



Fort Collins Municipal Court

# What is a Court Administrator?



Family background of public service.  
20 years with the City and the Court.  
I have some uncommon hobbies





## Fort Collins Municipal Court

The Court is responsible for administering the operations of the judicial branch of City government according to the City's Charter and ordinances adapted by City Council.

### Mission:

"To adjudicate complaints filed in Municipal Court with integrity, efficiency and accuracy, treating each individual with courtesy and respect."

Chief Judge Kathleen Lane

Assistant Municipal  
Judge & Court Referee  
Judge Teresa Ablao

Municipal Court  
Referee  
Mark Workman

Temporary Judge  
Judge Lisa Hamilton-  
Fieldman

Court Administrator  
Patty Netherton

## 2017-2018 State Law Changes

- Juvenile case expungement
- Adult case sealing process through Municipal Court
- Current military and Veterans advisement of services available
- Required defense counsel available for every prisoner video advisement
- 24 hour notification/48 hour requirement for prisoner video advisements or automatic PR Bond
- Formal pre/post advisements in courtroom on all misdemeanor type cases

Cases adjudicated in Municipal Court include:

- misdemeanor violations, petty offenses, traffic violations, and civil infractions

Filed by:

- Fort Collins Police Services, Colorado State University Police Department, Animal Control, Neighborhood Code Enforcement, and Parking Services

## 2018 Completed Cases

11,587 general caseload cases

19,762 Camera Radar/Red Light cases



## Examples of types of cases filed

### Misdemeanors:

theft, disorderly conduct, harassment, assault, underaged possession of alcohol or MJ, careless driving, reckless driving, speed contest

### Petty offenses:

smoking in the downtown smoke-free zone, smoking in public places/city buildings, certain subsections of disorderly conduct

### Traffic violations:

speeding, left turn oncoming traffic, failure to yield, stop sign, unsafe backing, bicycle violations

Municipal Court's ability to encourage and assist defendants to lead a law-abiding life by:

- Developing education and alternative sentencing options that balance accountability with compassion
- Philosophy of offering services to those in need at every contact



## Alternative Sentencing Partnerships:

- City's Restorative Justice and Mediation Programs
- CSU's Student Conduct Services at the Student Resolution Center
- CSU's Restorative Justice Services
- The Center for Family Outreach

- 88 graduates since SAS started in August of 2014
- Less than 1% recidivism rate for graduates in Municipal Court
- Program follow-up process for graduates

## Participant comments:

"I was given support and encouragement"

"Having a compassionate City Attorney, Judge, and Case Manager actually listen and communicate with me"

"I feel blessed to have experienced SAS. Please help more people."

# Transitional Sentencing Program

A program designed to create connections/contacts with defendants as well as offering services while in custody:

- Applications/admissions into Fort Lyon completed
- Secured housing at Red Tail Ponds
- Medical and substance abuse resources/classes provided
- Engagement with Social Services/community support programs
- Help with connections/coordination with other court systems

## “Small but mighty program”

“Thank you. I didn’t know what services were available”

“The coordinated/wrap around support has great value for our clients”

“Client was grateful, engaged, and committed”

“Thanked provider for reaching out”

## Continuous Improvement

- Text message reminders for future hearings
- Expand nCourt options
- Online dispute resolution for CRRL citations
- New Probation Officer in 2020
- FUSE and Sorenson projects
- Remote Customer Service Locations

### SAFE COMMUNITY: Fort Collins provides a safe place to live, work, learn and play

- 5.1 Improve community involvement, education and regional partnerships to increase the level of public trust and keep the community safe.



Questions?