



New Mexico Judiciary Annual Report 2021





In Memoriam

Chief Judge Matthew G. Reynolds of the Seventh Judicial District died on March 6, 2021. He served on the court for more than 15 years.

On the Cover

Santa Fe Sunrise Photo Credit: Beth Wojahn, Administrative Office of the Courts Communications Officer

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The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is required by law to submit an annual report to the New Mexico Supreme Court and the Legislature. NMSA 1978, § 34-9-3. This report is an overview of the Judiciary's accomplishments during the 2021 fiscal year (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021) and includes a summary of statistical data for New Mexico's appellate, district, metropolitan and magistrate courts. Find this report, as well as the complete Statistical Addendum, at www.nmcourts.gov.



Message from Chief Justice Michael E. Vigil

With honor and pride, I present the Judicial Branch's 2021 Annual Report. Our judges and court employees have continued serving the people of New Mexico with diligence, professionalism, and courage in the face of another year of COVID- 19. The linchpin of our democracy is a fully functioning judiciary, and the linchpin of the judiciary is its “frontline” employees – the clerks, judicial specialists, interpreters, jury managers, and everyone who works in our courthouses. In these pages, you will see many of the employees and examples of their hard work.

From January 1, 2020 to July 30, 2021, the district, metropolitan, and magistrate courts handled more than 222,000 new cases, closed over 239,000 cases, and held 519 jury trials, all while following COVID-19 safe practices.

More than 89% of the judiciary is fully vaccinated, allowing us to increase in-person proceedings, and more than 95% of jurors report feeling safe in our courthouses. We continue to adjust safety protocols based on the number of COVID-19 cases and nature of the variants.

Notwithstanding the pandemic, the judiciary continues to improve and expand programs:

- A 24-hour unit in Albuquerque provides public safety assessment reports to judges across the state within hours of an arrest to use in making release decisions.

- In October 2021, 24/7 alert system procedures were implemented to ensure defendants comply with electronic monitoring device restrictions.
- Foreclosures stays were lifted with new rules requiring creditors to give homeowners information about their loan and possible ways to avoid losing their home before filing a foreclosure action, and foreclosure “loss mitigation” negotiations must be attempted before judgment.
- An experimental eviction diversion program in Curry and Roosevelt Counties was established in partnership with the DFA and stakeholders, making funds available through a settlement facilitation program to avoid the eviction of families.
- The June 2020 consumer debt stay will be fully lifted by February 1, 2022.
- The Court adopted new rules and forms for expungement of arrests and public records under the Criminal Records Expungement Act.

In addition to the growth of these programs, highlights of this year include:

- A University of New Mexico validation study confirmed the effectiveness of judicial decision making using the Bernalillo County Public Safety Assessments (PSA). This framework maximizes public safety, efficiently uses taxpayer dollars, and lessens discriminatory impacts on arrestees and their families. The study also found an extremely low (4.7%) new violent criminal activity rate; only one-tenth of 1% of the released defendants were arrested for a first-degree felony; and 95% of felony defendants were not arrested for a violent crime while on pretrial release.
- The AOC’s Language Access Service Program ranked number one in the nation this year, with 16,648 court proceedings interpreted in 56 languages.

We all look forward to working with the Legislature and Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham in the upcoming year in the service of the people of the State of New Mexico.





Message from Director Arthur W. Pepin

Administrative Office of the Courts

The vibrant photographs and brief text descriptions of the work of the courts found in the 2021 Annual Report show that, far from being shuttered by the pandemic, courts kept working, improving, and serving the public well in the second year of COVID-19. A forecasted budget crisis

morphed into the largest surplus in state history, promising new resources to address longstanding challenges going forward. But the public health emergency and limited appropriations in 2021 did not stop courts from innovating to sustain and improve access to justice in our courts.

Early in the pandemic the Supreme Court formed the Emergency Response Team to oversee courts' statewide response. ERT provided guidance focused on recommendations from national and state health leaders and had the responsibility of doing everything possible to protect the health of those working in and visiting our courts. The road was not smooth or popular; however, through the pandemic, courts have experienced higher vaccination rates and lower incidents of infections while keeping the business of the courts moving forward. I commend everyone in the courts for their vigilant mask-wearing, adherence to physical distancing, and amazing strength in fighting the inevitable fatigue as we reach the second anniversary of the pandemic.

Despite the health threat faced by all, courts have not stood still. The courts transitioned to holding many proceedings online and have engaged new technologies with patience and dedication. During 2021, the growth of alternate dispute resolution continued by adding landlord-tenant, domestic and civil matters to debt cases that can be mediated online. Pretrial services expanded or began in the Third, Sixth, Eleventh, and Thirteenth Judicial Districts. AOC hired the first Americans With Disabilities Act coordinator to work with courts to bring down access barriers beyond the exceptional language access services already provided. Courts continued and expanded self-help clinics despite technical challenges online and in-person and continued to make those who need courts to resolve a broad range of disputes our highest priority.

I urge everyone to read about the great work being done in all New Mexico courts despite the challenges the past year brought. As always, the extraordinary results are the product of the remarkable employees of the Judiciary working with dedicated judges to bring justice home to our citizens. It is my great honor to work with all of them.

The Courts

“Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time.”

Ruth Bader Ginsburg



Covid-19 and the Judiciary

When the COVID-19 global pandemic began in early 2020, the New Mexico Supreme Court quickly issued administrative orders to ensure courts remained open safely to serve the public. The Judiciary continued to adjust its COVID-safe protocols in fiscal year 2021 to keep courthouses safe and ensure that civil and criminal cases moved forward.

The Supreme Court formed an Emergency Response Team (ERT) to provide guidance and develop best practices for the safe operation of appellate, district, metropolitan, magistrate, municipal and magistrate courts.

Vaccines

- The Judiciary worked closely with the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) to provide vaccination opportunities for employees. By the end of FY21, 6% of judicial employees and judicial officers were fully vaccinated against COVID-19. That reached 89% as of January 2022.
- Required the vaccination of newly hired employees as a condition of employment.
- Offered vaccination incentives, including paid time off to obtain the vaccine during a work day and a monthly drawing in which fully vaccinated employees could receive four hours of administrative leave.

Court Operations

- Evictions remained on hold for tenants who proved their inability to pay rent. An ad hoc committee began planning for courts to deal with an expected increase in eviction cases when the moratorium is lifted. That led to the development of an Eviction Prevention and Diversion Program for implementation in early 2022.
- Continued to require people entering courthouses and judicial buildings to answer health-screening questions and wear approved masks for face coverings. The ERT amended the court system's COVID-safe practices and procedures as public health agencies updated their guidance.
- Jury trials resumed early in FY21 after a three-month suspension, but a surge in COVID cases forced another suspension from mid-November 2020 to February 2021. Courts continued to conduct other proceedings remotely to keep cases moving. Courts developed detailed plans for holding trials with proper public health precautions, including physical distancing that limited the number of people allowed inside courtrooms.
- Judicial staff teleworking early in the pandemic gradually returned to their on-site workplaces. Courts can allow teleworking and remote appearances by their employees on an as-needed basis.

Emergency Response Team

Provided a coordinated judicial branch response to changing conditions during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Justice C. Shannon Bacon led the team after Justice Judith K. Nakamura's retirement in November 2020.

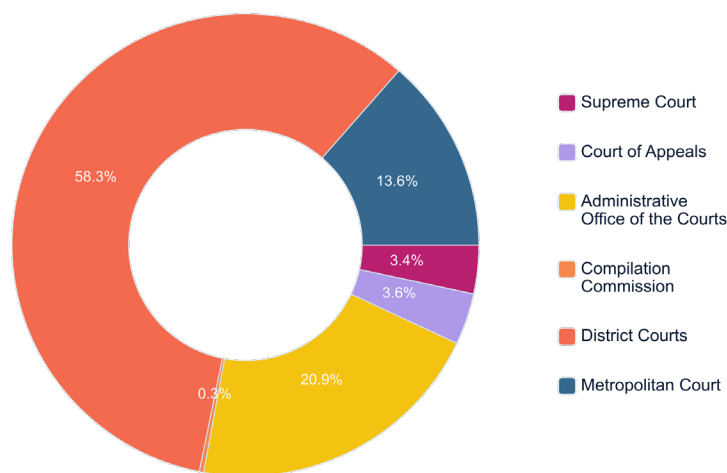
The ERT:

- Carefully reviewed and approved plans for court operations, including how to resume in-person proceedings in the district and magistrate courts in all 13 Judicial Districts, the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court, 81 municipal courts, and 33 probate courts. The plans address docket scheduling as well as how to conduct jury trials with COVID-safe practices.
- Communicated the latest protocols, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and Supreme Court orders to the judicial workforce and the public through email blasts, press releases, social media and videos. Short videos called "Tip Tuesdays" explained new protocols or offered simple tips for health and wellness. They featured judges, court employees and COVID-19 Safe Certified Designees from around the state. In FY21, 32 Tip Tuesdays were produced.
- Responded to hundreds of COVID-19-related questions from courts.
- Provided necessary signage and supplies to courts and judicial facilities – masks, hand and surface sanitizers, and juror supplies.
- Developed and implemented the Court COVID-19 Safe Certified Designee Program. Magistrate and district court employees, who were nominated by their chief judge, received special training on COVID-19 safety protocols and practices for their court. The course curriculum focused on current Supreme Court orders, protocols and FAQs for COVID-safe court operations, preparing courts for visitors, monitoring compliance and fighting COVID-19 fatigue. In the final block of instruction, employees produced Tip Tuesday videos to help educate the Judiciary workforce on best practices for compliance with COVID-safe practices. Sixty judicial officers and employees completed the course.

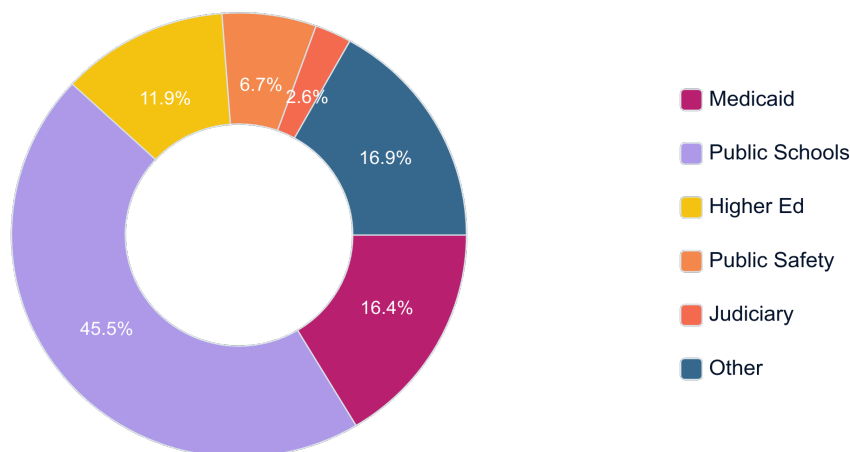


By the Numbers

New Mexico Judiciary FY21 Operating Budget



FY21 State Adj. General Fund Budget
\$7.1 Billion



The Judiciary's general fund operating budget totaled \$184.1 million in the 2021 fiscal year after reductions by the Legislature to cope with an economic downturn from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Judiciary's adjusted funding represented 2.6% of the \$7.1 billion general fund budget for all of state government, including public education and health care programs.

To maintain solvency of state finances after a drop in state revenues, lawmakers trimmed FY21 spending on state programs and services during a special legislative session in June 2020. For the Judiciary, the rollbacks totaled about \$5.6 million or 3%.

The adjusted funding for the state court system was \$1.2 million, or 0.6%, higher than the FY20 operating budget. However, the purchasing power of the Judiciary's FY21 budget remained below the inflation-adjusted funding that courts operated with before the Great Recession eroded state finances. The Judiciary's general fund budget was \$191 million – in today's dollars – in fiscal year 2009, when the recession forced the first of several cuts in governmental spending.



Taylor Bui, a law clerk for Justice Julie J. Vargas, speaking with his peers at the Supreme Court.



Kateri Eisenberg, a law clerk for Justice David K. Thomson, at the Clerk of Court Swearing-In Ceremony.



2021 brought us many joys, one of them was the brief ability to take an unmasked court photo before Senior Justice Barbara Vigil and Joya Moya retired. This photo was taken June 2021. Although masks are back and some of the staff changed, the joy and laughter remains the same.

Supreme Court

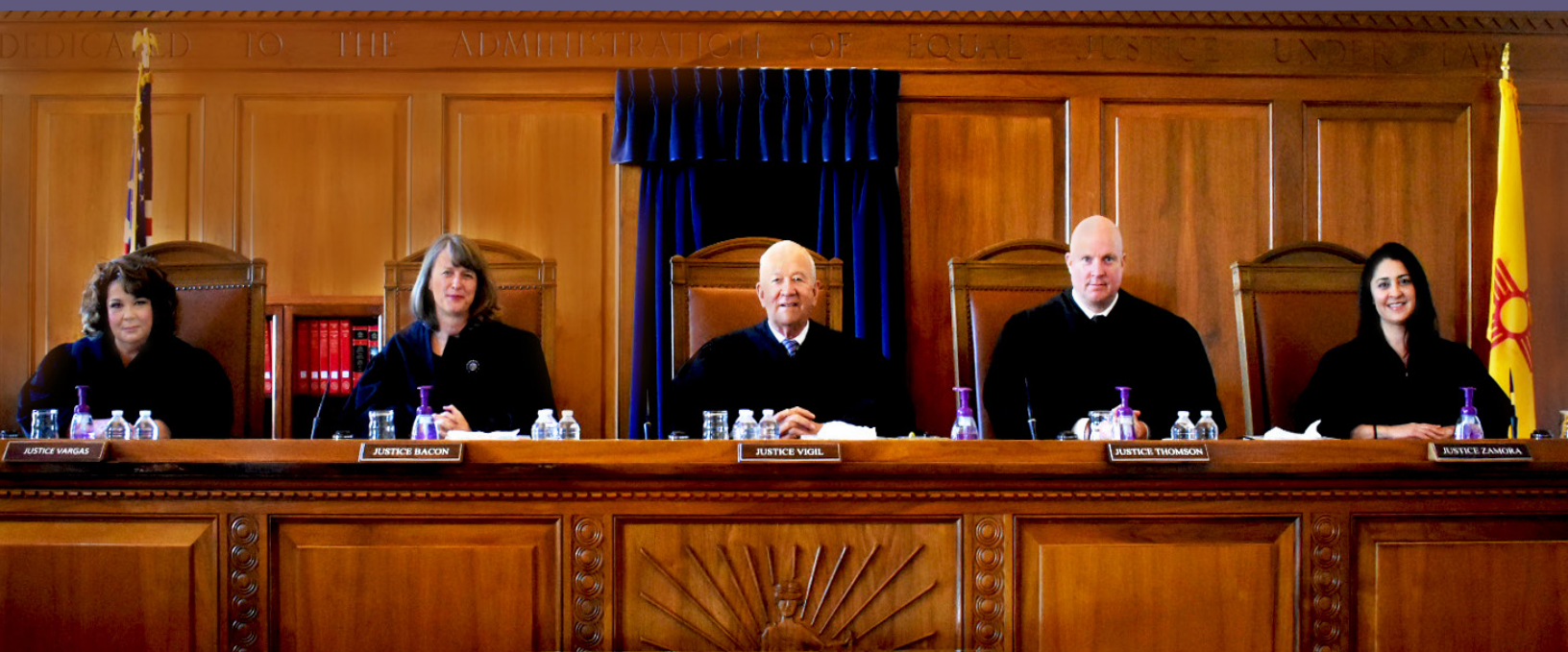
The Supreme Court is the highest court in the State of New Mexico, and is the final authority on questions of law. The Court may review decisions of the Court of Appeals as well as district courts. Appeals in capital criminal cases, Public Regulation Commission decisions, and election challenges go directly to the Court. The Supreme Court determines the rules of practice and procedure for the state bar and all state courts, and exercises supervisory control over state courts in New Mexico, including municipal and probate courts. Local governments fund municipal and probate courts, which are not part of the Judiciary's unified budget process and are not overseen by the Administrative Office of the Courts. The Constitution authorizes the Supreme Court to order certain remedies through extraordinary writs. The Court also acts on investigatory boards and commissions' recommendations for disciplining judges and attorneys, and oversees the admission and regulation of attorneys in New Mexico.



Justice Briana H. Zamora is sworn in by Supreme Court Chief Justice Michael E. Vigil with her youngest daughter by her side.



Justice Julie J. Vargas takes the oath of office on January 25, 2021 as her mother, Elisa Vargas, looks on.



From left to right: Justice Julie J. Vargas, Senior Justice C. Shannon Bacon, Chief Justice Michael E. Vigil, Justice David K. Thomson, Justice Briana H. Zamora.

Supreme Court

The State of New Mexico's Highest Court

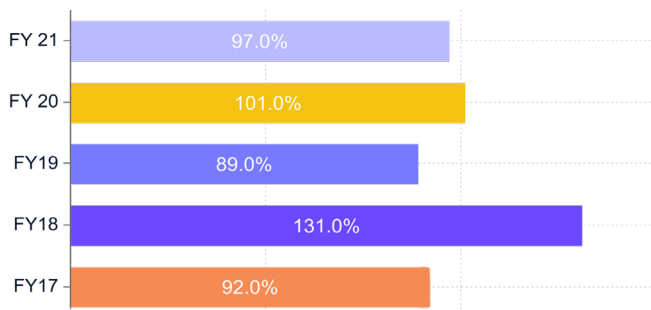
5 Justices

58 Full-Time Employees



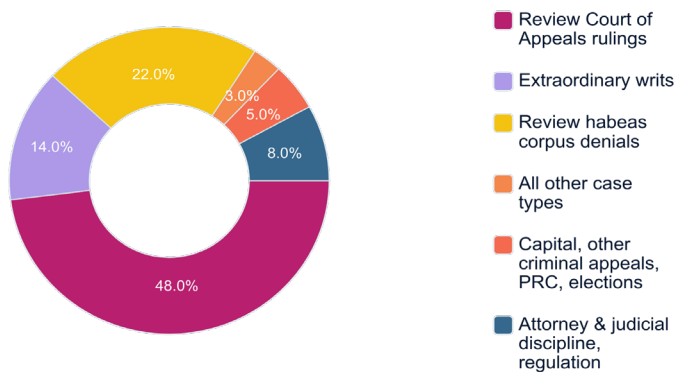
Justice Barbara J. Vigil's retirement ceremony

Disposition Rate



2021 Fiscal Year Caseload

New Cases: 554



- Review Court of Appeals rulings
- Extraordinary writs
- Review habeas corpus denials
- All other case types
- Capital, other criminal appeals, PRC, elections
- Attorney & judicial discipline, regulation

Highlights

Joining the Court

Justice Julie J. Vargas was sworn into office in January 2021 to replace Justice Judith K. Nakamura, who retired after nearly six years on the Court. Justice Briana H. Zamora took the oath of office in August 2021. She succeeded Justice Barbara J. Vigil, who retired after more than eight years on the Court. The new justices previously served on the Court of Appeals.

Hail and Farewell

Joey Moya retired as Chief Clerk of the Supreme Court after serving nearly a decade in the position. He worked for the Judiciary for 31 years in a variety of roles, including as the director of the Court of Appeals Prehearing Division and as the Supreme Court's first Chief Counsel.

New Clerk

Jennifer Scott was appointed Chief Clerk of the Court in September 2021, becoming the seventh person to hold the position since statehood. She had worked for the Court for 11 years, including two years as Deputy Clerk.

Recognition

The State Bar of New Mexico honored Chief Clerk Joey Moya with its Sarah M. Singleton Distinguished Bar Service Award. He received the Public Lawyer of the Year Award from the State Bar in 2015.

Improving Public Access

The Court launched live streaming in 2020, but it was available only for arguments in certain high profile cases. The Court expanded live streaming, making it possible for the public to view all oral arguments online. Viewers can connect to the proceedings through a link on the Court's website.

Pandemic Protocols

The Court issued more than a dozen orders to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Many of the orders updated safety protocols for statewide operation of courts during the pandemic. Civil and criminal jury trials resumed in February 2021, after they were suspended for 11 weeks as a safeguard against the spread of COVID-19.

Court of Appeals



Judge Shammara Henderson's Chamber photo. Every year the Judges hire new law clerks.



Court of Appeals Judge Gerald Baca taking the oath of office on April 23, 2021.



Chief Judge J. Miles Hanisee and Court Executive Officer Mark Reynolds speaking about budget requests.

The Court of Appeals is New Mexico's intermediate appellate court. It is the first, and often final, appellate court for most types of cases and produces a majority of the state's appellate caselaw. The Court has mandatory jurisdiction in all civil, non-capital criminal, and juvenile cases, and has discretionary jurisdiction over most cases appealed from administrative agencies. The Court has been successful in promptly submitting cases for decision once briefing is complete, and has an Expedited Bench Decision program for quickly handling certain time sensitive cases.

There are ten judges on the Court of Appeals, led by a Chief Judge selected by the judges every two years. Three of the judges are located in the Supreme Court building in Santa Fe and seven are assigned to the Court's Albuquerque office. The Court of Appeals building in Albuquerque is located on the University of New Mexico campus, adjacent to the School of Law. This location facilitates a unique educational partnership between the Court and law school.

The ten judges act in panels of three on all appellate opinions. An agreement of two judges is required to decide a case. Law clerks are assigned to each judge to assist with opinion research and writing. Court staff consists of the Clerk's Office, Division of Appellate Court Attorneys, and Paralegals. The Clerk's Office carries out the statutory duties of the Clerk of the Court and is responsible for day-to-day business, case processing, and fiscal matters. Paralegals edit and perform technical reviews of opinion.

The Division of Appellate Court Attorneys screen all appeals for assignment to the Court's summary and general calendars. Staff attorneys provide the Court with proposed opinions and recommendations on applications for interlocutory appeals, petitions for writs of certiorari, and petitions for writs of error.

Court of Appeals

The First and Often Final Appellate Court

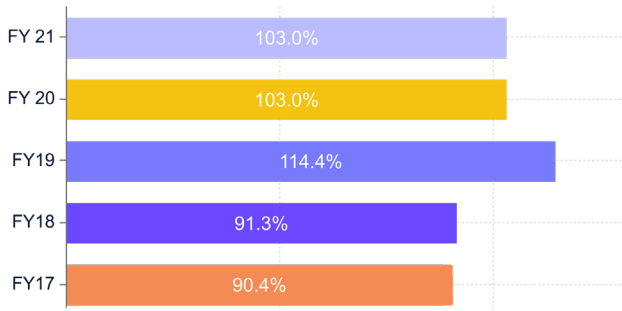
10 Judges

52 Full-Time Employees



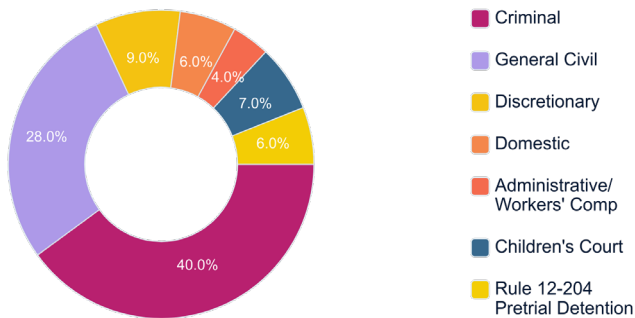
New Judge Katherine Wray (l) after being sworn-in by retired COA Judge Celia Foy Castillo.

Disposition Rate



2021 Fiscal Year Caseload

New Cases: 731



Highlights

Comings and Goings

Judge Gerald E. Baca was named to the Court of Appeals in March 2021 to fill the vacancy created by Justice Julie J. Vargas' appointment to the state Supreme Court. Judge Baca had served on the Fourth Judicial District Court since May 2013. Katherine Wray was appointed to the court in September 2021 to fill a vacancy left by Justice Briana H. Zamora's appointment to the state Supreme Court. Judge Wray previously practiced law in Albuquerque and served as a contract staff attorney for the Second Judicial District Court.

Clearing Cases

Achieved a disposition rate of 103 percent, resolving 752 cases while 731 new cases were opened. Clearance and disposition rates measure whether a court is keeping up with its incoming caseload.

Quicker Decisions

Implemented a pilot project to lessen the time it takes to resolve criminal appeals. The initiative was designed in conjunction with three district courts, the Appellate Public Defender, and the Attorney General's Office.

Helping Self-Represented Litigants

Implemented email filing for pro se litigants. These litigants no longer have to file in person, saving time and helping to reduce the number of people entering the court's offices during the pandemic.

Expedited Appeals

Resolved 41 expedited appeals regarding the pre-trial detention of defendants charged with felonies. The Court's Expedited Bench Decision Program successfully handled 18 expedited appeals involving the custody of children and other time-sensitive issues.

Law School Outreach

Continued a collaborative relationship with the University of New Mexico School of Law. Judges and staff served as professors and adjunct professors, judged moot court sessions, and provided educational externships.

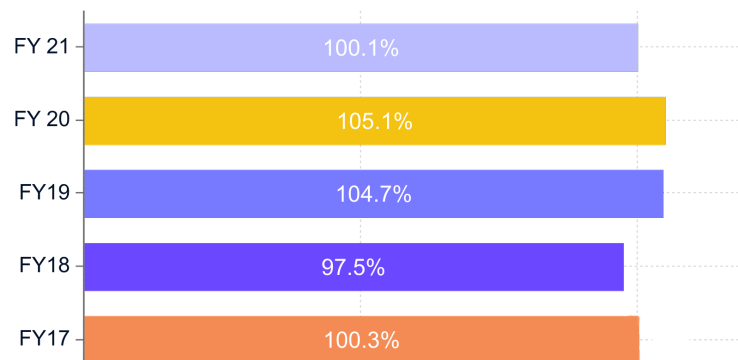
District Courts

Statewide

District courts are general jurisdiction courts. They hear and determine adult and juvenile criminal cases as well as civil matters, including contract disputes, personal injury litigation, and domestic relations cases such as divorce, custody, and child support enforcement.

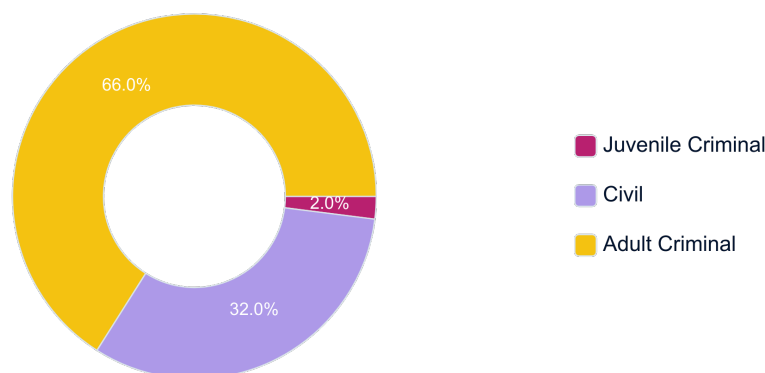
There were 99 judges in 34 district courts across New Mexico in the 2021 fiscal year. District court judges serve six-year terms. The Judicial nominating commission screens applicants for open judgeships and recommend nominees for possible appointment by the governor.

Statewide Disposition Rate

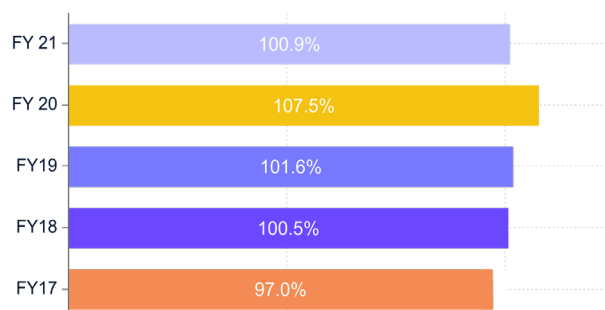


2021 Fiscal Year Caseload

New, re-activated and reopened cases: 108,614

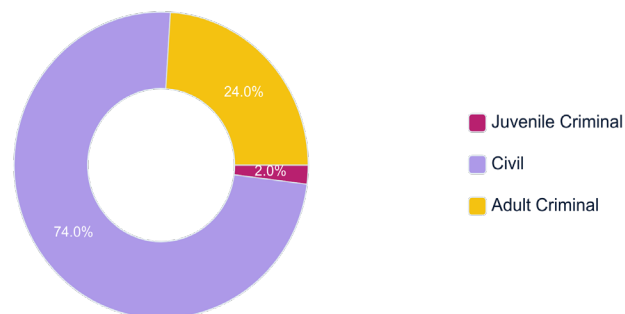


Disposition Rate



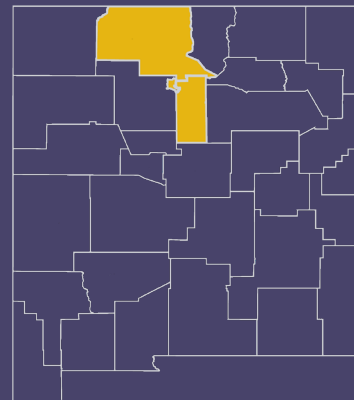
2021 Fiscal Year Caseload

New, re-activated and reopened cases: 9,493



1st Judicial District

Santa Fe, Rio Arriba and Los Alamos Counties



10 District Court Judges
7 Magistrate Court Judges
129 Full-Time Employees
22 jury trials in district courts

Highlights

Helping Litigants Resolve Disputes

- 158 cases referred to the Alternative Dispute Resolution program and nearly 40 percent were settled. More than half of the cases involved self-represented litigants and 20 percent qualified for free- or reduced-fee services. Forty-three attorneys serve as settlement facilitators. All settlement conferences were held by telephone or video conferencing.
- 44 cases referred to the foreclosure settlement program. Of the 30 cases that completed the program, 70 percent were resolved and four-fifths of those resolutions allowed people to remain in their homes. All newly filed foreclosure cases in the district are automatically referred to the program.
- Family Court Services conducted 210 mediations, 456 priority consultations, and 16 advisory consultations involving child custody, kinship guardianship, and grandparent visitation issues. There were 109 mediations in abuse and neglect cases involving children in state custody.

Pretrial Services

73 adult defendants referred to pretrial services and 61 were placed on supervision for compliance with court-

ordered conditions of release, including drug and alcohol testing, electronic monitoring, and substance abuse counseling.

Language Access Services

Interpreters assisted litigants in 1,103 court proceedings, with 97 percent interpreted in Spanish and the remainder in American Sign Language, French, Arabic, Vietnamese, Korean, Cebuano and Gujarati. Interpreters assisted 30 Spanish-speaking jurors.

E-Filing

The clerk's office processed 124,871 e-filings and 35,059 entries were docketed into the electronic case management system, including paper documents submitted by self-represented litigants.

Access to Justice

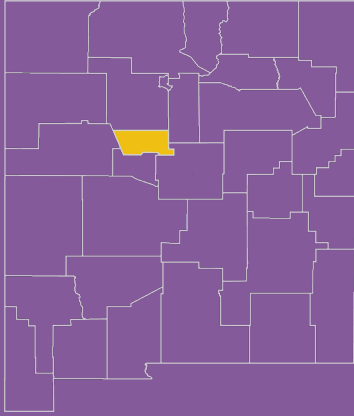
50 people received free legal advice in clinics conducted remotely by telephone and email. Nearly two dozen attorneys volunteered to provide assistance in civil and domestic legal matters, ranging from landlord-tenant disputes and bankruptcy to divorce and child support.

Drug Court and Mental Health Programs

The District had 15 graduates of adult, DWI drug court and behavioral health courts.

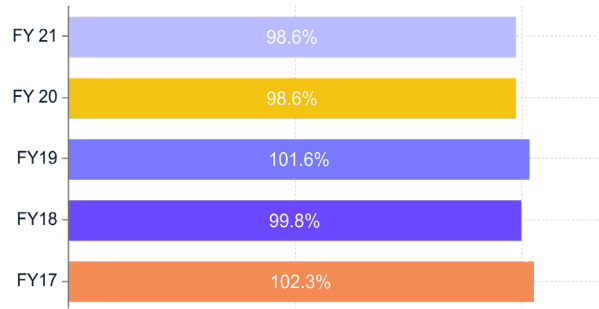
2nd Judicial District

Bernalillo County



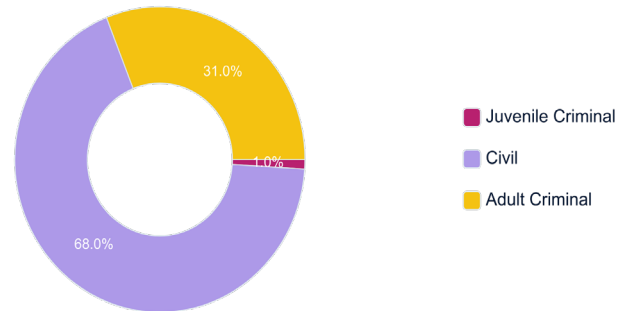
29 District Court Judges
361 Full-Time Employees
32 jury trials in district courts

Disposition Rate



2021 Fiscal Year Caseload

New, re-activated and reopened cases: 34,847



Highlights

Welcoming New Judges

Ten new judges appointed to the district court: Lucy Solimon, Clara Moran, Catherine Begaye, Alma Roberson, Courtney Weaks, Bruce Fox, Britt Baca-Miller, Joseph Montano, Jennifer Wernersback, and Elaine Lujan.

Assisted Outpatient Treatment Court

Eight participants graduated from the program, which helps individuals with serious mental illness and reduces inpatient hospitalizations, incarceration, and homelessness. 144 hearings were conducted with court-ordered mental health treatment plans.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

429 cases referred to civil arbitration and 211 cases received an arbitration award.

Language Access Services

Spanish language interpretation provided in 2,143 cases and in other languages in 229 cases.

Self-Represented Litigants

The Center for Self Help assisted 17,687 individuals.

Recognition

The court's Pro Bono Committee received the "Pro Bono Committee of the Year" award from New Mexico Legal Aid's volunteer attorney program.

Helping Children

3,448 supervised visits and safe exchanges provided for children in cases involving parental disputes, including divorce, custody, and domestic violence. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) volunteers served 341 children in abuse and neglect cases.

Food Aid

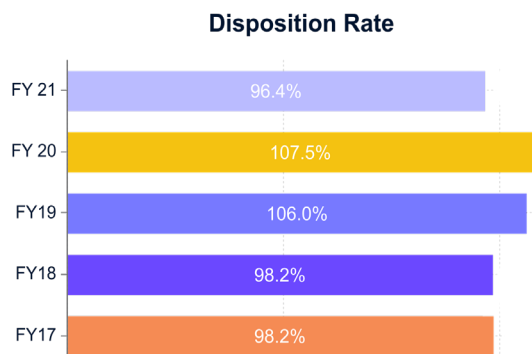
Employees donated more than 500 pounds of canned food, several turkeys and hams, and almost \$1,500 to the Roadrunner Foodbank through the court's Giving Tree program.

Public Health

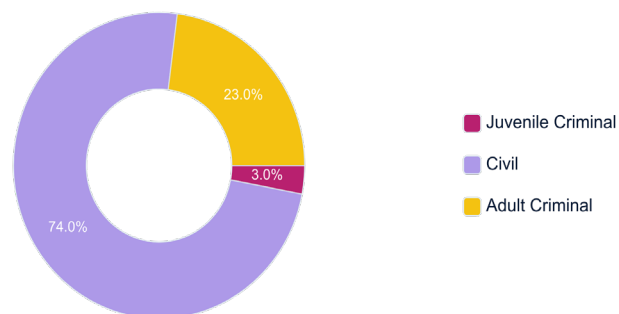
The court hosted a COVID-19 vaccination clinic for judicial branch employees, justice partners, and the public.

Drug Court and Mental Health Programs

65 graduates of adult, juvenile, and mental health treatment courts

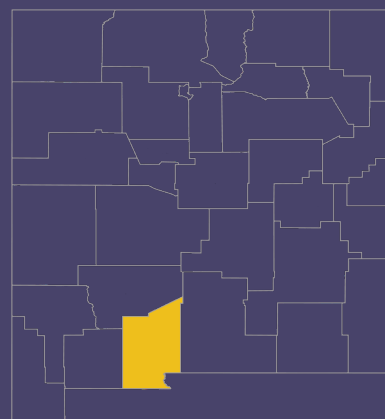


2021 Fiscal Year Caseload
New, re-activated and reopened cases: 10,002



3rd Judicial District

Doña Ana County



9 District Court Judges
7 Magistrate Court Judges
116 Full-Time Employees
27 jury trials in district court

Highlights



New Judges

Judge Casey Fitch, pictured on the left, was appointed to the court in August 2021 to replace retired Judge Lisa Shultz. Judge Richard Jacquez, pictured below, was elected in the 2020 general election.



Improving Pretrial Justice

The district court launched a pretrial services program for defendants awaiting trial. A research-based assessment tool provides information about defendants to help judges decide the appropriate level of pretrial supervision and monitoring.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

146 civil settlement facilitations held, and mediation provided in 196 domestic relations cases. 638 litigants attended parent education classes. The Mediation Division continued to offer its services remotely during the pandemic. One parent education class is pre-recorded, allowing people to access it at their convenience.

Problem-Solving Programs

- 34 graduated from adult, juvenile, family, DWI, and veteran treatment courts. Drug courts donated food and household supplies to needy clients during Drug Court Month.
- 93 people participated in the Assisted Outpatient Treatment program and 23 were successfully discharged. The program serves adults with a serious mental disorder. Participants continue to see fewer hospitalizations and arrests than before they entered the program.



Third Judicial District Court's Tracie DiGregorio retired after 29 years of service.

A year in the judiciary



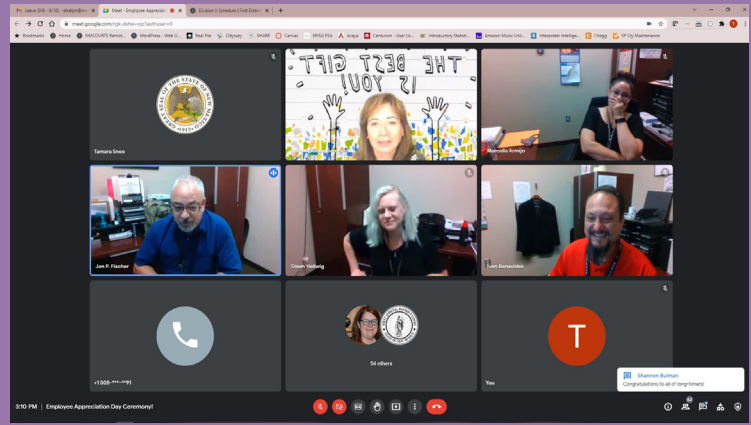
Joey D. Moya, Supreme Court's Clerk of Court, retired after 31 years of service.



Justice David K. Thomson and Law Clerk Richard Azar visited fifth graders at Acequia Madre Elementary School for Constitution Day in September.



From left to right: Judge Jarod Hofacket, Bobby Brookhouser, Judge Jim Foy & Edward Santa Maria at 2021 National Drug Court Conference in Washington, D.C.



The Best Gift is You. The First Judicial District Court's Employee Appreciation Day Ceremony, an annual event, honors all District Court employees and recognizes milestone work anniversaries and Employee of the Year.



New Digs for AOC. Celina Jones, Scott Patterson, Saundra Sanchez, Robert Duran, Cassie Hayne, Lynette Paulman-Rodriguez, Valerie Vega, Jason Clack, Karen Ebler, Suzette Fronk, Paula Consuelo, Kerry Armour and Jerred Weingarten visit original home of the Santa Fe New Mexican.



Former Justice Barbara J. Vigil was the keynote speaker at an Alumni in Recovery event held in Santa Fe in September.



In addition to the Sarah M. Singleton Distinguished Bar Service Award, Joey D. Moya was recognized for his dedicated public service to The Compilation Commission. Joey Moya is in the middle between Chief Justice and Paula Tackett, chair of the commission’s advisory committee.



Jennifer Scott, left, and Sally Paez after they were sworn as Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the Supreme Court.



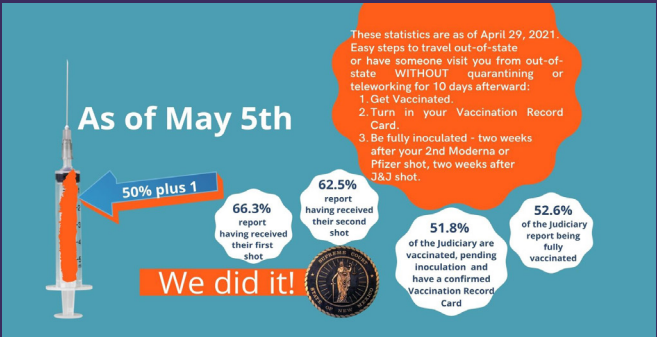
Court Executive Officers say goodbye to Justice Judith K. Nakamura during a surprise virtual retirement party.



Lights, Camera, Action! Deian McBryde and Camille Baca getting ready to film a series of “how to” divorce videos for self-represented litigants. The videos can be found on the New Mexico Courts YouTube channel.



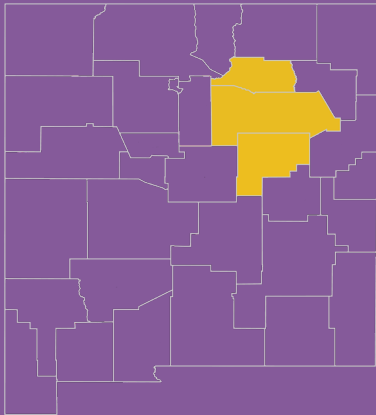
Justice Judith K. Nakamura saying farwell during a virtual surprise party.



The ERT created fun graphics to show how our progress on vaccination status.

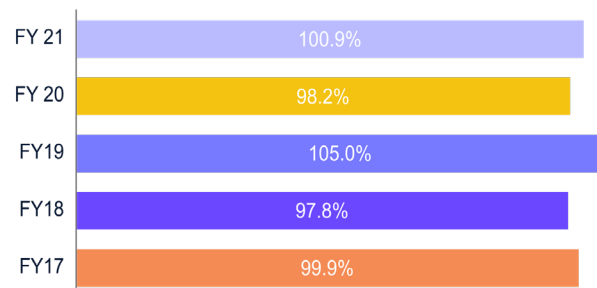
4th Judicial District

San Miguel, Mora, and Guadalupe Counties



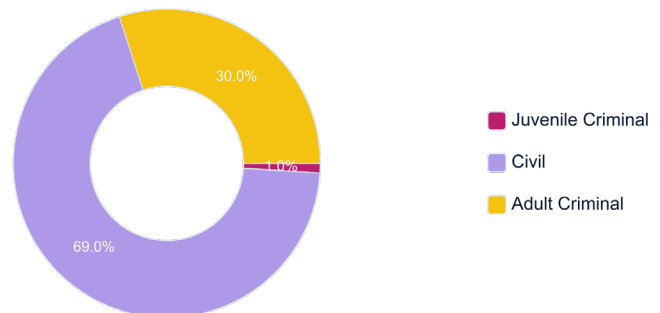
3 District Court Judges
4 Magistrate Court Judges
41 Full-Time Employees
5 jury trials in district courts

Disposition Rate



2021 Fiscal Year Caseload

New, re-activated and reopened cases: 2,992



Highlights

New Judges

- District Judge Michael Aragon appointed by the governor to replace Gerald Baca, who joined the Court of Appeals.
- Cindy Garza named the Mora County Magistrate Court Judge. She previously served as the court manager.

New Chief Judge

Judge Flora Gallegos was elected chief judge of the district in June.

Treatment Courts

- 10 graduates of drug court programs in San Miguel County.
- Received a \$33,000 crime reduction grant from the New Mexico Sentencing Commission for the adult drug court and DWI sobriety drug court for exercise, programming, gardening therapy, a hygiene closet, monitoring, and drug testing supplies and equipment.

E-Payments

District courts piloted an online system for the public to pay fines and fees with a debit or credit card. The e-payment system will be expanded statewide in 2022, lessening the need for people to travel to courthouses during the pandemic.

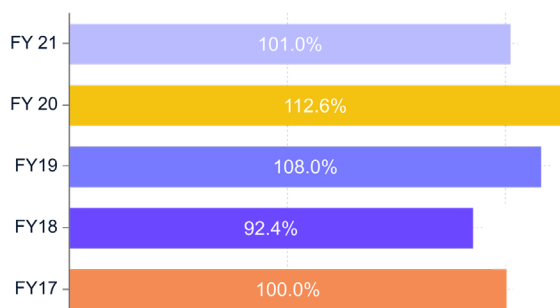
Access to Justice

318 people assisted by the Self-Help Center, which provides forms and guidance for self-represented litigants.

Serving Children and Families

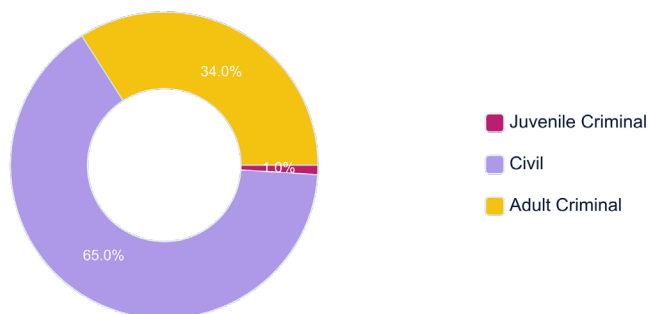
- 320 supervised visits and safe exchanges for children in cases involving parental disputes, including divorce, custody, and domestic violence.
- 51 children in abuse and neglect cases represented by Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) volunteers.

Disposition Rate



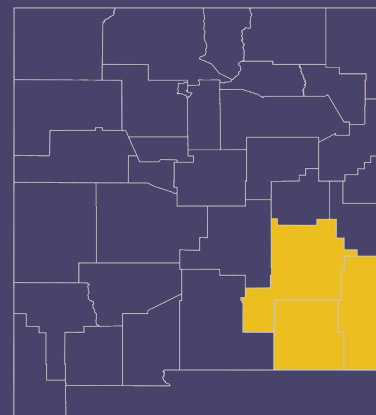
2021 Fiscal Year Caseload

New, re-activated and reopened cases: 12,483



5th Judicial District

Chavez, Eddy, and Lea Counties



11 District Court Judges
9 Magistrate Court Judges
108 Full-Time Employees
46 jury trials in district courts

Highlights

New Judges

- Eddy County District Judge Eileen Riordan appointed by the governor in December 2020 to replace retired Judge Raymond Romero. Before joining the court, Riordan served for 25 years as Carlsbad's city attorney.
- Hobbs Magistrate Court Judge Clipper Miller sworn into office on Jan. 1, 2021. He was elected to the position in the 2020 general election.

Problem Solving Courts

22 graduates of adult, family, and DWI drug courts.

Serving Children and Families

- 2,278 supervised visits and safe exchanges in cases involving parental disputes, including divorce, custody, and domestic violence.
- 399 children in abuse and neglect cases represented by Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) volunteers.

Courthouse Projects

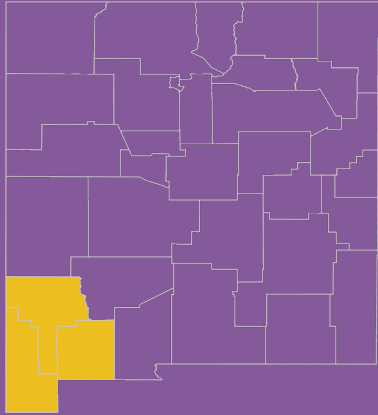
- Construction of the Lea County Judicial Complex in Lovington was finished in late 2021, and the district court plans to move into the new courthouse in early 2022.



Chief Judge James Hudson and Court Executive Officer Kennon Crowhurst attend the Judiciary's in-person Budget Hearings in Santa Fe.

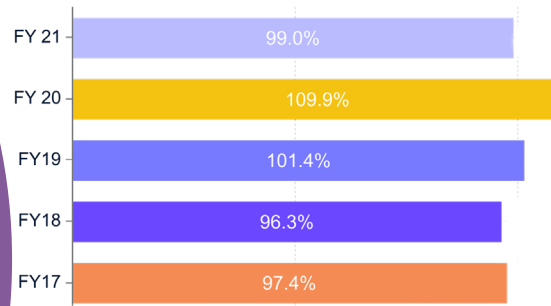
6th Judicial District

Grant, Hidalgo, and Luna Counties



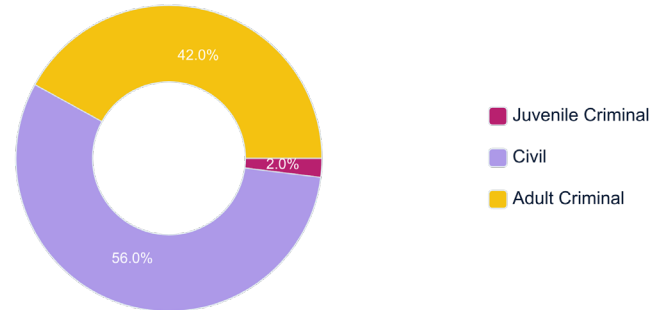
4 District Court Judges
4 Magistrate Court Judges
56 Full-Time Employees
9 jury trials in district courts

Disposition Rate



2021 Fiscal Year Caseload

New, re-activated and reopened cases: 3,489



Highlights

Improving Pretrial Justice

The district began using a research-based assessment tool to provide more information for judges in deciding the level of supervision and monitoring for felony defendants released from custody pending trial. The district worked with the Administrative Office of the Courts to enhance pretrial services in all three counties.

Farewell

Court Executive Officer/Chief Financial Officer Melissa Frost, lower right retired after nearly 30 years with the Judiciary.

New Executive Team

Angelic Muñoz named court executive officer after working for the district for 18½ years. Angélica Garcés became CFO.

Problem Solving Courts

- 12 graduates of adult drug courts in Deming, Lordsburg, and Silver City. Judges Jarod Hofacket and Jim Foy, and drug court managers Bobby Brookhouser and Edward Santa Maria, attended the 2021 National Drug Court Conference in Maryland.

- Luna County Drug Court staff prepared and delivered Thanksgiving meal kits to all program participants and their families. The staff also participated in the National Night Out event promoting community-police partnerships.
- The Grant County Adult Drug Court program held an incentive barbeque for its participants and drug court team members as part of National Recovery Month.

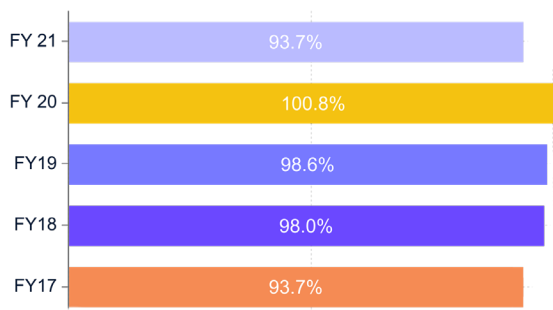
Serving Children and Families

- 721 supervised visits and safe exchanges for children in cases involving parental disputes, including divorce, custody, and domestic violence.
- 30 children in abuse and neglect cases served by Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) volunteers.



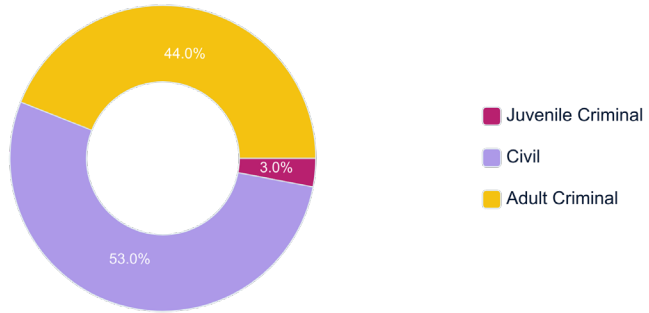
Retired Court Executive Officer
Melissa Frost.

Disposition Rate



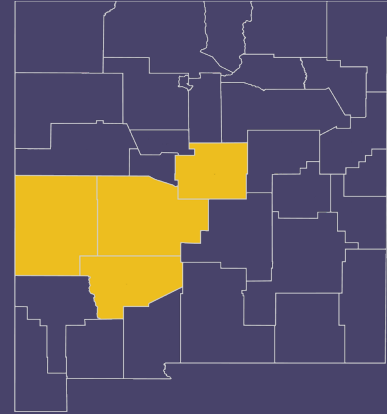
2021 Fiscal Year Caseload

New, re-activated and reopened cases: 2,467



7th Judicial District

Catron, Sierra, Socorro, and Torrance Counties



3 District Court Judges
4 Magistrate Court Judges
46 Full-Time Employees
3 jury trials in district courts

Highlights



New Judge

District Judge Roscoe A. Woods, pictured on the left, took the oath of office on June 1, 2021 at the Sierra County Courthouse.

New Leadership

Judge Mercedes Murphy, pictured on the right, became the district's chief judge in March.

Treatment Courts

- 10 graduated from adult drug courts in Socorro, Truth or Consequences, and Estancia in FY21. Since the start of the program, 150 participants have graduated.
- 2 graduated from the Torrance County Magistrate Court DWI Drug Court. There has been no recidivism by the 35 graduates since the program's inception.

Serving Children and Families

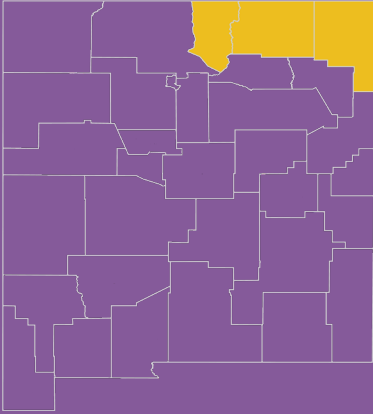
19 children in abuse and neglect cases served by Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) volunteers.



Sierra County Drug Court graduation May 2, 2021. (left to right) Treatment Provider Sherilyn Oberling, Kristina Childs, graduate; Chief Judge Mercedes Murphy.

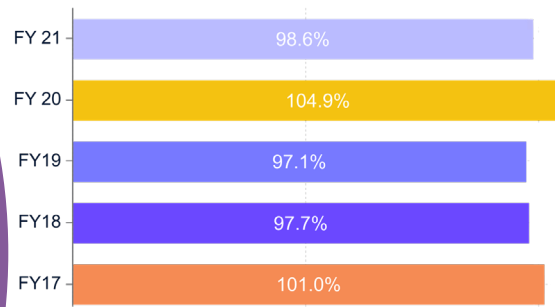
8th Judicial District

Colfax, Taos, Union Counties



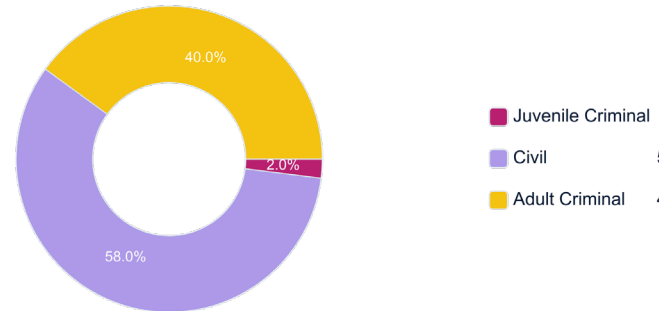
3 District Court Judges
5 Magistrate Court Judges
49 Full-Time Employees
22 jury trials in district courts

Disposition Rate



2021 Fiscal Year Caseload

New, re-activated and reopened cases: 2,947



Highlights

Treatment Courts

- 18 graduates of adult drug courts in Taos and Raton. The Taos program was the only adult drug court in the state to earn a “Gold” certification from the AOC.
- A family domestic violence court was started in Taos County to deter repeat offenses. Participants receive domestic violence cessation and substance abuse counseling. Funding for the program came from a \$55,000 grant from the New Mexico Sentencing Commission and \$45,000 from Taos County.

Access to Justice

- 1,591 people assisted by the Help Desk and through legal fairs, family law clinics and consultations. The help desk schedules with local attorneys who provide legal advice to individuals unable to hire a lawyer.
- In recognition of its legal assistance initiatives, the district received a New Mexico Legal Aid award for having the best pro bono committee in the state.

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

31 domestic violence cases handled via mediation and two civil cases resolved by ADR.

Serving Children and Families

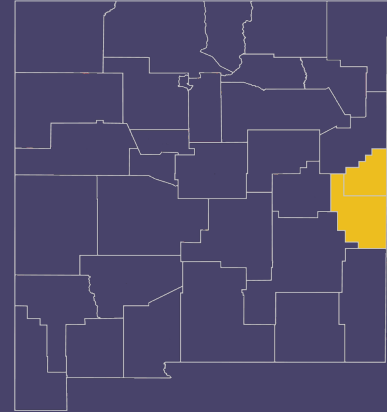
- 216 supervised visits and safe exchanges for children in cases involving parental disputes, including divorce, custody, and domestic violence.
- 35 children in abuse and neglect cases served by Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) volunteers.



Shane the Wonder Dog is the District Attorney's court assistance dog working in the Eighth Judicial District's Taos courthouse. Photo Credit: Nathan Burton, Taos News, with permission.

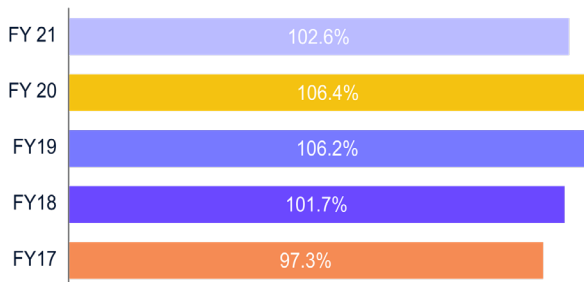
9th Judicial District

Curry and Roosevelt Counties



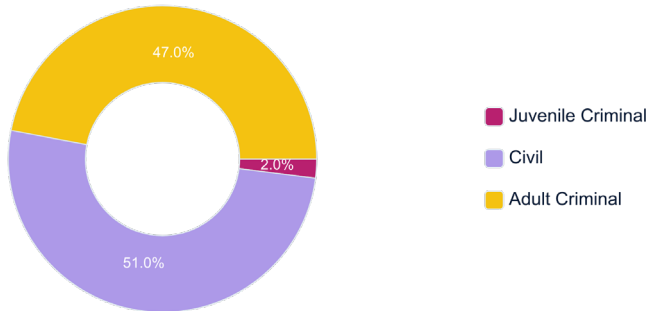
5 District Court Judges
3 Magistrate Court Judges
60 Full-Time Employees
52 jury trials in district courts

Disposition Rate



2021 Fiscal Year Caseload

New, re-activated and reopened cases: 3,841



Highlights

Treatment Courts

- 10 graduates of adult drug courts in Clovis and Portales.
- 446 total participants in the drug courts since their inception.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

- Approximately 75 mediations held in civil and domestic relations cases filed in district court, with a majority involving self-represented litigants.
- Provided mediation services in civil cases in the Curry County Magistrate Court.

Public Outreach

- Participated in the Student Success Task Force through Clovis Municipal Schools, the Curry County Teen Court, and the DWI Task Forces in Curry and Roosevelt counties.
- Presentations to the Curry County Chamber of Commerce, Curry County Health Council, Matt 25 Hope Center, and United Way of Curry County.

Access to Justice

50 self-represented litigants received legal assistance through access to justice initiatives.



Chief Judge Drew Tatum testifying virtually for the House Appropriations and Finance Committee in February 2021.

A year in the judiciary



That brief moment during the pandemic when fully vaccinated judicial officers and employees didn't have to wear masks and physical distance. L-r: Deputy Court Executive Officer Lucretia Ulibarri-Romero, Judge Bryan Biedscheid, Chief Judge Mary Marlowe Sommer, Trial Court Administrative Assistant Kathy Chanler and Judge Francis Mathew.



Metro Court - Judge Joshua J. Sanchez is sworn in as Metro Court's newest judge with his wife by his side.



Judicial Information Division's Racquel Trujillo organized a virtual Halloween costume contest in 2020. Her nephew enjoyed it, too.



Sixth Judicial District - Sixth Judicial District Court Chief Judge Jennifer DeLaney, Chief Financial Officer Angelica Garces and Court Executive Officer Angelic Munoz at budget hearings in Santa Fe.



Judge Roscoe A. Woods taking oath of office at Truth or Consequences courthouse, with Chief Judge Mercedes Murphy administering the oath.



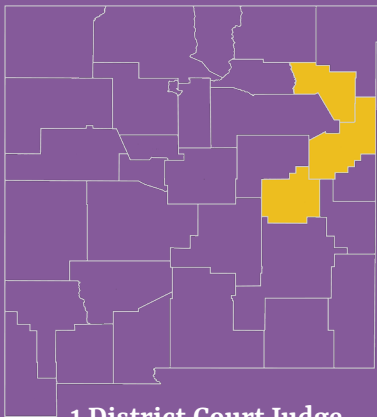
Applauding the agreement between Taos County and the 8th District to fund the new Family Domestic Violence Court are, L to R: County Commissioners Candyce O'Donnell, Darlene Vigil, AnJanette Brush, and Jim Fambro; Chief Judge Emilio J. Chavez, CAV Deputy Director Debbie McCann, Court Executive Officer Karl Brooks. Photo Credit: Nathan Burton, Taos News, with permission.



Congratulations! Second Judicial District Chief Judge Stan Whitaker swears in District Court Judges Jennifer Wernersbach, Bruce Fox, Joseph Montano, Alma Roberson and Britt Baca-Miller.

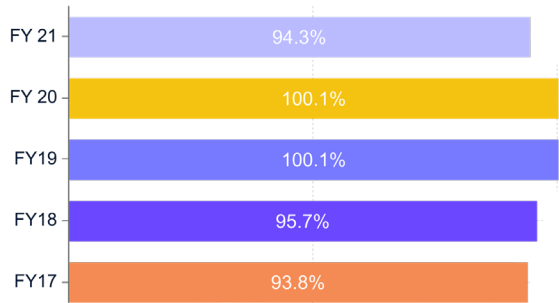
10th Judicial District

DeBaca, Harding and Quay Counties

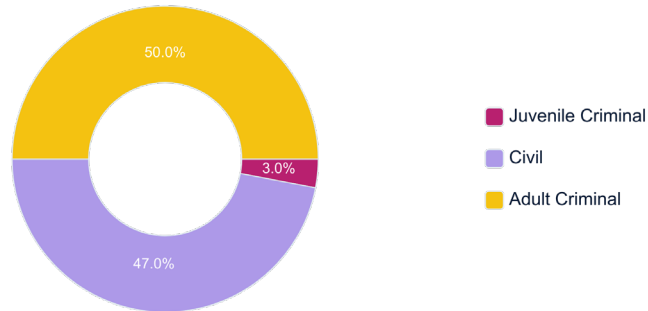


1 District Court Judge
 3 Magistrate Court Judges
 15 Full-Time Employees
 2 jury trials in district courts

Disposition Rate



2021 Fiscal Year Caseload
 New, re-activated and reopened cases: 719



Highlights

Expanded Use of Technology

By remotely conducting hearings and meetings during the pandemic, the chief judge reduced the number of hours traveling to courthouses in the district.

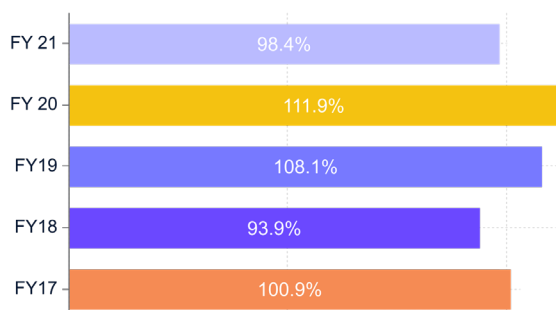
Dispositions

More criminal and family law cases were resolved than in the previous fiscal year. Overall, district courts closed 551 cases of all types.



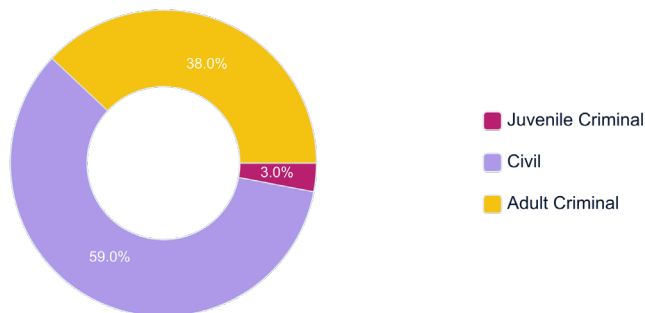
To the right is Chief Judge Mercedes Murphy of the Seventh Judicial District and Chief Judge Albert Mitchell Jr of the Tenth Judicial District talking after a Judicial Council Meeting in Santa Fe.

Disposition Rate



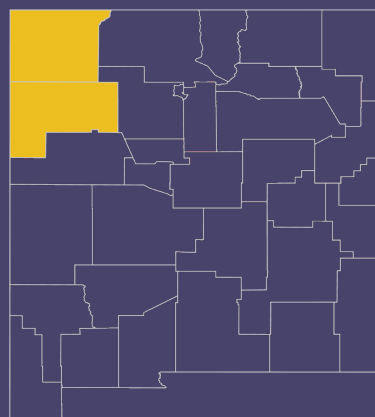
2021 Fiscal Year Caseload

New, re-activated and reopened cases: 9,464



11th Judicial District

McKinley and San Juan Counties



8 District Court Judges
9 Magistrate Court Judges
120 Full-Time Employees
23 jury trials in district courts

Highlights

Pretrial Services

- 1,048 felony defendants were released under pretrial services supervision, and 88 percent of those appeared at all scheduled court hearings.
- The San Juan County Pretrial Services Program completed 2,402 background investigations and Public Safety Assessment evaluations, which provide judges with evidence-based information for judges in determining conditions of release.

Treatment Courts

- 27 graduates of adult and juvenile drug courts, behavioral health court, and magistrate court DWI drug court.
- A drive-by graduation ceremony was held in front of the Aztec District Court for treatment court graduates because of restrictions on large gatherings during the pandemic.

Access to Justice

144 people received free legal aid at monthly telephonic clinics in McKinley and San Juan counties.

Security Improvements

Magistrate courts in Aztec, Farmington, and Gallup stationed security guards and metal detectors at their building entrances.

Serving Children and Families

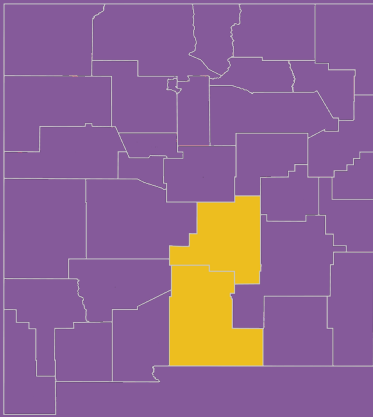
- 473 supervised visits and safe exchanges for children in cases with parental disputes, including divorce, custody, and domestic violence.
- 133 children in abuse and neglect cases represented by Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)



Eleventh Judicial District Court Chief Judge Curtis Gurley attends a monthly Judicial Council meeting remotely.

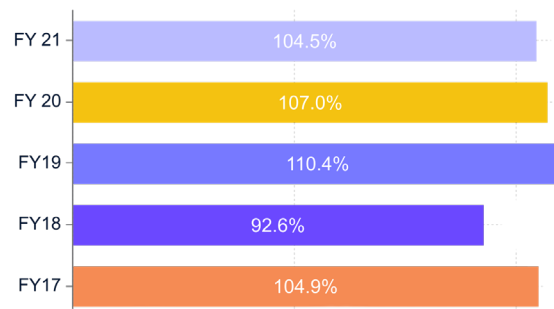
12th Judicial District

Lincoln and Otero Counties



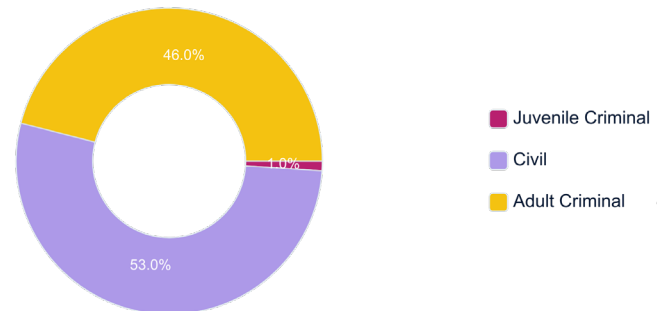
5 District Court Judges
4 Magistrate Court Judges
56 Full-Time Employees
70 jury trials in district courts

Disposition Rate



2021 Fiscal Year Caseload

New, re-activated and reopened cases: 5,034



Highlights



New Judge

District Judge John P. Sugg, pictured on the left, was appointed to fill a new position the Legislature created to assist with a greater judicial workload in the district.

Treatment Courts

- 12 graduates of adult drug courts in Alamogordo and Ruidoso.
- 367 people have participated in the programs since their inception.

Expanded Use of Technology

17,061 hearings conducted in district and magistrate courts, most of them held remotely through audio and video conferencing.

Access to Justice

Self-Help Center used 4,612 times by members of the public.

Language Access Services

More than 700 Spanish speakers were assisted by certified bilingual court staff.

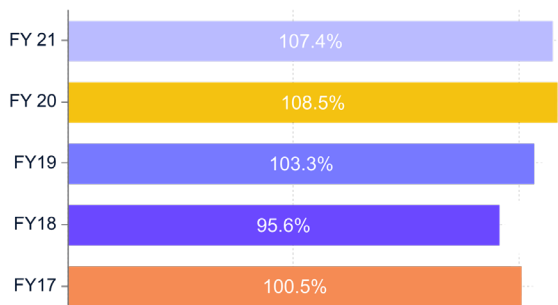
Serving Children and Families

70 children in abuse and neglect cases were served by Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) volunteers.



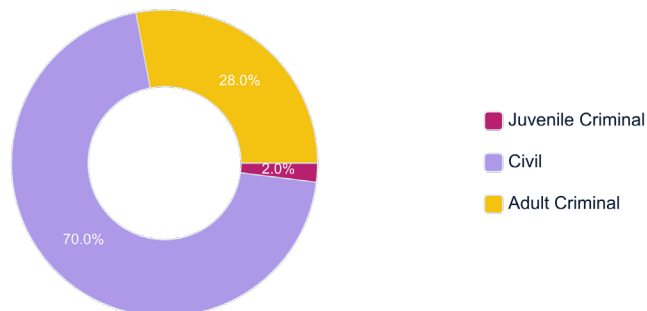
Court Services Manager Philip Hefter following COVID-19 safe practices of screening potential jurors before they come into the courthouse.

Disposition Rate



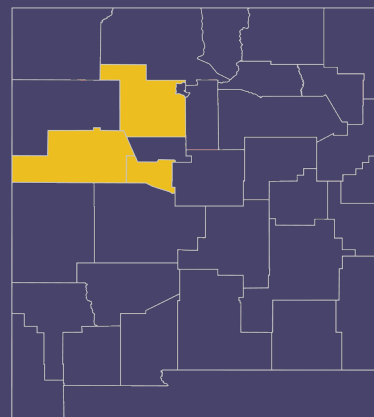
2021 Fiscal Year Caseload

New, re-activated and reopened cases: 10,836



13th Judicial District

Cibola, Sandoval, and Valencia Counties



8 District Court Judges
8 Magistrate Court Judges
117 Full-Time Employees
12 jury trials in district courts

Highlights

New Judge

Judge Miles Tafoya, pictured on the right, joined the Los Lunas Magistrate Court in January 2021.



Pretrial Services

- Sandoval County implemented evidence-based pretrial practices, including the Public Safety Assessment (PSA), providing judges with more information to make decisions about the release and supervision of defendants awaiting trial.
- In closed cases in which a PSA was completed and the defendant was released pretrial, 90 percent of defendants appeared at all of their hearings.
- Planning is under way to expand pretrial services to Cibola and Valencia counties in FY22.

Treatment Courts

43 graduates of adult and juvenile drug courts, behavioral health court, and magistrate DWI drug court.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

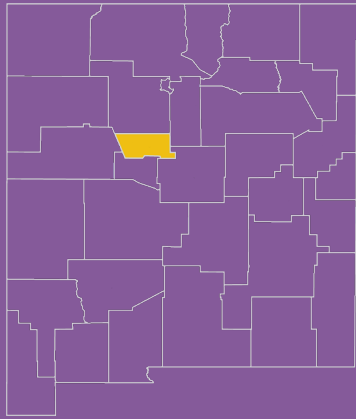
- Domestic Relations Mediation Program fully settled almost half of its 208 cases and transitioned to an online format.
- Foreclosure Settlement Program settled over 80 percent of its cases.

Serving Children and Families

- 2,127 supervised visits and safe exchanges for children in cases with parental disputes, including divorce, custody, and domestic violence.
- 74 children in abuse and neglect cases represented by Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) volunteers.

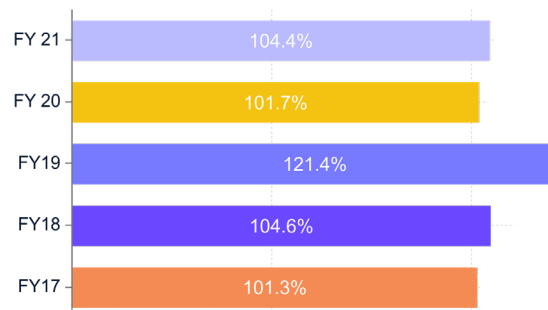
Metropolitan Court

Bernalillo County



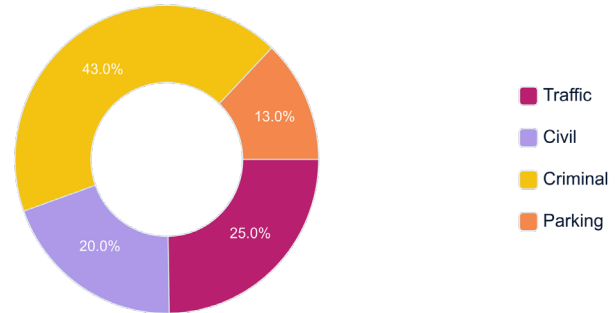
19 Judges
319 Full-Time Employees
13 jury trials conducted

Disposition Rate



2021 Fiscal Year Caseload

New, re-activated and reopened cases: 59,576



Highlights

New Judge

Judge Joshua J. Sánchez was appointed to replace Courtney Weakas, who was elected to the district court.

Treatment and Specialty Courts

- 184 graduates of DWI drug court, veterans court, and behavioral health court.
- DWI Recovery Court and Urban Native American Healing to Wellness Court had a combined recidivism rate of 6.9 percent among graduates.
- 12 graduates of the Domestic Violence Solutions Treatment Education Program.

Pretrial Services

- 2,863 felony defendants and 4,848 misdemeanor defendants supervised by pretrial services.
- 98 percent of defendants released through the court's ROR program appeared for their first court date.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

- 65 cases mediated through a newly established landlord-tenant settlement program.

- Judges provided tenants and property owners with information regarding available emergency rental assistance.

Access to Justice

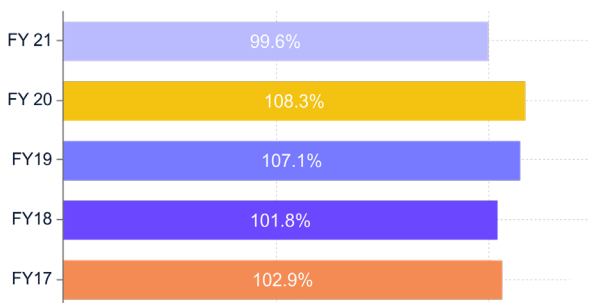
- 7,509 self-represented litigants assisted in-person and over the telephone by the Self-Help Center, which provides procedural information, forms, and referrals to legal services.
- 222 people served at free monthly civil legal clinics.
- 99,101 people assisted telephonically and 9,437 in-person by the Customer Service Division, which helps people with the payment of fines and fees, scheduling court-order obligations such as community service, and the filing of motions and pleadings.

Expanded Use of Technology

- Implemented electronic filing in civil cases, providing a more convenient way for attorneys to initiate civil cases and streamlining court operations.
- Conducted 66,286 hearings remotely, lessening the need for litigants to travel to the courthouse during the COVID-19 pandemic.

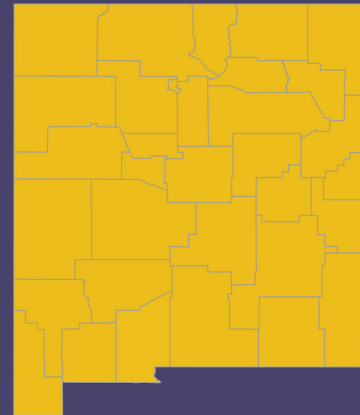
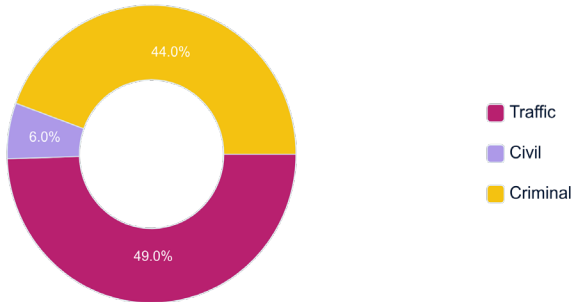
Magistrate Courts

Disposition Rate



2021 Fiscal Year Caseload

New, re-activated and reopened cases: 140,079



46 Courts Statewide
67 Judges

Highlights

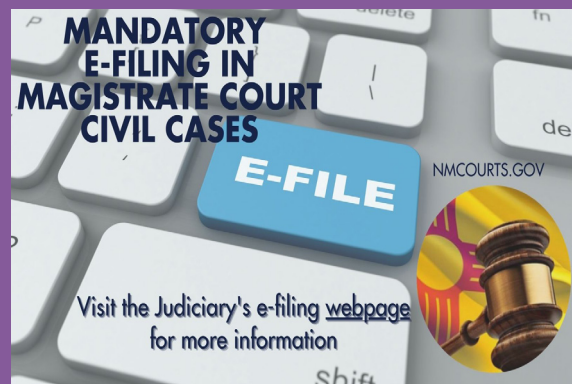
Magistrate courts have limited jurisdiction and handle DWI cases, misdemeanors, traffic violations, civil actions up to \$10,000, and hold preliminary hearings to determine probable cause on felony charges. Magistrate judges are not required to be lawyers except in Doña Ana County. Judges serve four-year terms and must run for election in partisan elections. District courts administratively oversee the magistrate courts within their districts.



Hobbs Magistrate Judge Clipper Miller and his wife, Genia Miller, at his swearing-in ceremony



Mora County Magistrate Judge Cindy Garza conducts remote hearings during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.



Court Operations

Court Security

The court security team provided in-person and remote training throughout the year, which included Active Shooter, Stop the Bleed, Courtroom Safety, and New Judge Safety training. Court Security also collaborates with the Administrative Office of the Courts Human Resources Division to provide training in the Supervisory Mentorship Program and for new employees and judicial officers.

Loss prevention program

New security incident report forms are being distributed for a unified, consistent way to report threats to the courts. Court Security also assisted with designing security features for new courthouses and security screening stations at public entrances.

Facilities Management

Completed new plans and construction agreements for new magistrate courts in Belen, Ruidoso, Lovington, Springer, and Silver City. These new courthouses should complete construction by the end of 2022. The Facilities team also worked to secure agreements for new magistrate courts in Santa Fe, Clovis, Bernalillo (City), and Anthony. Facilities has worked with judicial districts to coordinate improvements to existing facilities.

Internal Audit

Internal auditors completed seven procedural audits and presented those to magistrate courts and district court executive officers. The auditors also completed nine follow-up reviews with the courts. Two desk audits were performed, including one to check compliance with federal firearms reporting requirements for the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), and one to ensure bond forfeitures in the magistrate courts were in compliance with statutory and rule requirements. A total 158 forfeitures for 28 magistrate courts were reviewed.

Court Standardization

Provided legal advice to magistrate judges and staff in coordination with district courts, provided periodic legal updates, coordinated the legal education of the magistrates, and helped provide training to new magistrate clerks.

Municipal Court Automation

The Municipal Court Automation Program continued to ensure municipal courts remained up-to-date on Supreme Court emergency orders, policies, and procedures. This program also helped to manage a dwindling fee fund, which decreased in revenue during the pandemic.

Central Operations

Serving the needs of court customers, Central Operations operates a toll-free call center, providing information and assistance to the public in English and Spanish. The service is available 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. Call 855-court-4 or 855-268-7804.

Citation Processing and Compliance

The citation processing and compliance teams centralized traffic case processing for 10 judicial districts. The failure to appear rate was reduced by 21% in those districts. The team also centralized failure to pay and warrant validation processing for seven judicial districts and continued to assist non-compliant defendants to reinvest in the system and fulfill their obligations to magistrate courts across the state.

The team visited all judicial districts statewide to monitor compliance with COVID-19 safety protocols and delivered Personal Protective Equipment and disinfecting supplies. The team also assembled and distributed jury bags containing masks, hand sanitizer, a pen and a notepad for jurors, promoting health and safety protocols during jury trials.



Members of the Central Operations team in Las Cruces: (l-r) Jessie Archuleta, Cynthia Pacheco, Hannah Matthew, Rhonda Reeves, Nayetzy Garcia Olea, Norma Aniles, Hilda Ruiz, Cesar Gaytan, Shai Baca, Davina Nevarez, Adrian Herrera, Desiree Martinez, Estevan Herrera, Paloma Wheeler, Mark Tomada.



District Judge Daylene Marsh and Probation Officer Fanoy Walters hosted the drive-through graduation at the front of the Aztec District Courthouse on March 18, 2021.



The Ninth Judicial District Court hosted a booth at the 2021 Women's Expo held in late May 2021 at the Clovis Civic Center. Pictured l-r: Human Resources Administrator Katherine Grubelnik, Judicial Specialist Isabell Walla, Paralegal Nicole Madrid, Judicial Specialist Le Ann Johnson and Business Specialist Sharon Nunez.



The Budget Committee met in-person for the first time in a year to discuss and approve the Judiciary's unified budget.

Programs

Adult Guardianship and Conservatorship

A district court judge may appoint a guardian and/or conservator for an adult that is found to lack capacity to manage their finances, property, health care, or living arrangement. As of June 30, 2021, data shows there are 5,760 open adult guardianship cases statewide.

Adult Guardianship/Conservatorship Cases
FY21

Judicial District	Pending	Reopened	Adjudicated	Total
1	155	38	423	616
2	133	104	1980	2217
3	36	4	651	691
4	6	3	231	240
5	30	6	419	455
6	15	9	114	138
7	69	7	28	104
8	24	5	79	108
9	9	3	117	129
10	3	1	155	29
11	39	13	119	171
12	25	6	177	208
13	79	36	539	654
Grand Total				5760

WINGS. The legislature passed House Bill 234 in 2019, directing the Supreme Court to establish the Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders (WINGS) to provide an ongoing evaluation of New Mexico laws, services, and practices related to adult guardianship and conservatorship. The Network is a partnership of stakeholders, which includes two protected persons under a guardianship, a family member (not appointed as a guardian or conservator), a professional guardian, a professional conservator, and representatives of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government. The Network holds quarterly meetings and Judge Nancy Franchini is the chair.

Bilingual Forms. Guardians and conservators are required by law to submit annual reports to the court and any person may file a grievance against a guardian or conservator. In June 2021, the Supreme Court issued an order authorizing the use of certain bilingual (English/Spanish) forms in adult guardianship and conservatorship cases. The bilingual forms can be filed with the court and will be translated into English by the judiciary's Language Access Program.



Training Videos. The duties and responsibilities of guardians and conservators are explained in a series of 10 orientation videos produced by the judiciary. The Supreme Court issued an order requiring any proposed guardian and/or conservator to watch the series of orientation videos for all cases filed after February 1, 2021. The videos are available in both English and Spanish online at: [adultguardianship.nmcourts.gov/informational-training-videos/](https://nmcourts.gov/informational-training-videos/).

Children's Court Mediation Program (CCMP)



The Children's Court Mediation Program is committed to facilitating communication in child welfare cases. Mediation participants include a variety of professionals such as social workers, attorneys, child advocates, potential adoptive families, and the family members in crisis. The CCMP has 14 highly trained and skilled mediators.

Online Platform. In FY21, the CCMP shifted to an online platform led by a new statewide program manager, while maintaining program quality and training.

Public Health Emergency. A total of 511 referrals were processed, down 10% statewide from the prior fiscal year.

The Program attributes this significant decrease to the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency. As in all prior years, the majority of referrals were for Time Limited Reunification (“TLR”) mediations (435).

Open Adoptions. Open adoption cases numbered 76 in FY21 with no change in referrals from FY20.

Funding Received. CCMP received funding from the Access to Visitation Grant through CYFD to provide Post Kinship Guardianship Contact Agreement mediations for non-CYFD families. CCMP received its first referrals from Sandoval County CYFD for Kinship Guardianship mediation. New grant promotion and education for judicial districts on how to refer cases will continue.

Moving forward the focus will be to contract with a bilingual mediator to enhance services to Spanish speaking only families, and increase promotion of program services in the Southeast.

The Program will also increase promotion of program services in parts of the state with low referral rates, particularly the Southeast. This may include contracting with a coordinator who resides in southeastern New Mexico, who will help coordinate meetings with stakeholders.

Children’s Court Improvement Commission



The Children’s Court Improvement Commission (CCIC) is a multidisciplinary advisory board under the New Mexico Supreme Court that oversees federal grants for improving child welfare court systems.

The Commission is the “engine” of the New Mexico Court Improvement Program (NMCIP), and staffed by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). The Commission includes judges, legislators, representatives from the protective services and juvenile justice programs in the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD), attorneys, child and family advocates, educators, service providers, foster parents, former foster youth, and other interested parties.

Early 2021, the CCIC adopted a new strategic and action plan effective through 2024 with priorities that include:

- Prevention and Early Intervention
- Expediting Permanency
- Supporting Older Youth
- Securing Indian Child Welfare Act Compliance
- High Quality Representation

In order to achieve these goals, the Commission created seven workgroups: Crossover Youth, Data Driven, Early Intervention Legal Services, Enhanced Family Supports, Legal Stakeholders, Legislative, and Reinstatement of Parental Rights. The diverse workgroups, composed of Commission members and interested parties from the child welfare and juvenile justice spheres, along with those young people and parents with lived experiences, meet at least monthly.

Additionally, the CCIC continued to support the following Children’s Court related efforts:

- **Fostering Connections Act** - The Commission continued its collaboration with CYFD to improve the lives of young adults in the foster care system by providing access to services up to the age of 21. The Fostering Connections Program went live in July 2020, and in its first full fiscal year (FY21), 133 eligible young adults opted into the program by filing cases.
- **Family Representation Commission** - The CCIC continued to support the Family Representation Commission whose goal is to create legislation that would provide for a systematic improvement of representation of children and families involved in New Mexico’s child welfare system.
- **Training Collaborations** - The New Mexico Court Improvement Program’s federal grant, through an agreement with the AOC, continues to support training opportunities in collaboration with the University of New Mexico’s Corinne Wolfe Center for Child and Family Justice (CWC).
- **Children’s Law Institute (CLI)** - The CCIC and NMCIP aid New Mexico State University’s Center of Innovation for Behavioral Health and Wellbeing in preparing and holding the annual Children’s Law Institute each January. For the first time in 2021, the CLI was entirely virtual, yet still drew more than 1,000 registrants. The theme of the 28th Children’s Law Institute was “Rising to the Challenge: Revolutionizing Practice.”

Programs

Children's Court Improvement Commission (cont.)

- Children's Court Judges Association. After a hiatus of a few years, the Children's Court Judges' Association reconvened this last fiscal year with new energy. Assisted by the AOC, this group meets monthly for both training and discussions related to children's court issues.

Commission on Access to Justice (ATJ)



New Commission Leadership

In January 2021, long-time Commission chairs, the Honorable Nan Nash (ret.) and Elizabeth McGrath, stepped down after years of incredible work and service that saw the Commission develop and begin to implement its Justice for All plan. The Honorable Erin B. O'Connell (pictured at left) and

Ernestina R. Cruz are now chairs of the Commission – both committed to ensuring our judicial system is accessible to all New Mexicans regardless of income.

Justice for All (JFA) Strategic Action Plan

The Commission continues to implement its Justice for All Strategic Action Plan developed in consultation with New Mexico stakeholders and the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). Some highlights of the Commission's 2021 JFA work include:

Community Integration Efforts

- Completed four (virtual) community listening sessions with representatives from community organizations in Silver City, Truth or Consequences, Las Vegas, and Shiprock to continue learning about the civil legal needs in these communities and ways the Commission can better partner with non-legal organizations.
- Produced informational webinars for community members about civil legal topics, including public benefits, foreclosure, and eviction.
- Equity Initiative - Received a grant from the NCSC to

implement equity related items, including examining Commission structure and participation opportunities for justice-system users. The Commission engaged a national expert, Jasmine Parson Williams, who will provide recommendations by the end of 2021.

- Communication Highlights - Worked with PR firm Carroll Strategies to inform people about assistance available through New Mexico Legal Aid and about the Supreme Court's order pausing evictions for people who were unable to pay rent.
- Authored two Bar Bulletin articles to inform members of the Bar about assistance available for people with civil legal needs and the Commission's work.
- Collaborated with national organization, Voices for Civil Justice, to develop a campaign, "1000 Lawyers for 1000 Cases," aimed at encouraging pro bono help, particularly with pandemic-related legal needs.
- Pro Bono - The Commission continues to partner with the Second Judicial District's Pro Bono Committee and New Mexico Legal Aid to provide twice-monthly tele-clinics for self-represented litigants. The telephone-based format allowed volunteer attorneys to assist people outside the Albuquerque area, greatly expanding access. In 2021, these clinics served 167 people.

Court Appointed Attorney Fund

The New Mexico Judiciary is committed to providing quality legal representation for indigent parties in civil proceedings when the law requires the court to appoint an attorney. Among the clients served are children and parents in abuse and neglect cases, parentage, mental health and disabilities, eligible adults in fostering connection cases, and guardianship cases.

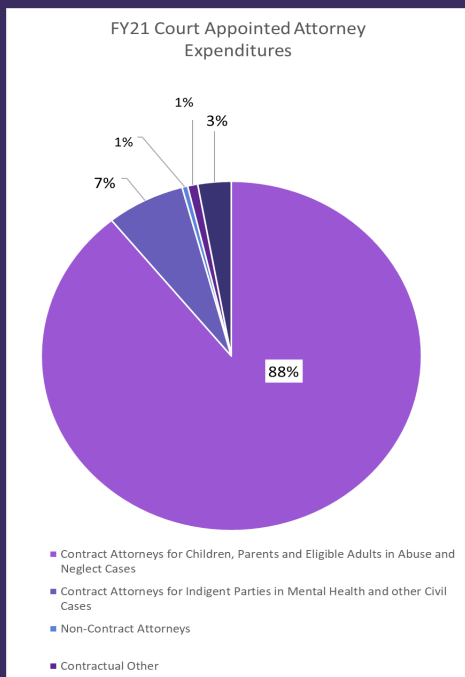
The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) provides fiscal oversight, ensures compliance with contractual obligations by attorneys, and works collaboratively with the Children's Court Improvement Commission, the New Mexico Family Advocacy Program, the Family Representation Commission, the Southwest Region National Child Protection Training Center (NMSU-SWRTC), and the Corinne Wolfe Center for

Child and Family Justice (UNM-CWC) to offer attorneys free or reduced cost continuing education and trial skills training.

The AOC continues its efforts to equitably allocate funds while maintaining focus on quality representation.

During FY21:

- Abuse & Neglect Representation - 91 abuse and neglect attorneys, including 3 nonprofit legal organizations, 3 appellate attorneys, and 12 mental health attorneys provided representation in more than 2,000 cases.
- Children's Law Institute Sponsorship - CAAP supported approximately 81 attorneys in their attendance at the virtual Children's Law Institute, which provided continuing education and training in child welfare cases.
- Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) - In 2021, CQI was a focus for CAAF, and these efforts will continue in FY22.
- Indian Child Welfare Act - CAAP continued its support of New Mexico's first Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Court.
- New Mexico Family Advocacy Program - CAAF continued its collaboration and support of the New Mexico Family Advocacy Program (NMFAP) expansion efforts for an interdisciplinary approach.
- CYFD Collaboration - CAAP has worked jointly with CYFD to provide comprehensive training for attorneys across the state.



Court Appointed Special Advocates



Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for Children is a network of community-based programs that recruit, train, and support citizen-volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in courtrooms and communities. These programs house volunteers who provide foster children with individualized advocacy as the children move through the child welfare system. The volunteer advocates inform judges with reports and recommendations in order to make the best possible decision for each child. One year of CASA advocacy costs less than one month of keeping a child in foster care. A child with a court appointed special advocate is more likely to find a safe and permanent home, half as likely to re-enter foster care and is more likely to succeed in schools, according to national data.

CASA at a glance:

- 14 CASA programs in 26 counties.
- 475 trained and supervised volunteers donated 27,446 hours to advocate for children in foster care.
- 1,467 children and youth received CASA support.
- 764 cases were assigned a CASA.

Department for Therapeutic Justice



The Problem Solving Courts program was enhanced, rebranded, and expanded to become the Department for Therapeutic Justice (DTJ). Therapeutic Justice refers to the healing, transformative application of law, and serves as the foundation for supporting justice-involved professionals serving justice-involved individuals.

New Mexico's 53 treatment courts offer an alternative to the costly revolving door of incarceration and exist in 12 of the 13 judicial districts, serving 22 of the 33 counties.

Overseen by a multidisciplinary team of professionals, yearlong programs treat justice-involved individuals with substance use and/or mental health conditions – common

Programs

Department for Therapeutic Justice (cont.)

drivers of repeat criminal behavior – while supporting and holding the offender accountable through frequent drug tests, probation support visits, and judicial hearings.

Studies have found treatment courts are two times more effective than prison in preventing re-arrest and four times less expensive.

In fiscal year 2021, major accomplishments included:

- **Statewide Managers** - Two statewide program manager positions were added, expanding the team to five. One primarily supports the ongoing implementation and continued development of the statewide information management system, while the other focuses on establishing and equipping alumni/peer programs in judicial districts statewide, as well as leveraging Medicaid funds for treatment and ancillary services.
- **Treatment Court Standards** - Conducted a yearlong review of the NM Treatment Court Standards, focusing on evidence-based practices, resulting in an updated Supreme Court Order in January 2021. Standards provide a tangible expression of quality treatment court operations for program certification.
- **Quality Engagement Initiatives (QEI)** - The DTJ maintains an active training schedule to support current and fledgling treatment courts. Coordinators and judges regularly attend “guild” meetings, joining colleagues in considering hot topics, discussing operations, and receiving training in best practices. The DTJ provides implementation workshop sessions when districts want to start a new treatment court program. DTJ staff support, consult, and train local government misdemeanor compliance program court compliance officers - essential justice partners. Certification, a standardized process to identify alignment with the treatment court standards, will be a feature in FY22.
- **Statewide Information Management System** - Treatment court data is now available through

dashboards accessible in local jurisdictions and in aggregate by the DTJ. Coordinating service provision and evaluation of services is becoming more efficient as the implementation and development continue. Several local government misdemeanor compliance programs have begun implementing probation modules within this same information management system, further expanding the potential efficiencies of both service delivery and reporting.

- **Performance Measures:**
 - 53 Total Programs
 - Active Participants on 6/30/2021: 733
 - Total Participants Since Inception: 26,381
 - Total Graduates Since Inception: 13,660
 - Intent-to-Treat Recidivism: 19.44%
 - Graduate Recidivism: 11.17%
 - # of Graduates: 471
 - Graduation Rate: 70.58%
 - Retention Rate: 75.25%
 - Cost/Client/Day: \$28.34
 - Employment Rate of Adult Graduates: 82.30%
 - Educational Attainment Rate of Juvenile Graduates: 100.00%



Members of the Department for Therapeutic Justice at a New Mexico Alumni in Recovery community event in Santa Fe, l-r: Carlos Gonzales, Reese McCalister with New Mexico Alumni in Recovery, Scott Patterson, Robert Mitchell, Tamas Zold and Martin Burkhart.

Diversity and Inclusion Department

The Diversity and Inclusion Department was created to improve equal access to justice for individuals with disabilities, limited English proficiency (LEP), and low literacy. Language Access Services, the Office of the Statewide Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title II Coordinator, and Court Access Technology make up the newly formed Diversity and Inclusion Department within the Administrative Office of the Courts.



Language Access Services. Language Access Services (LAS) coordinates and funds court interpreting and other communication access services to ensure equal access to the state courts for people with Limited English Proficiency (LEP), as well as deaf and hard of hearing individuals. LAS recruits, trains, and qualifies courtroom interpreters and bilingual court staff to provide services outside the courtroom. LAS offers training for judges and court employees, extensive translations services, assistive listening devices, signage, and a wide range of technologies to support the NM State Courts.

In FY21:

- NM was ranked #1 in the Nation, D.C. and Puerto Rico for language access in the Justice System by the National Center for Access to Justice (NCAJ).
- 32 new Language Access Specialists - Since its inception in 2009, the program has trained and certified 141 bilingual court employees to serve the public in out-of-court settings. Languages include: Spanish; Navajo; Keres; Polish; Mandarin; and Thai. The NCAJ noted in its justice index findings that, “New Mexico pioneered the Language Access Specialist qualification, and has since helped spread the concept to other states.”

- Interpreting Services - Approximately 15,000 court proceedings needed interpreters in 58 languages, with the most frequently used being Spanish, Navajo, American Sign Language, Vietnamese, and Mandarin Chinese. In out-of-courtroom settings, on-demand telephonic interpreting services averaged 2,500 minutes per month in about 20 languages.
- New Translation Vendor - LAS transitioned to a new statewide vendor for translation services. A user-friendly portal expedites the translation process and statistical reports. The project also aims at increasing the number of readily available languages.
- Translation of Unified Jury Instructions - To ensure the constitutional right and obligation of LEP jurors to serve in New Mexico, LAS undertook the immense project of translating the Unified Jury Instructions (UJIs) into Spanish.
- Interpreting for LEP Jurors Training Series - New Mexico is the only state to provide interpreting services to non-English speaking jurors. Training videos with standards of practice for working with LEP jurors were created with modules covering rules and responsibilities for interpreters.
- Supreme Court Live Streaming to Classrooms - LAS provided Spanish simultaneous interpretation of oral arguments and translation of related documents for Justice David K. Thomson’s discussion with New Mexico students on the role of the judicial system in our democracy, with a Q&A session with schools around the state. LAS provided interpreting for the session with El Camino Real High School for Spanish-speaking student participation.
- Office of the Statewide ADA Title II Coordinator. New this year, the Office of the Statewide ADA Title II Coordinator provides professional support and ADA training to judges and court staff in the state. The office provides adequate access to current assistive technology and oversees the development and implementation of ADA policies to ensure all persons with disabilities have full and equal access to the courts, its programs, and activities.

Programs

Diversity and Inclusion Department (cont.)

In FY21, major accomplishments included:

- Interactive, online American Sign Language (ASL) Classes.
- American Sign Language Legal Training for 25 interpreters to increase the number of available court interpreters.
- A new ADA web page was created for ADA on the NMCourts.gov website. Visit the ADA Page: <https://www.nmcourts.gov/home/americans-with-disabilities-ada/>

Interpreter LEP Jury Trial Training Part 3



ADA Training included:

- A series of webinars covering all the basics of ADA Title II by the Southwest ADA Center is available to all judicial employees during the Friday lunch hour.
- Online training offered by the Judicial Education Center this summer.
- Sponsored district court employees to attend the ADA National symposium in-person and online held earlier this year.

Court Access Technology. The following technologies support services provided by Language Access and the Office of the ADA Title II Coordinator.

- “Clara” Smart Courthouse Kiosk - “Clara” is a multilingual interactive avatar in a self-help kiosk that can answer user-generated questions to help visitors. The project began in the First Judicial District Court in Santa Fe.
- Remote Interpreting through Clara Connect - Piloted a web-based video conferencing and simultaneous interpreting platform in Doña Ana County’s Third Judicial District, with plans to expand throughout the judiciary. The Supreme Court uses Clara Connect to livestream Supreme Court oral arguments.

Domestic Violence - Firearm Relinquishment

State law allows judges to order the relinquishment of firearms in a domestic violence order of protection (DVOP) case if the judge makes a separate finding that the restrained party “presents a credible threat to the physical safety of the household member.” If the restrained party does not own any firearms, then a statement of non-relinquishment is filed with the court. The following data shows the number of firearm forms filed in domestic violence order of protection cases. These court forms are used when a credible threat finding is made. Firearm relinquishment forms were filed in 150 domestic violence order of protection cases from July 2020 to June 2021.

Firearm Relinquishment Receipt. The judge made a separate finding that the restrained party posed a credible threat to the protected party in 22 cases and firearms were relinquished to either law enforcement or a federal firearms licensee and a receipt was filed with the court.

Declaration of Non-Relinquishment. Of the 150 total cases, a declaration of non-relinquishment form was filed with the court in 128 cases by the restrained party stating they did not own/possess any firearms that could be surrendered. The following counties had the highest number of firearm relinquishment forms filed: Bernalillo (50), Cibola (11), Dona Ana (5), Quay (7), Rio Arriba (5), Sandoval (9), Santa Fe (7) and Valencia (31). The following counties did not have any firearm relinquishment forms filed: Catron, Colfax, Grant, Guadalupe, Harding, Hidalgo, Los Alamos, McKinley, Mora, Roosevelt, San Miguel, Sierra, Socorro, Taos, Torrance, and Union.

Family Advocacy Program (NMFAP)



The New Mexico Family Advocacy Program (NMFAP) provides parents in child abuse and neglect cases with an interdisciplinary legal team composed of a lawyer, licensed master's level social worker, and parent peer mentor, who has experience with the child welfare system. The team collaborates to give needed

support to parents in order to help reunify families when possible and strengthen the parents' ability to care for their children.

Implementation and Reach. The Children's Bureau awarded the AOC a \$7.7 million grant in 2018 to administer the NMFAP and approved the program to start full implementation and begin taking cases in February 2020 in Sandoval, Valencia (13th Judicial District) and Bernalillo (2nd Judicial District) counties. By the close of FY21, the program served a total of 100 parents and 153 children despite a reduction in child welfare cases during the pandemic.

NM FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM REACH
February 2020 - June 2021

	BERNALILLO	SANDOVAL	VALENCIA	TOTAL
NMFAP cases	82	8	10	100
Filed cases	156	15	20	191
% NMFAP	53%	53%	50%	52%

Contracted Professionals. The AOC contracted with 10 licensed master level social workers, 15 respondent attorneys, three parent peer mentors, one clinical social work consultant as well as the National Center for State Courts, which leads the independent evaluation of the program. Training and recruitment of qualified parent peer mentors is ongoing and the program hopes to add more in FY22.

Training for Stakeholders. The program facilitated 15 virtual trainings in FY21 on topics geared toward improving legal advocacy and practice through the NMFAP ECHO

interactive training series. NMFAP ECHO is a knowledge-sharing platform that includes program practitioners and is open to the statewide child welfare community.

Office of Parent Representation & Advocacy. NMFAP administration and practitioners continue to engage in and inform the work of the Family Representation Commission (FRC), formerly the legislatively created Family Representation Task Force. The FRC collaborated throughout the year to develop legislation establishing an independent agency capable of supporting the statewide implementation of an interdisciplinary model of representation for parents and children. The NMFAP lead parent mentor, lead attorney, and one program attorney are voting members of the FRC.

Family Representation Commission



The New Mexico Supreme Court established the Family Representation Commission on October 23, 2020 as an ad hoc advisory commission to the Court dedicated to improving the quality of legal representation. The creation of the Commission provides an

avenue for systematic improvement of representation of children and families involved in New Mexico's child welfare system. The Commission has proposed the legislative creation of the Office of Family Representation and Advocacy and has undertaken research and collaborative efforts with justice partners to achieve that goal.

Human Resources Division

The Administrative Office of the Courts Human Resources Division (AOC HRD) serves approximately 2,000 judicial officers and employees. The HRD is committed to providing effective, high-quality human resource management to the judicial community, including recruitment, selection, retention, classification, compensation, employee relations, position management, training, benefits management, payroll, performance and development, workforce planning, the grievance and complaint process, and investigations into claims of harassment, discrimination, and retaliation.

Programs

Human Resources Division (cont.)

During the 2021 fiscal year:

- Public Health Emergency - Served on the Supreme Court's Emergency Response Team (ERT) assisting judicial entities with COVID-19 cases and questions, as well as tracking, logging, and monitoring more than 3,000 COVID-19 tests. Vaccination data is continuously tracked and logged judiciary-wide.
- Workplace processes changed during the COVID-19 pandemic and human resources statewide incorporated new strategies and performance measures to manage a remote workforce.
- New Leave Policies - Focusing on employees' physical and mental well-being during the public health emergency, new policies were implemented. The Physical Fitness and Self-Care policy includes self-care leave and promotes a highly productive workforce. The Paid Parental Leave policy was implemented and approved by the Supreme Court, with a focus on family.
- Training and Development - Provided statewide New Employee Orientation training remotely throughout the year. Supervisory Mentorship Program training is also given to increase managers' and employees' professional proficiency in supervisory techniques and knowledge in critical employment laws.

During the 2021 fiscal year:

- Workforce Investment Plan - Successfully continued to implement the Judiciary's Workforce Investment Plan career pay progression component to advance employees in their pay range through step increases.
- The AOC HRD developed and implemented new time reporting codes judiciary-wide and developed new, and audited current, job descriptions.
- Workforce Planning - The AOC HR Division continues to strategically plan for future employment needs while maximizing the effectiveness of current employees. Key elements of workforce planning focus on recruitment,

classification, development, and evaluation to better serve the needs of the Judiciary.

In the coming year, through a partnership with human resources professionals throughout the Judicial Branch, the AOC HRD will continue to explore workforce and training needs including methods to improve the operational effectiveness of the judiciary.

The Judicial Information Division (JID)



The Judicial Information Division (JID) is the technology branch of the New Mexico Judiciary and directed by the chief technology officer, who reports to the Administrative Office of the Courts. JID provides technology support to all state courts and technical oversight of the Municipal Court Automation Fund.

In FY21, JID:

- Introduced Electronic Filing - Implemented e filing in Magistrate Courts and Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court for civil proceedings.
- Expanded Video Services - Provided on-site installation, expansion upgrades, or general support for video conferencing connections at more than 20 judicial centers across New Mexico.
- Outstanding Customer Service - Resolved nearly 4,000 support requests, helping employees across the state with the tools they need to focus on their work.
- Innovative Training - Created and hosted more than 15 new online training classes covering a variety of courtroom technology and administrative topics, and reaching nearly 2,000 registered students.
- Justice Partner Data - Expanded NM dataXchange to 18 teams of users who are now able to take advantage of expansive statewide data, enabling mapping, and other visualizations for powerful decision-making.

- **Reports** - Created or updated dozens of reports and detailed metrics in support of multiple initiatives, including DWI statistics, caseload analysis, foreclosures, and judicial performance.
- **Internal data backup system** - Enhanced to ensure the judiciary's business data is safe and available.
- **Creating Customer Convenience** - Continued work on preparing for secure, readily available online payments, another step towards a modern, digital judiciary.
- **Necessary Centralization** - Migrated to toll-free phone numbers, centralized data, and retired an older application, all in support of PreTrial text messaging, resulting in an annual cost savings of \$10,000.
- **Internal and External Upgrades** - Expanded our cybersecurity team, proactively analyzing and patching potential security vulnerabilities to keep our infrastructure secure. Monitored and enhanced statewide network bandwidth and connections powering the work of judicial employees statewide.

Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission (JPEC)

JPEC is an independent, nonpartisan, volunteer group that promotes public accountability of the Judiciary while preserving judicial independence. The state Supreme Court appoints the 15 members of the commission – seven lawyers and eight non-lawyers – from nominations by the Chief Justice, Governor, Speaker of the House, Senate President Pro Tempore, House Minority Leader, Senate Minority Leader, and President of the State Bar of New Mexico.

The Commission provides information to voters before every judicial retention election and offers performance feedback to judges to help them improve their work. The JPEC evaluations look at a judge's legal ability, fairness, communication skills, preparation, attentiveness, temperament, and control over court proceedings. Confidential interim evaluations are also conducted during the judges' mid-terms to help the judges improve their performance on the bench.

New Vice-Chair. Prominent member and JPEC Vice-Chair Judge James Hall, ret., resigned his position in December 2020. Justice Edward Chavez, ret. was appointed from the Supreme Court as JPEC's new Vice-Chair in March 2021.

Stagger Certain Judicial Terms. In 2021, Senate Bill 266 became law, affecting terms for district court judges and Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court judges whose terms will be staggered based on their divisions. In thirds, District Court judges will stand for retention in the 2024, 2026 and 2028 general elections. For Metropolitan Court judges, half will stand for retention in 2022 and the other half will stand for retention in 2024. JPEC will adjust its evaluations based on the new judges' terms according to Senate Bill 266. Before the statutory change, all District Court judges' terms ended every six years and Metropolitan Court judges' terms ended every four years, with all judges able to stand for retention during the same general elections.

2022 Retentions. JPEC is at the beginning of the evaluation process for the 2022 retentions for one Supreme Court justice and eight Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court judges. JPEC will also conduct interim evaluations for two Supreme Court justices and two Court of Appeals judges. In September 2022, JPEC will announce its recommendations to Retain or Not Retain judges standing for retention.

The Administrative Office of the Courts Jury Program



The Administrative Office of the Courts Jury Program (AOC-Jury) exists to support the statewide jury management system (JMS) and its related services. AOC-Jury is committed to exploring new and different procedures, processes, and technology to improve the overall jury service experience.

During the first two quarters of FY21, AOC-Jury managed a gradual resumption of trials statewide as the judiciary adapted methods to adhere to AOC's strategic administrative plan and the Supreme Court's Emergency Response Team (ERT). AOC-Jury worked with courts statewide to develop a better general understanding of jury management and theory applied to improving the experience of serving on a jury in New Mexico.

New Systems. AOC-Jury recently completed major procurements. A new jury management system (JMS) and a new summons print and mail vendor will streamline the complex process for managing jurors and notifying jurors of their selection for service.

Programs

The Administrative Office of the Courts Jury Program (cont.)

The evaluation committee for the new JMS was composed of jury managers and court staff from district and magistrate courts and staff from the Judicial Information Division (JID). The new JMS will roll out in March 2022.

AOC-Jury worked closely with JID to configure the platform at a baseline level with features common to all courts, including manual entry of point-to-point distances from the various courthouses to every ZIP code in the area from which to draw jurors.

Master Jury Database. Collaboration with representatives from the Department of Taxation and Revenue, Motor Vehicle Division, and the Secretary of State's Office to review elements that combine to make the master jury database where jurors are ultimately drawn. Worked with local users to identify issues related to missing or inaccurate dates of birth, address character limits, and poorly defined data fields. The first look at the new data layout will be on November 1, 2021

AOC-Jury continues to support the public and court users with:

- Web-based qualification process and opt-in for electronic notifications. The platform allows jurors to request exemption, excusal, or postponement, and document submission.
- A complete and thorough weekly audit of every court's jury payroll submission.
- Court safety surveys to assess safety precautions during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Real-time data analysis of individual courts to improve jury management best practices.
- A web-based system to print and mail jury summonses.

Teams Make It Happen. During the Public Health Emergency, all sworn jurors are given individual bags containing two masks, hand sanitizer, a pen, and a writing tablet. Leadership

and members from AOC's Warrant Enforcement Program assembled and distributed the bags to courthouses statewide.



Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative

The Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) is a juvenile justice related initiative both created and sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. In New Mexico, JDAI is led by the Statewide Leadership Team, which is a collaborative effort of the judicial branch, the Children, Youth and Families Department, the New Mexico Counties 33 Strong (formerly Association of Counties), and the New Mexico Public Education Department. The primary goals of JDAI are to reduce unnecessary detention of youth, reduce racial and ethnic disparities, and promote youth success without sacrificing public safety. Since 2005, Bernalillo County has been a JDAI Model Site and Network Learning Lab, one of only four local sites nationwide.

Some of the FY21 JDAI highlights include:

- Ongoing State to Scale System Assessments of local jurisdictions - These assessments gauge local strengths and challenges in JDAI reform efforts.
- Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI) Validation - The RAI is a tool which screens youth for detention to determine risk to public safety and risk of failure to appear in court. This tool, which is a JDAI strategy, has been in New Mexico for almost 20 years. Recently, JDAI Leadership, in collaboration with an epidemiologist, are reviewing the RAI to see if it is still a valid tool for use in New Mexico.

- Tribal Collaboration and Partnerships - Methods are being developed to increase engagement with local state and tribal juvenile probation offices when tribal youth enter the state system.
- Probation Transformation Efforts - Transformative efforts in juvenile probation provide a new model of probation supervision centered on moving from putative based supervision to opportunity-based supervision. While COVID has played a role in transforming the functions of probation supervision, the shift has been sustained in practice resulting in impactful transformations.
- Create sustainability by establishing a 40-hour basic mediation class to train and educate court staff and community members
- Stay connected to the ABA ADR community to continue to learn best practices from court-connected programs around the Country.
- Work with JID Development team to build an application to Integrating MCMP with Odyssey to streamline mediation scheduling and case referrals
- Provide mentorship to new mediators
- Strengthen MCMP's ability to incorporate Language Access and ADA resources to provide mediation to non-English speakers and people with disabilities.

Magistrate Court Mediation Program (MCMP)

The Magistrate Mediation Program (MCMP) accepts civil cases referred by magistrate courts statewide mediated by a skilled and growing pool of volunteer mediators offering New Mexicans help to acknowledge and address their conflicts. In FY 21:

The Magistrate Court Mediation Program (MCMP) grew and evolved into a fully on-line program due to COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

Since July of 2020, MCMP has increased its ability to incorporate more courts, take on additional referrals, increase capacity to the mediator pool, and build a sustainable on-line program with a true statewide reach. MCMP has shifted its focus to offer mediation exclusively by teleconference, e-signing of agreements, and training mediators to be proficient in a new way to mediate.

Moving forward, MCMP will continue to refine its processes to make mediation service delivery easy and effective, as well as:

- Continuously build a deep roster of skilled, capable mediators by providing continuing educational opportunities and increasing on-line technical skills
- Expand program Statewide to all Magistrate Courts
- Collaborate with JID to create a MCMP application that would integrate with Odyssey

New Mexico Compilation Commission



**New Mexico
Compilation Commission**
Official Legal Publisher of State of New Mexico

The New Mexico
Compilation
Commission is
the official legal

publisher of the State of New Mexico, providing free, online public access of the state's official fully annotated master database containing current and historical versions of the New Mexico Statutes Annotated 1978, New Mexico Rules Annotated, the uniform body of case law, the New Mexico Constitution, Attorney General Opinions, and Session Laws, was made available for free at www.NMOneSource.com.



Effective Date Publishing. New Mexico is unique in publishing laws and court rules on their effective dates.

Print Versions for Ease of Reference. Print versions remain important in rural communities. Through an exclusive content license awarded to a national law publisher, mobile apps, and eBooks were added to print publications for ease of reference when Internet service is unavailable.

Programs

New Mexico Compilation Commission (cont.)

New content added in fiscal year 2021:

- New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) - On April 12, 2021, the Commission added the NMAC as part of its free online public access to NMOneSource.com. To assist state agencies, the courts and the legal community, the Commission posts the compilation of new and amended rules filed by state agencies once approved and published biweekly in the New Mexico Register. As part of the official master database, the hyperlinks within the NMAC link to the NMSA 1978, offer users the ability to navigate between the state laws and rules, as well as the convenience of full text searches within the entire collection.
- Historical New Mexico Constitutions - In response to requests from attorneys and legal researchers, the historical New Mexico Constitution collection from 1989 – 2020 was added to NMOneSource.com on April 23, 2021, as part of the free online offering by the Commission. With the addition of this content, the historical archives of official laws in New Mexico's official master database is now complete.

Online Dispute Resolution



Online Dispute Resolution is a free service that allows parties to negotiate online to resolve debt and money due cases without appearing in court. In FY21, and effective December 31, 2020, the Supreme Court's rule changes had an immediate impact on ODR that included:

- Enforcement - District courts have enforceable mediated settlement agreements under the 5-year rule.
- Consumer Debt Litigation Change - Plaintiffs in consumer debt collection cases must attach the agreement/contract to the Complaint in Metropolitan and Magistrate courts, similar to District courts.

- Expansion of the ODR Pilot Project - Plaintiffs are required to participate in ODR, and any interest rate that is part of the agreement cannot be greater than one percent (1%) of the prime rate. In addition, the Answer is not required prior to starting ODR. Further proceedings in a case referred to ODR were suspended pending the outcome of the ODR process. ODR is also available by court order for landlord-tenant actions involving collection of money due.
- Training - Before the rule changes going into effect, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and the Judicial Information Division (JID) conducted numerous trainings by teleconference with court staff, attorneys, and judges statewide.
- Upgrades - ODR webpage was upgraded to clarify new rule changes, highlight ODR orientation and ODR mediation how-to videos, and provide an in-depth Frequently Asked Questions section. Links to the Modria application that begin the ODR process are also on the website.
- Timely Customer Service. Due to the volume of calls and questions regarding ODR cases, program staff obtained a 1-800 number and partnered with the Customer Service Unit in Las Cruces to provide timely case-specific customer service to the public while maintaining analytics on-call volume and duration.

Moving forward. On July 1, 2021, referrals to the ODR program were paused to conduct an intensive program evaluation by Praxis Management Solutions intended to focus on results of the program.

Pretrial Services Program

New Mexico has become a leader in pretrial justice with the adoption of the pretrial justice reforms supported nationally. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Pretrial Justice Initiative and the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) are developing a framework and capacity for legal and evidence-based pretrial expansion in New Mexico.

Implementation of pretrial practices requires technical changes to the system and a cultural shift. The decision to implement legal and evidence-based practices is a local decision and requires local stakeholder agreement, buy-in, and commitment to the process. The role of AOC Pretrial Services Program is to provide guidance and support in facilitating the expansion and implementation of pretrial legal and evidence-based practices throughout the state.

Pretrial Highlights:

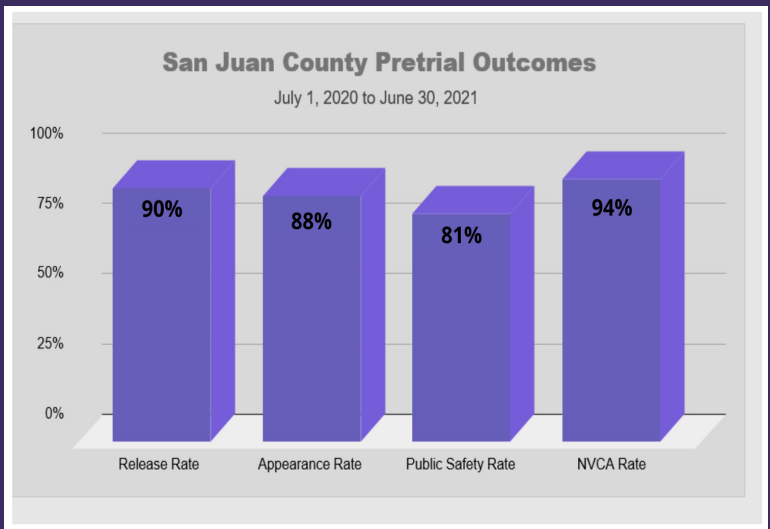
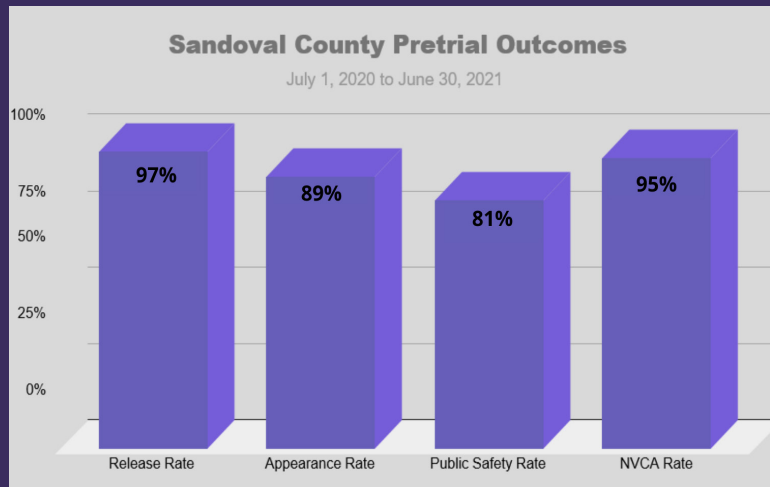
- The Program is in the third year of receiving technical assistance and support from the NIC.
- Pretrial legal and evidence-based practices were launched in the 3rd and 6th Judicial Districts in June 2021.
- The 11th and 13th Judicial Districts are working to complete and expand the implementation to all counties within their districts.
- A Pretrial Data Analyst joined the program and a pretrial data infrastructure project is underway using DataXchange.
- Because funding is limited, the Program developed a capacity assessment to better identify needed resources for pretrial monitoring programs in each district or county.
- The new Electronic Monitoring and Supervision Program launched October 21, 2021.



Electronic Monitoring and Supervision Program Officers pictured above (l-r) Oscar Garcia, Sherman Carter, Wacey Begay, Alicia Vigil.

Pretrial Outcomes for San Juan and Sandoval counties, July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021

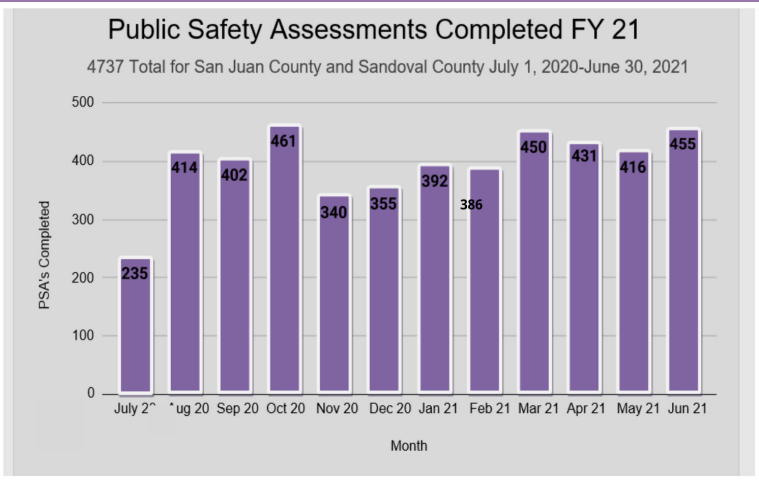
- Release Rate: percentage of all defendants who were released
- Appearance Rate: percentage of all who made all scheduled court hearings
- Public Safety Rate: percentage of those who did not have a new charge during the pretrial stage
- NVCA Rate: percentage of all defendants who did not have a new violent charge during the pretrial stage



Programs

AOC Background Investigation (BI) and Public Safety Assessment (PSA) Unit

- The Background Investigations and Public Safety Assessment Unit provides criminal history reports and PSA's to judges to help assist them in making release decisions for defendants. These reports are created using criminal history information from Odyssey and the National Crime Information Center. The unit also provides data assistance to the AOC Pretrial Program. Now providing services 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the unit works with local courts and jails to receive criminal complaints and booking sheets to initiate cases.
- Expanded services to the Third and Sixth Judicial Districts and implemented the Early Delegated Release Program in Sandoval County, with plans to expand to San Juan County.
- Completed 4,737 background investigation reports and PSAs for San Juan County and Sandoval County in FY21; 52% of the cases were felony cases and 48% were misdemeanor cases.



Safe Exchange and Supervised Visitation



The Safe Exchange & Supervised Visitation Program (SESV) provides preservation of relationships between children and their parents, while

offering protection from harm during times of high family conflict. New Mexico SESV providers have staff trained by the international Supervised Visitation Network and adhere to the New Mexico Court Standards for Safe Exchange and Supervised Visitation.

District courts refer divorce, separation, custody, parentage, and domestic violence cases to local service providers, who monitor visits and exchanges in safe, child-friendly environments, protecting children and removing them from the middle of parental disputes.

Positive Impact on Families	710 Children Served	967 Adults Served
Supervised Visits and Exchanges	Supervised Visits 7,271	Safe Exchanges 3,940
Hours of Service Invested in the Safety of New Mexico Families		12,462

New Mexico has 13 SESV providers operating in 18 counties in nine judicial districts: Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, and Santa Fe counties (First Judicial District), Bernalillo (Second), Doña Ana (Third), San Miguel (Fourth), Chaves, Eddy, and Lea (Fifth), Grant, Hidalgo, and Luna (Sixth), Taos and Colfax (Eighth), San Juan (Eleventh), and Cibola, Sandoval and Valencia (Thirteenth).

The Supreme Court Law Library

The Supreme Court Law Library, established in 1915, is a statewide judicial entity that provides legal information to the judicial, legislative, and executive branches of state government, the legal community, and the public. The Supreme Court Law Library maintains a comprehensive legal research collection in a variety of formats, including paper, microfiche, electronic, and online. The Law Library participates in the Federal Depository Library Program and receives materials from the Government Publishing Office.

The Law Library's website includes links to official court forms, New Mexico and federal statutes and cases, the New Mexico courts' self-help guide in English and Spanish, the Library's online catalog, resource guides on legal topics, and other resources for legal information.

In FY21, law librarians responded to requests for legal information from all courts in New Mexico and from Massachusetts, Texas, New York, and the Navajo Nation. Nearly 788 patrons contacted the Law Library by referrals from other courts, public and academic libraries, and state and local agencies.

The COVID-19 pandemic presented many challenges. Like courts and other judicial entities across New Mexico, the Law Library implemented new procedures to prioritize the health and safety of staff and patrons. This allowed the Law Library to remain open and operational and to continue



to provide robust in-person and virtual services without interruption. During the pandemic, the Supreme Court Law Library provided a valuable service of allowing the public to view the Court's oral arguments while following safety protocols, pictured above.

FY21 Accomplishments:

- 2,212 reference requests.
- 27 new cardholders registered.
- 1,051 circulation transactions.
- 973 titles cataloged.
- 3,284 new items/volumes added.
- 6,137 bibliographic records updated.
- 200+ staff hours spent updating the collection.
- 1,099 responses to prisoner letters.
- 12 newsletter issues published.

Tribal-State Judicial Consortium (TSJC)



The New Mexico Tribal-State Judicial Consortium (TSJC) is a Supreme Court advisory body consisting of seven state and seven tribal judges. The Consortium co-chairs are Judge Renee Torres of the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court and Judge Randolph Collins of the Acoma Pueblo Tribal Court. The Consortium's mission is to encourage and facilitate

communication and collaboration between state and tribal court judges on common issues such as child welfare, domestic relations, juvenile justice, and drug/wellness courts.

Pictured below are members of the Tribal State Judicial Consortium, along with AOC staff and visitors, attending the virtual Quarterly Meeting held May 21, 2021.

The most recent appointees to the TSJC were Judge Michelle Brown-Yazzie and Judge Jason Lidyard (not pictured.)

Goals. Create rapport between state and tribal judges. Educate and train state and tribal judges and leadership. Support implementation of state services for Native American children and families on and off the reservation.

Annual Quarterly Meetings. The Consortium's members met quarterly in FY21, via Zoom, to address cross jurisdictional issues. The following committees focus on consortium initiatives throughout the year: Full Faith & Credit Workgroup, Rapport/Communication, Specialty Courts, Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Workgroup, Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), and Habeas Corpus Monitoring Group.

Work in the area of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). CYFD and state courts identify and collect necessary data to notify tribes and families about cases pending in state courts.

Programs



Top row from left: Judge Randy Collins, TSJC Co-Chair; Wendell Lane, TSJC Coordinator; Judge Renee Torres, TSJCCo-Chair; Judge Peggy Bird, TSJC Member; Judge David Eisenberg, TSJC Member. Second Row from left: Justice Julie Vargas, Supreme Court Liaison to the TSJC; Judge Mekko Miller, TSJC Member; Judge William Johnson, TSJC Member; Judge Tammi Lambert, TSJC Member; Mateo Page, AOC CourtServices Director. Bottom Row from left: Judge Bruce Fox, former TSJC member; Justice Briana Zamora, former TSJC member; Retired Judge John Romero, former TSJC member; Judge Peggy Bird, TSJC member; Retired Justice Barbara Vigil, former TSJC member.

Tribal-State Judicial Consortium (TSJC)

Work has centered on addressing difficulties in the CYFD process for selecting qualified expert witnesses (QEWs) for ICWA cases, the need for state judges to use the QEW list, recognizing the qualifications and roles of QEWs, and ensuring tribal membership of Native American children as determined by tribes. The consortium is working closely with CYFD and state courts to ensure specific types of data are properly collected, tracked, and analyzed; the consortium is also working with tribes, CYFD, state courts and other interested parties on legislation for a state ICWA law.

Enacting a state Indian Child Welfare Act law is necessary. Passing a state-specific law would better protect New Mexico's children and families from negative consequences should the federal law be eroded.

The Consortium continues to work with state Rep. Georgene Lewis on a new version of a bill that will be introduced in the 2022 legislative session.

Moving forward, the Consortium is considering the creation of an advisory committee, rescheduling the delayed annual retreat to work on initiatives, and will appoint five new members to replace outgoing members.



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