

Preface

During 2024, the Judicial Branch created the first new judicial district in 50 years. It split Douglas, Elbert, and Lincoln Counties from the 18th Judicial District to create the new 23rd Judicial District, effective January 1, 2025.

The Judicial Branch was successful in gaining approval of additional judges in several districts. As those judges come on board, it should reduce the current backlog in trial courts.

During the past year, the Court of Appeals addressed the appearance of “hallucinations,” fictional citations to non-existent cases, in briefs. The Court of Appeals warned that in the future it may impose sanctions.

The appellate judges have asked the Appellate Rules Committee to address the increasingly common practice of trying to game the word count requirement in briefs. Too many practitioners are “squishing” citations to an unreadable degree in an effort to get under the word count requirement of C.A.R. 28(h). A subcommittee of the Appellate Rules Committee has been appointed to draft a policy on his concern.

I’m grateful for the comments and suggestions that readers have given me to make this volume more useful.

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