

**ARAPAHOE COUNTY  
CORONER – 2026  
COMPENSATION MEETING**

**DR. BITTING**

**FORENSIC PATHOLOGIST**

**ARAPAHOE COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE**

**TUESDAY 6/9/2026 2:00 PM**

# HR – Regional Coroner/CME salaries – 6/5/26

County	2026 Coroner	2026 Rate	Years of Experience	Notes
Adams & Broomfield	Broncucia-Jordon	\$ 158,669.00	15	
Boulder	Martin	\$ 131,701.00	34	
<b>Denver</b>	<b>Dr. McLaren</b>	<b>\$350,000.00</b>	18	Appointed 2/2026
Douglas	Brown, MDI	\$ 131,701.00	23	
<b>El Paso</b>	<b>Dr. Russell-Kinsley</b>	<b>\$333,971.56</b>	14	
Jefferson	Cannon, PhD, MSN, RN, D-ABMDI)	\$ 263,402.36	35	
Larimer	Hanks	\$ 131,701.00	14	
<b>Weld</b>	<b>Dr. Burson</b>	<b>\$158,563.10</b>	16	
National Average		\$ 327,318.00		
<b>10 County MD Average</b>		<b>\$280,844.89</b>	16	
10 County Average		\$ 207,463.63	21	

all data as of May 2026

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<b>El Paso</b>	<b>Dr. Russell-Kinsley</b>	<b>\$ 333,971.56</b>	14	Appointed 1/1/2025
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# CURRENT/RECENT DENVER/EL PASO/AC PHYSICIAN CORONER/CME SALARIES

LOCATION	PERSON	YEARS EXPERIENCE	SALARY
ARAPAHOE COUNTY	KELLY LEAR, MD	22	\$320,000
EL PASO COUNTY	EMILY RUSSELL- KINSLEY, MD	14	\$334,000
DENVER COUNTY	STERLING MCLAREN, MD	5	\$350,000
DENVER COUNTY	JAMES CARUSO, MD	~18-20	\$372,645 (2025)

# CURRENT DAY DENVER AREA FP SALARIES

POSITION	LOCATION			SALARY
FP (current fellow-starting next mo.)	DENVER COUNTY	SIMILAR BENEFITS	0 YEARS experience	\$280K ~ in 1 mo. (future)
FP (IP)	ACCO		6 YEARS experience	\$290K
FP (former Denver fellow)	EL PASO COUNTY	SIMILAR BENEFITS	<1 YEAR experience	\$294K
FP (former Denver fellow/former ACCO)	EL PASO COUNTY	SIMILAR BENEFITS	3 YEARS experience	\$296K (\$240-\$251K in AC)
FP	EL PASO COUNTY	SIMILAR BENEFITS	5 YEARS	\$300,456
FP (from outside state)	DENVER COUNTY	SIMILAR BENEFITS	12-13 YEARS experience	\$340K hired 1 mo. ago

# Our currently open Forensic Pathologist Position

- Opened on 1/9/2026 and still open as of 6/2/2026.
  - One interview and one offer made – was rejected.

# Current Coroner's Salary Increase (2013 to 2014): FP to Coroner

- Percentage increase (2013 to 2014):  $(\$220,000 - \$179,978 = \$40,022) / \$179,978 = 0.2223716 \rightarrow 22.23716\%$  increase
- If I had a 22% increase in salary:  $\$309,002.46 \times 1.2223716 = \$377,715.84$ .

# Messages

- There is a nationwide shortage of forensic pathologists that is worsening.
- Forensic pathologists are severely underpaid and are leaving FTE for locum tenens work which pays \$1300 - \$1450 or more per autopsy depending on complexity.
- My salary request would:
  - Establish a salary infrastructure at ACCO that would allow us to hire a third forensic pathologist.
  - This would allow us to continue to split our 700-800 postmortem examination cases per year amongst 3 forensic pathologists.
  - Thereby maintain our NAME accreditation.

# My Ask – 22.23716% increase c/w current coroner

Current	\$ 309,002.46				
	Auto Increase Annually			Four Year Average	
	\$ \$377,715.84	remainder of		\$ \$377,715.84	remainder of
22.0%		2026			2026
3%		2027			2027
#DIV/0!		2028			2028
#DIV/0!		2029			2029
#DIV/0!		2030			2030
Total	\$ \$377,715.84			\$ \$377,715.84	