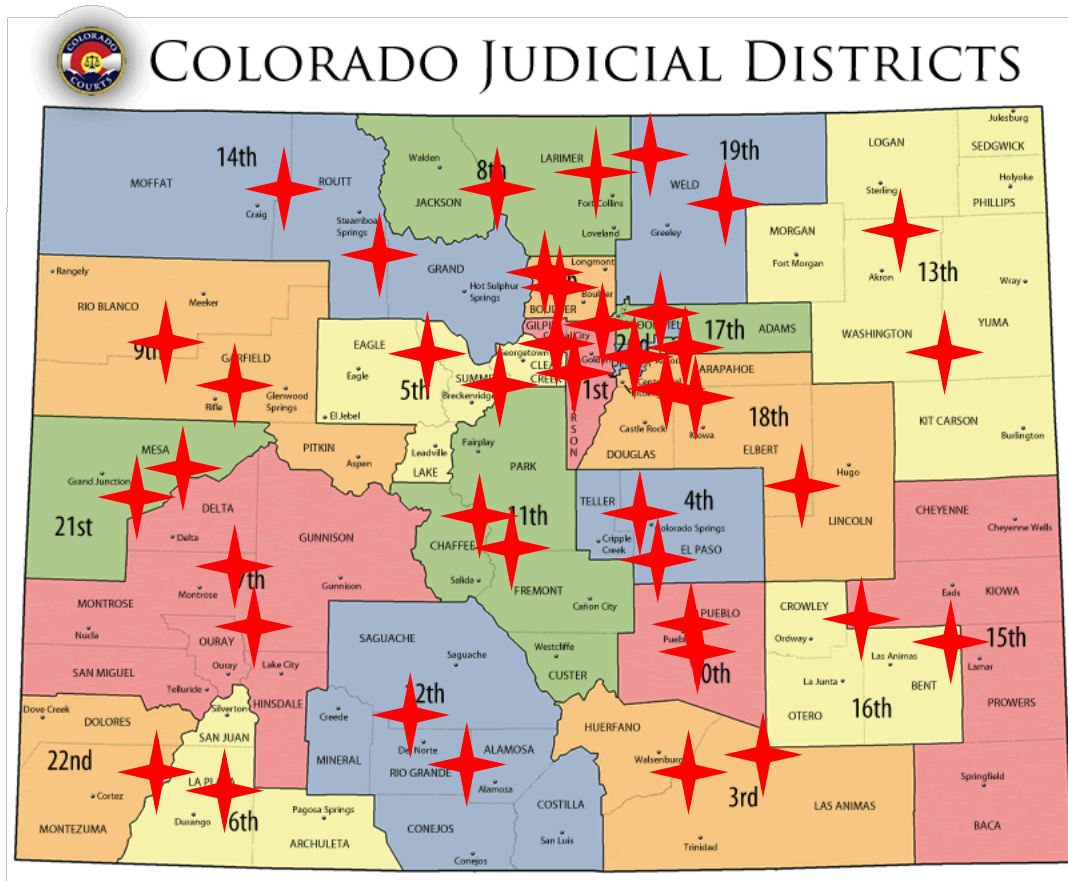
ATJC Listening Tour Report & Recommendations



www.coloradoaccesstojustice.org



Listening Tour

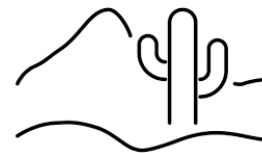
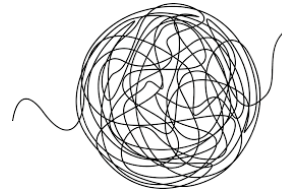


- ▶ Held **41 virtual meetings** across Colorado
 - ▶ 1/3 urban
 - ▶ 2/3 rural
- ▶ Spoke with **518 stakeholders**
 - ▶ 295 Legal Service Providers
 - ▶ 224 Community Service Providers

Most Prominent Barriers



- ▶ Fear & distrust of the legal system
- ▶ Lack of affordable legal services
- ▶ Scarcity of free legal aid
- ▶ Complexity of the justice system
- ▶ Language & culture यं
- ▶ Technology challenges
- ▶ Underserved rural communities





Long-term Recommendations

- Significantly increase state funding for legal aid
- Prioritize laws that simplify procedures and protect *pro se* parties
- Use plain language in legislation



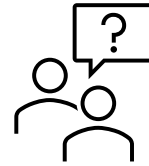
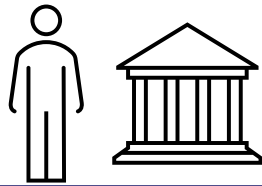
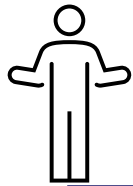
Immediate Policy Recommendations

- Support statewide **uniform** use of remote proceedings in appropriate cases
- Support Licensed Legal Paraprofessionals (LLPs)
- Support electronic filing (E-filing) for *pro se* parties

Spectrum of Access to Justice Solutions

No legal help

Full representation
(start to finish)



Simplified Laws
& Procedures

E-Filing

Interpretation, ADA

Remote Hearings

Court Navigators

Ask-a-Lawyer

**Licensed Legal Paraprofessionals
(LLPs)**

Eviction Diversion,
Mediation

Legal Aid Attorneys
Pro Bono &



Colorado Access to Justice Commission (ATJC)

Questions?

Elisa Overall (Emo)
Executive Director
elisa@coloradoaccesstojustice.org

Richard Murray
Commission Chair
rmurray@polsinelli.com

www.coloradoaccesstojustice.org