



# NEW MEXICO JUDICIARY

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

**Acknowledgements:**

This report was prepared with special assistance from AOC staff, court personnel and judges throughout the state.

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Advanced Robotic Solutions  
and Beth Wojahn



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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 (2019). This report is an overview of the Judiciary's accomplishments during the 2022 fiscal year (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022) 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](http://www.nmcourts.gov).

# Message

## From the Chief Justice



I am proud to present the Judicial Branch's 2022 Annual Report. The Judiciary worked diligently to ensure our courthouses never closed during another year under COVID-19 safety protocols. Remote and hybrid hearings, depositions, mediations, and even bench trials have not only kept participants safe but have saved time and costs and have improved access for the people of New Mexico who have a difficult time appearing in court. We learned to adapt and make changes to the processes of litigation, and there are aspects of legal practice that have changed and improved access to justice in unimaginable ways.

For example, the Judiciary/DFA collaborative Eviction Prevention and Diversion Program, which assists New Mexicans who face eviction and provides property owners with an alternative to evicting tenants unable to pay their rent, is now a statewide program connecting tenants and property owners with mediators and with the Emergency Rental Assistance Program's (now called NM Home Fund) emergency rent payments. As of August 1, 2022 the program, in conjunction with the Department of Finance and Administration awarded \$148,289,329 in rent and utility payments as well as emergency hotel stays and moving costs. This funding has assisted over 44,000 households. I am very proud that the White House identified New Mexico's Eviction Prevention and Diversion Program as the gold standard in the country.

The Supreme Court Commission on Equity and Justice has been hard at work studying issues related to race and bias in our justice system, promoting diversity among judges and judicial employees. The commission's goals are to provide equitable access to the state's justice system through training and education of judges and staff, conducting a review of case outcome data, creating a diverse pipeline to the Judiciary, reviewing and reforming all policies, procedures, and jury instructions, and focusing on the courthouse experience.

The Supreme Court also created the New Mexico Commission on Mental Health and Competency to meet the behavioral health needs of adults and juveniles who encounter our state judicial system. The commission has a broad range of responsibilities, including reviewing policies and procedures concerning a person's competency to stand trial and considering how to better identify people in need of mental health treatment *before* they enter the justice system. The commission also explores ways to expand the behavioral health resources available in communities and courts statewide, particularly in underserved communities and rural areas.

The Judiciary is also committed to implementing a strategic plan to achieve the following goals:

1. Foster unified judicial leadership and continuity in developing judicial policy initiatives by developing strong and consistent leadership;
2. Enhance public access to New Mexico courts using technology and expanding self-represented litigant services;
3. Address critical infrastructure and resource needs;
4. Strengthen the expertise, talents, and professionalism of judges and court staff;
5. Improve public trust and confidence in New Mexico courts.

In these pages, you will see many of those who work for the Judiciary and examples of their hard work.

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "C. Shannon Bacon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a stylized "S" and "B".

C. Shannon Bacon

*Chief Justice*



# Message

## From the Director



A glance through the pages of the Annual Report makes it clear that courts are thriving. The Judiciary has made an epic transition to a new way of operating that is customer oriented, online, and virtual while remaining available in the traditional ways courts have always operated. Magistrate courts hear most traffic matters online, district courts hold many hearings virtually, and the Supreme Court streams oral arguments live, including when one or more of the Justices are not physically in the courtroom in Santa Fe.

As with any significant change, there remain many challenges. Audio quality for remote events needs to be improved, bandwidth in parts of New Mexico remains inadequate, and litigants — especially those who represent themselves — need increased guidance and support in this new environment. I salute every judicial officer and employee for keeping the courts open throughout the pandemic and adjusting to new ways of doing business. A prime example is the way courts continued to conduct jury trials under extraordinary circumstances with poll results showing between 92% and 96% of jurors felt safe and protected throughout the jury trial process in our courthouses.



**I salute every judicial officer and employee** for keeping the courts open throughout the pandemic and adjusting to new ways of doing business.

Even with all the challenges faced over the past year, the Judiciary has continued to implement new programs to strengthen the delivery of justice. The Second and Ninth Judicial Districts piloted exciting new scribing programs that will continue to expand elsewhere; pretrial services exist or are being implemented in the Third, Fourth, Sixth, Eleventh and Thirteenth Judicial Districts; behavioral health awareness and consideration is growing with training and a statewide October summit for community representatives from throughout the state.

Of course, not every adjustment tried during the pandemic should be made permanent. Few regret the end of most mandates to wear a mask at all times, except in the presence of jurors. Remote work has been a boon to some and a travail to others. The pandemic gave us a renewed appreciation for in-person interaction even as technology provides the opportunity to make progress together across distances without travel burdens that were formerly routine.

Among the many adjustments tried during the pandemic, we will keep those that improve courts and learn from the things that did not add lasting value. What is undeniable is the value of the skilled, dedicated, and often extraordinary employees in the Judiciary. It continues to be an honor and privilege to work with them.

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Arthur W. Pepin', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

**Arthur W. Pepin**

*Director, Administrative Office of the Courts*

# Responding to the Pandemic's New Normal

Through the dedication and perseverance of our employees, the New Mexico Judiciary has not had a single case of COVID-19 spread in our courthouses during the pandemic. Jurors report feeling safe in our courthouses and confident when fulfilling their civic obligation, which has resulted in the ability to try cases in courts throughout our state.

The Judiciary has learned how to change procedures in light of restrictions to in person appearances in ways we anticipate will become permanent fixtures in the manner in which courts serve New Mexicans. Our courts have provided access to justice through remote and hybrid appearances in most hearings. Jury trials and guardianship cases are still conducted in person, but most other cases proceed through video conferencing. The advantages of remote and hybrid hearings include a reduction in travel costs, shorter periods away from work and home, and more efficient proceedings. Self-represented litigants may now file pleadings via email, rather than in person, and court costs and fees can now be paid on line.



Our courts have provided access to justice through **remote and hybrid appearances in most hearings.**

We are proud of our judicial officers and staff, as well as the guidance of the Judiciary's Emergency Response Team (ERT), which is currently led by Justice David K. Thomson of the New Mexico Supreme Court. We will continue to analyze pandemic trends, adapt safety procedures, and work diligently to ensure the public's safety in our courthouses.

# Criminal Justice Solutions

New Mexico Supreme Court initiatives have proven successful in streamlining criminal procedures, expediting criminal cases, and increasing public safety. The new streamlined procedures help witnesses and law enforcement officers by eliminating the need to appear at multiple hearings in person. These measures not only reduce the backlog created by the pandemic but also facilitate keeping law enforcement officers on the streets to address crime. In fact, our courts cleared more cases than were filed in the 2022 fiscal year, which ended June 30, 2022. The disposition rate was 103% for district courts statewide, 105% for all magistrate courts and 108% for the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court (Metro Court).

The Second Judicial District Court in Albuquerque, which is the largest district court in the state, is successfully using retired judges to hold settlement conferences that facilitate plea discussions and agreements. Approximately 43% of the 524 cases referred to the program this year were resolved through pleas by defendants or case dismissals by prosecutors. These settlements eliminated the need for a trial, allowing prosecutors, defense counsel, courts, and law enforcement to focus on other cases. The Eighth Judicial District Court also participated in the criminal settlement conferences program with more than one-third of the cases reaching resolution.

A pilot project in the Metro Court reduced the number of preliminary hearings set in felony cases by 50%, which resulted in fewer court appearances by victims, witnesses and law enforcement officers. Improved court procedures help resolve cases in a timely manner without requiring law enforcement, victims and witnesses to unnecessarily spend time in a courthouse waiting for certain hearings. The Supreme Court issued an order in January 2022 to allow district courts across the state to conduct settlement conferences in criminal cases by suspending a prohibition on judges not assigned to the case to participate in plea discussions.

Under another order, a status conference is required early in criminal proceedings in Metro Court and the Santa Fe Magistrate Court. These conferences occur before an officer or victim must appear in court, and allow the prosecutor and the defendant's lawyer to discuss a possible resolution. A defendant must decide at the status conference whether to waive appearing at a subsequent preliminary hearing where a judge determines whether a felony case will proceed to trial in district court.


A defendant can no longer wait until the day of the preliminary hearing to waive the proceeding. The new procedure helps prevent law enforcement, victims and other witnesses from appearing in court only to learn a proceeding is not going to happen — something that often happened in the past at preliminary hearings. The average number of preliminary hearings set in Metro Court dropped by 49% in June, July and August since status conferences became mandatory. The number of preliminary hearings set in August of this year for out-of-custody defendants was 62% below those in August 2021. Additionally, there was a 71% decline in defendants failing to appear at preliminary hearings in June, July, and August. In the past, officers and witnesses might be present for a hearing, but the defendant failed to appear.

#### Additional Supreme Court-approved initiatives to streamline criminal procedures include:

- Traffic violation cases in magistrate courts statewide and Metro Court are conducted remotely — making it more convenient for the defendant, witnesses and law enforcement to attend hearings without spending time traveling to a courthouse. Remote hearings dramatically increased the number of officers and litigants appearing at hearings.
- Pretrial interviews with law enforcement officers in misdemeanor cases were suspended under a pilot project in Metro Court and the Santa Fe County Magistrate Court.
- The Second Judicial District of Bernalillo County and the First Judicial District of Santa Fe, Rio Arriba and Los Alamos counties have expanded the use of grand juries to initiate criminal prosecutions.
- Metro Court has expanded the use of its direct remote link to the Metropolitan Detention Center. Metro Court now shares this link outside of Bernalillo County, which reduces the need to transport detainees to hearings.

The Judiciary continues to strengthen the pretrial justice system and expand the use of evidence-based practices. Pretrial programs in Bernalillo, Doña Ana, Grant, Luna, Hidalgo, Sandoval, Valencia, Cibola, San Juan, McKinley and Santa Fe counties help identify individuals needing greater pretrial monitoring and supervision to ensure they comply with release conditions, return for future court hearings and avoid rearrest. Judges use information from a risk assessment, called the Public Safety Assessment (PSA), to help inform their pretrial decision-making. There is around-the-clock GPS monitoring of individuals required to wear an electronic location tracking device as a condition of release in the state's four largest counties, as well as in several other counties with pretrial programs. The pretrial improvements work to promote community safety and honor the constitutional principles of the American justice system. Research by the University of New Mexico has found that the great majority of people released in Bernalillo County pending trial remain arrest-free and return to court for hearings. Similarly successful outcomes have been experienced in other counties with pretrial programs.

The Supreme Court, in collaboration with all New Mexico courts and their justice partners, are committed to improving the criminal justice system and implementing science-based initiatives to improve justice and public safety for all New Mexicans. The Court will continue its work to find solutions to improve access to justice, while addressing over-incarceration and increasing public safety.



The disposition rate was **103%** for district courts statewide, **105%** for all magistrate courts and **108%** for the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court (Metro Court).

The average number of preliminary hearings set in Metro Court dropped by **49%** in June, July, and August since status conferences became mandatory.

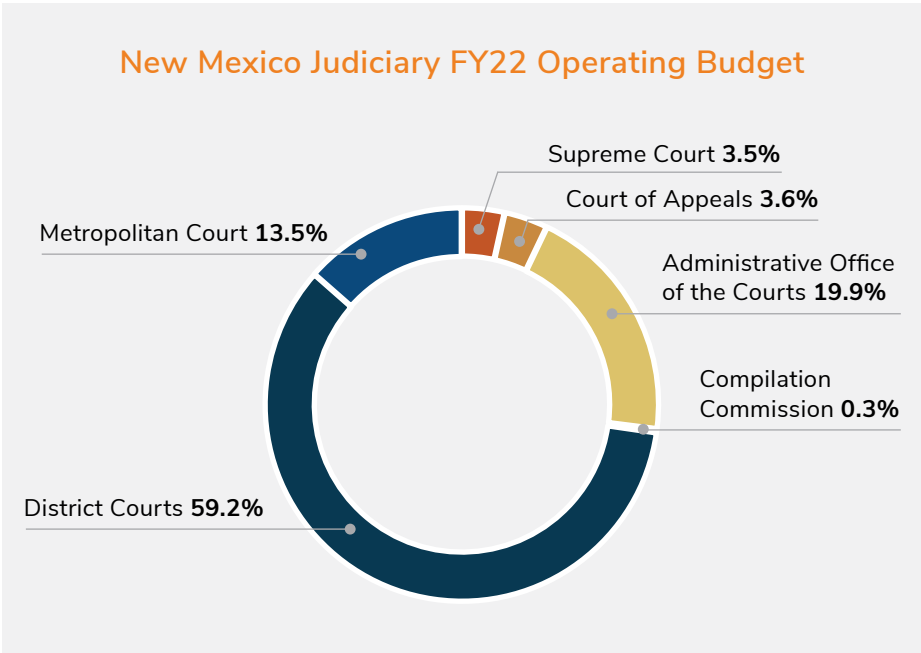
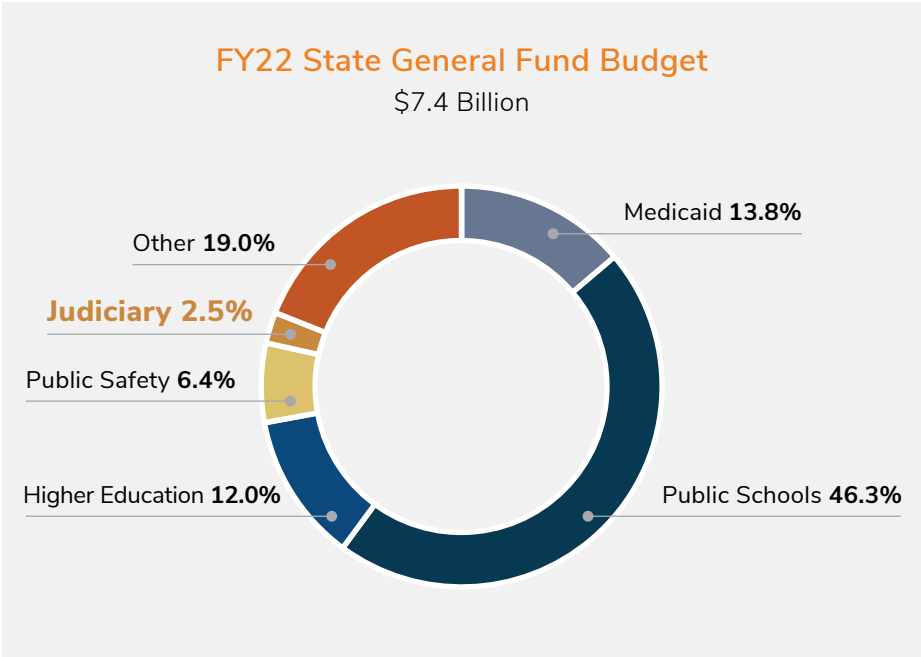
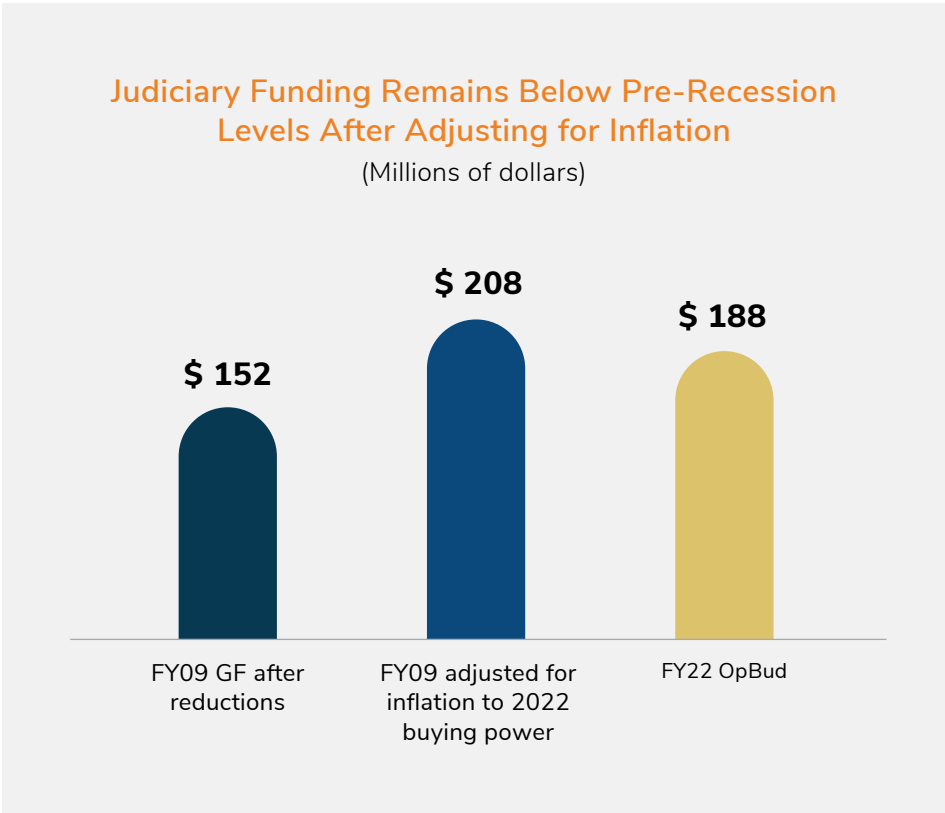
The number of preliminary hearings set in August of this year for out-of-custody defendants was **62%** below those in August 2021.



# Judiciary - 2.5% of NM Budget

The Judiciary’s general fund operating budget totaled \$187.5 million in the 2022 fiscal year. The Judiciary’s funding represented 2.5% of the \$7.4 billion general fund budget for all of state government, including public education and health care programs.

Appropriations for the state court system were about 1.9% higher than the FY21 operating budget. However, the buying power of the Judiciary’s FY22 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 the equivalent of \$208 million – in today’s dollars – in fiscal year 2009, when the recession forced the first of several cuts in governmental spending.



# COURTS



# SUPREME COURT

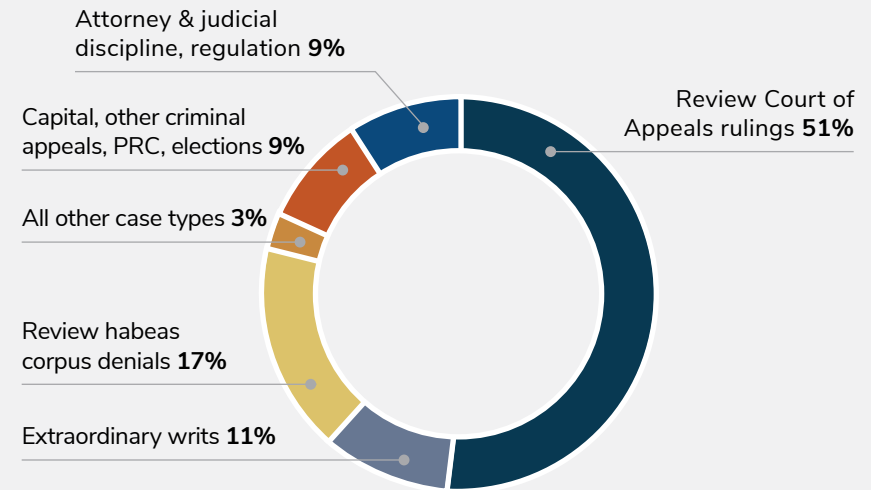
5 Justices  
56 Full-Time Employees

The Supreme Court is the highest court for the State of New Mexico. It is the final authority on questions of law and can 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. It 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 issuing extraordinary writs. The Court also acts on recommendations by investigatory boards and commissions for disciplining judges and attorneys and oversees the admission and regulation of attorneys in New Mexico.

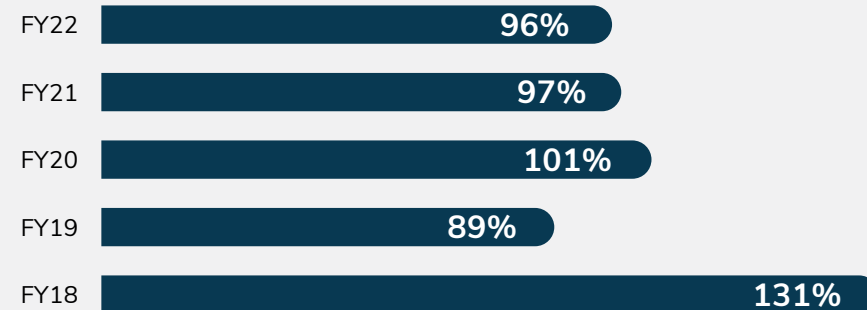


From left to right: Justice Julie J. Vargas, Senior Justice Michael E. Vigil, Chief Justice C. Shannon Bacon, Justice David K. Thomson and Justice Briana H. Zamora.

## 2022 Fiscal Year Caseload New, reactivated and reopened cases: 577



## Disposition Rate





# Highlights



Justice C. Shannon Bacon takes the oath of office as Chief Justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court. Chief Justice Michael Vigil administered the oath. Standing next to Chief Justice Bacon are her nephews, Tristan Bacon (L) and R.J. Bacon (R).



Stephanie Wilson being sworn in as State Law Librarian.



Elizabeth Garcia sworn in as Chief Clerk of the New Mexico Supreme Court.

**NEW CHIEF JUSTICE.** Justice C. Shannon Bacon became Chief Justice in April 2022, succeeding Justice Michael E. Vigil. Chief Justice Bacon traveled to judicial districts for informal meeting with staff and judges focusing on their achievements and challenges.

**NATIONAL RECOGNITION.** Chief Justice Bacon spoke in August 2022 at a White House summit, highlighting a court-based eviction prevention and diversion program operating in all 33 counties.

**IMPROVING HEARINGS.** Supreme Court selected as one of ten pilot sites by the National Center for State Courts for an initiative to improve hybrid hearings conducted remotely and in person.

**RETIRED JUSTICE HONORED.** The Court dedicated its robing room in honor of retired Justice Edward L. Chávez and published a commemorative volume of the opinions he wrote during his 15-year tenure.

**NEW CLERKS.** Elizabeth A. Garcia was appointed Chief Clerk of the Court in March 2022, becoming the eighth person to hold the position since statehood. Lysette Romero Cordova became Chief Deputy Clerk and Kristen Edwards was named Deputy Clerk of the Court.

**LAW LIBRARY.** Stephanie Wilson was sworn in as State Law Librarian in March 2022. Library staff responded to 3,858 request for reference assistance, a 16% increase.

**CIVICS EDUCATION.** Students attended an oral argument in Las Cruces in April 2022, as part of a program to help young people understand the role of courts and the rule of law. It was one of the few times since statehood that the Court has heard arguments outside of Santa Fe.

**NEW COMMISSION.** The New Mexico Supreme Court Commission on Mental Health and Competency was established to improve how the justice system responds to people experiencing behavioral health issues.

**UPDATED TRAINING.** The Supreme Court participated in several trainings and summits on topics including behavioral health, pretrial detention, and implementing remote and hybrid court services. The Supreme Court Equity and Justice Commission sponsored training for judicial officers and employees about gender inclusivity and transgender cultural fluency.

**LEADERSHIP AWARDS.** Supreme Court Justice Michael E. Vigil received the Charles W. Daniels Judicial Leadership Award from the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies (NAPSA). Chief Clerk Elizabeth A. Garcia received the Justice Pamela Minzner Outstanding Advocacy for Women Award from the State Bar of New Mexico and the Commission on Women and the Legal Profession.

# COURT OF APPEALS

10 Judges

52 Full-Time Employees

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 case law. The Court has mandatory jurisdiction in all civil, noncapital criminal and juvenile cases. It has discretionary jurisdiction over most cases appealed from administrative agencies. The Court has been successful at promptly submitting cases for decision once briefing is completed by the parties and has an Expedited Bench Decision program for quickly handling certain time sensitive cases.

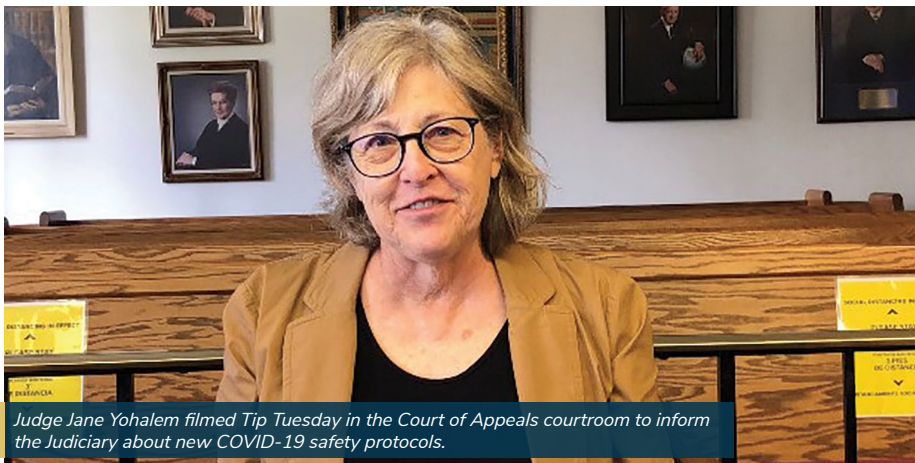
There are ten judges on the Court of Appeals, led by a Chief Judge selected by the judges every two years. Three of the judges are located in the Supreme Court building in Santa Fe and seven are assigned to the Court's Albuquerque office. The Court of Appeals building in Albuquerque is located on the 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 Court has been successful at promptly submitting cases for decision once briefing is completed by the parties**

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 opinions.

The Division of Appellate Court Attorneys screens 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.



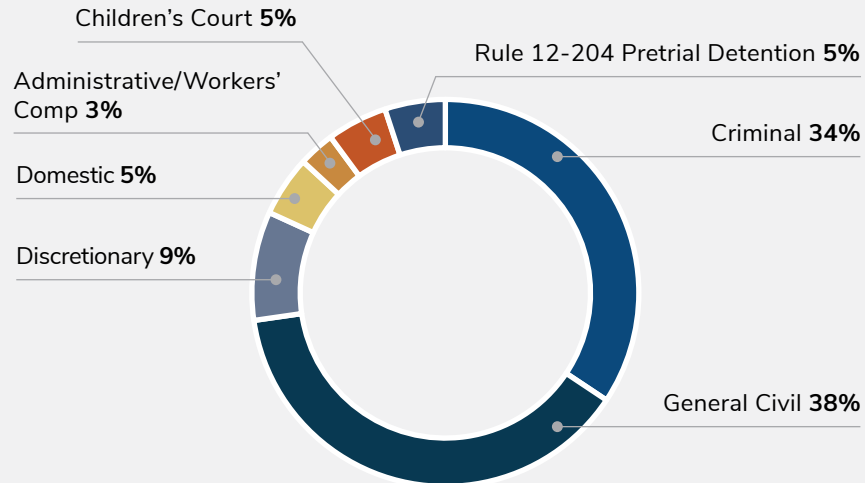
Judge Jane Yohalem filmed *Tip Tuesday* in the Court of Appeals courtroom to inform the Judiciary about new COVID-19 safety protocols.



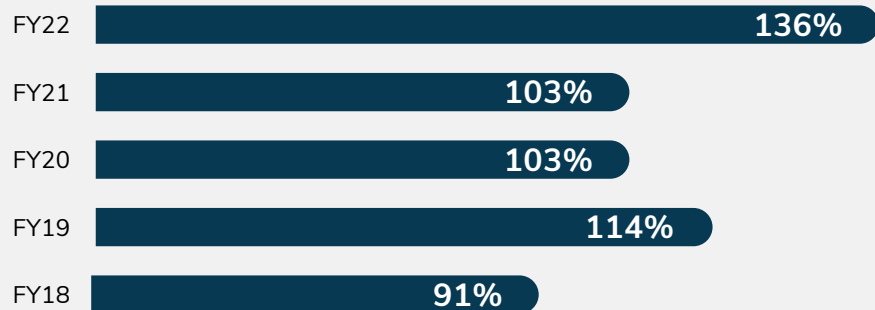
Judicial Specialist 2 Tammy Huckabee, Chief Judge J. Miles Hanisee and Chief Clerk Mark Reynolds at the Court of Appeals clerk's office.

# Highlights

## 2022 Fiscal Year Caseload New cases: 673



## Disposition Rate



**CLEARING CASES.** Achieved a disposition rate of 136% — the highest in at least 14 years. Resolved 917 cases while 679 new cases were opened. The disposition rate measures whether a court has kept up with its incoming caseload.

**QUICKER DECISIONS.** The time it takes to resolve appeals has dropped by 16% in civil matters since 2020 and by 8% in criminal cases, showing promising results from a pilot project for streamlining criminal appeals. The initiative was implemented collaboratively with three district courts, the Appellate Public Defender and the Attorney General's Office.

**EXPEDITED APPEALS.** Quickly decided 34 appeals concerning the pretrial detention of criminal defendants. Court's Expedited Bench Decision program resolved 16 appeals involving the custody of children and other time-sensitive issues.

**MANAGING CASELOADS.** 272 cases were ready for decision on the general calendar.

**EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH.** Continued to work with the University of New Mexico School of Law to educate the next generation of attorneys and legal scholars. Judges and staff spoke to classes, served as professors and adjunct professors, judged moot court sessions and provided educational externships.





# DISTRICT COURTS STATEWIDE

**102** Judges  
**1,275** Full-Time Employees

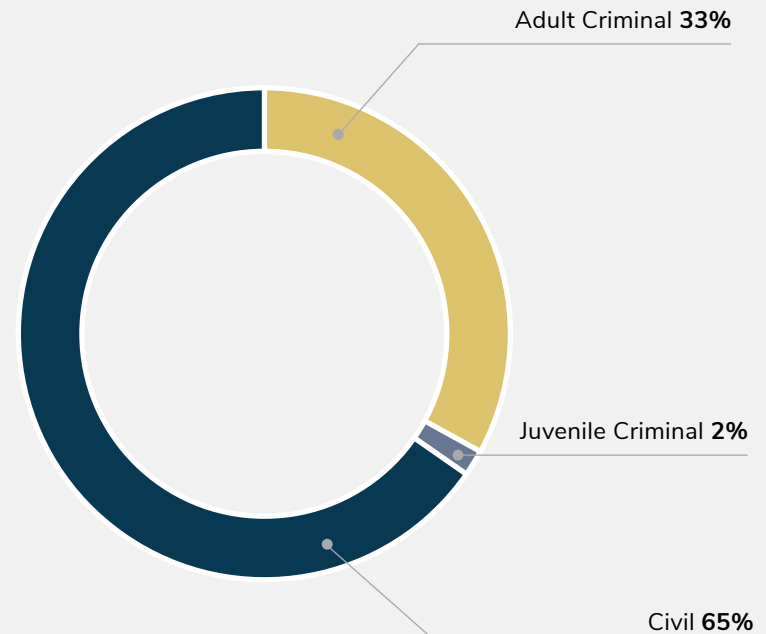
District courts are general jurisdiction courts. They hear and determine adult and juvenile criminal cases as well as civil matters, including contract disputes, personal injury litigation and domestic relations cases such as divorce, custody and child support enforcement.

There were 102 judges in 34 district courts across New Mexico in the 2022 fiscal year. District judges serve six-year terms. Judicial nominating commissions screen applicants for open judgeships and recommend nominees for possible appointment by the governor.

## Disposition Rate



## 2022 Fiscal Year Caseload New, reactivated and reopened cases: 104,172



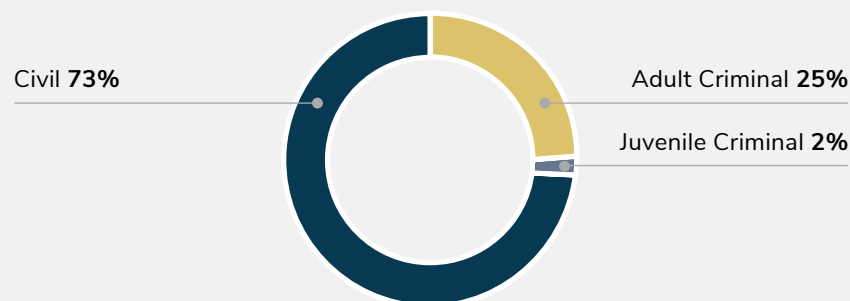
◀ Disposition rate measures whether a court is keeping up with incoming cases. It is the number of resolved cases as a percentage of the number of incoming cases. A rate of 100% or higher indicates a court is clearing at least as many cases as have been filed, reopened and reactivated during a fiscal year. A disposition rate below 100% results in a growing backlog of cases awaiting disposition.

# 1<sup>st</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

*Santa Fe, Rio Arriba and Los Alamos Counties*

**10** District Court Judges  
**7** Magistrate Court Judges  
**129** Full-Time Employees

## 2022 Fiscal Year Caseload New, reactivated and reopened cases: 8,844



## Disposition Rate



## Highlights

**JURY TRIALS.** 40 criminal and jury trials in district courts, and 21 jury trials in magistrate courts.

**PRETRIAL JUSTICE.** The Pretrial Services Division prepared to expand its services and implement new procedures, including use of the Public Safety Assessment to assist judges in setting conditions of release for defendants. Rollout began in magistrate and district courts in Santa Fe County in September 2022. The division assumes responsibility from the county to monitor defendants released with a GPS tracking device. The Administrative Office of the Courts performs after-hours electronic monitoring.

**RESOLVING CASES.** 99 civil, domestic relations and probate cases were referred to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Program. Two-fifths of those were fully settled before or during the settlement conference. More than half of the cases involved self-represented litigants.

**FORECLOSURE SETTLEMENT.** 85% of foreclosure cases were resolved after completing a settlement facilitation program. 99 cases were referred to the program and a fourth of those completed it. In the resolved cases, three-fifths of the homeowners remained in their houses through a loan modification or reinstatement of the loan.

**ASSISTING FAMILIES.** Family Court Services conducted 242 mediations, 451 priority consultations and 28 advisory consultations involving child custody, kinship guardianship and grandparent visitation issues. Mediations were held in four dozen abuse and neglect cases.

**LANGUAGE ACCESS.** Court interpreters assisted litigants and witnesses in 1,198 proceedings and helped 54 jurors over 24 full days of trial. 94% of the interpreting services were in Spanish, but other languages included Russian, Cambodian, Korean, Cebuano, Tibetan and Punjabi.

**CASE PROCESSING.** The clerk's office processed 125,302 e-filings and docketed 36,013 entries, including paper documents submitted by self-represented litigants.

**TECHNOLOGY.** Information technology analysts upgraded the audio-video system in the Tierra Amarilla courthouse, incorporated an E911 solution into the court's phone system and improved the server backup.

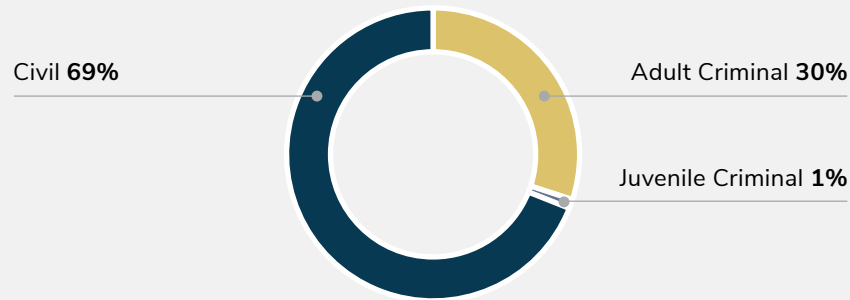
# 2<sup>nd</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

*Bernalillo County*

**30** District Court Judges

**361** Full-Time Employees

## 2022 Fiscal Year Caseload New, reactivated and reopened cases: 33,767



## Disposition Rate



## Highlights

**JURY TRIALS.** 57 criminal and civil trials.

**JUDGES HONORED.** The American Bar Association recognized Judge Catherine Begaye as one of its youth “Reunification Heroes” for her efforts, compassion and perseverance to keep families together. Judges Debra Ramirez and Amber Chavez Baker received the Domestic Violence Center’s 2021 Purple Ribbon Award for their support, professionalism and human touch in domestic violence matters.

**TREATMENT COURTS.** 65 graduates of adult, juvenile, felony DWI and behavioral health treatment courts.

**MEETING COMMUNITY NEEDS.** 13,653 individuals assisted by the Center for Self-Help.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE.** Spanish language interpretation provided in 2,270 cases.

**SERVING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.** The Family Court clinic won the court’s Distinguished Performance Award. The clinic was established in 1973. Its work is illustrated by the therapeutic assistance provided to a young adolescent struggling with isolation from the pandemic.

**GIVING TREE PROJECT.** Judges and court employees conducted a food drive that raised over \$2,400 for the Roadrunner Food Bank and collected hundreds of pounds of food. Each year judges and court staff select a community cause to support.

**PROMOTING FROM WITHIN.** The court promoted 90 employees in the fiscal year, demonstrating the strength and skills of the court’s workforce.



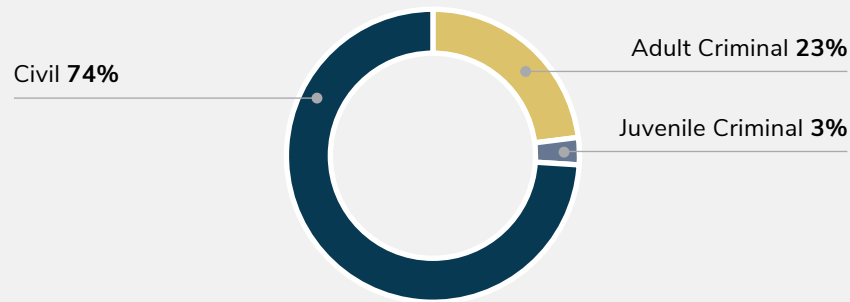


# 3<sup>rd</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

*Doña Ana County*

9 District Court Judges  
7 Magistrate Court Judges  
116 Full-Time Employees

## 2022 Fiscal Year Caseload New, reactivated and reopened cases: 9,869



## Disposition Rate



## Highlights

**JURY TRIALS.** 44 criminal and civil jury trials in district courts, and 17 jury trials in magistrate courts.

**NEW JUDGE.** District Judge Jessica Streeter was sworn into office in April. She is a Las Cruces native and fills a vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Marci Beyer.

**RECOGNITIONS.** District Judge Grace B. Duran was appointed to the New Mexico Children's Trust Fund Board of Trustees by the governor. The State Bar of New Mexico recognized Senior Human Resources Administrator Donna Becerra, a nominee for its excellence in well-being award for dedication to the legal community. The University of Denver Water Law Review published an article by Judge Manuel I. Arrieta, "Solving the Puzzle: The Water Court Structure and Process of Water Administration in New Mexico."

**TREATMENT COURTS.** 38 graduates of adult, juvenile, DWI, family and veterans courts.

**NEW BUILDING.** The Doña Ana County Magistrate Court in Anthony opened at a new location in April 2022.

**MOCK TRIAL.** The district court hosted a mock trial that provided training for 36 employees of the Children, Youth and Families Department from Doña Ana, Otero and Grant counties.

**ART PROJECT.** Donated artwork for display in the courthouse is selected by a jury of five. Each piece has a plaque with its title along with the names of the donor and artist.

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS.** About three dozen employees participated in active shooter training, and about two dozen court staff members received first aid training, including how to treat wounds from a shooting or stabbing.



First Aid Kit training

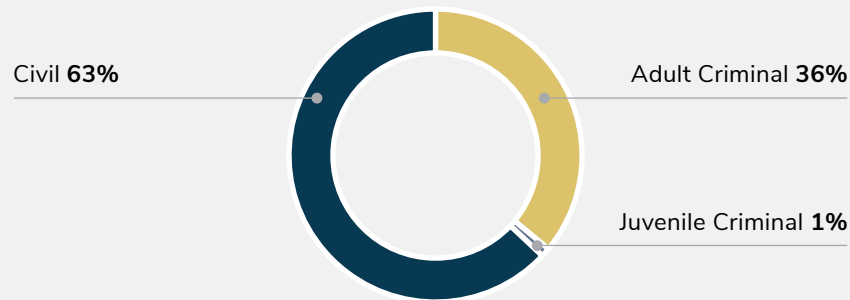
**EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.** Students from five school districts worked as paid summer interns at the district and magistrate courts. They worked 20 hours a week at \$10.50 an hour.

# 4<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

*San Miguel, Mora and Guadalupe Counties*

3 District Court Judges  
4 Magistrate Court Judges  
41 Full-Time Employees

## 2022 Fiscal Year Caseload New, reactivated and reopened cases: 2,695



## Disposition Rate



## Highlights

**JURY TRIALS.** District courts conducted 7 criminal and civil jury trials, and magistrate courts held 4 jury trials.

**TREATMENT COURTS.** 8 graduates of the adult drug court and magistrate DWI drug court.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE.** 371 people assisted by the Self-Help Center, which provides forms and guidance to self-represented litigants. 85 people participated in tele-clinics about domestic relations and civil cases.

**SERVING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.** 45 children in abuse and neglect cases served by Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) volunteers. 229 supervised visits and safe exchanges for children took place in cases involving parental disputes, including divorce, custody and domestic violence.

**GRANT AWARD.** The district court received a \$65,853 grant from the New Mexico Sentencing Commission for training, programming and incentives for treatment courts and monitoring equipment for the court's pretrial services program.



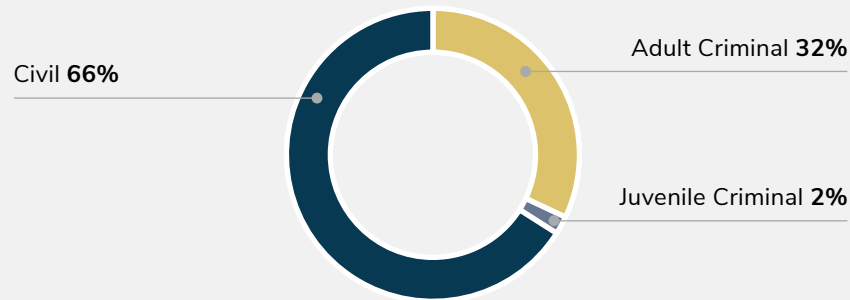
Chief District Judge Flora Gallegos, Case Manager Veronica Lujan, Case Manager Brenda Romero, and Program/Project Coordinator JoAnn Valdez on cleanup duty at the treatment court sponsored community garden in Las Vegas, New Mexico.

# 5<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

*Chaves, Eddy and Lea Counties*

**12** District Court Judges  
**9** Magistrate Court Judges  
**109** Full-Time Employees

## 2022 Fiscal Year Caseload New, reactivated and reopened cases: 11,508



## Disposition Rate



## Highlights

**JURY TRIALS.** 52 criminal and civil trials in district courts, and 23 jury trials in magistrate courts.

**CLEARING CASES.** The number of active pending civil and criminal district court cases was reduced by nearly 10% from FY21 through FY22.

**TREATMENT COURTS.** 13 graduates of adult drug court, magistrate DWI drug court and family reunification court.

**HELPING FAMILIES.** 2,381 supervised visits and safe exchanges for children in cases involving parental disputes, including divorce, custody and domestic violence.

**SERVING CHILDREN.** 445 children in abuse and neglect cases served by Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers.

**NEW COURT BUILDING.** Completion of a new magistrate courthouse in Lovington is expected in December 2022.

*Left to right: Naomi Jacquez, Jessica Minner, Renee Lopez, Emilee Gonzalez, Breanna Hernandez and Chief Justice C. Shannon Bacon visit in a courtroom at Carlsbad District Court.*



*Fifth Judicial District Chief Judge Mark Sánchez waits to present his budget to the Budget Committee at the State Capitol in July.*

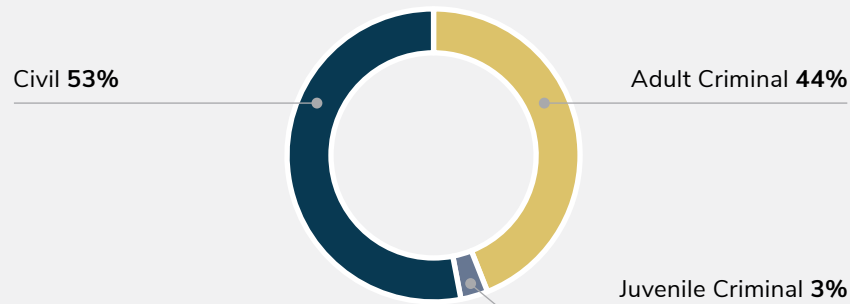


# 6<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

*Grant, Hidalgo and Luna Counties*

- 4 District Court Judges
- 4 Magistrate Court Judges
- 56 Full-Time Employees

## 2022 Fiscal Year Caseload New, reactivated and reopened cases: 3,737



## Disposition Rate



## Highlights

**JURY TRIALS.** 11 criminal and civil jury trials in district courts, and 3 jury trials in magistrate courts.

**TREATMENT COURTS.** 8 graduates of adult drug courts in Deming, Lordsburg and Silver City. The courts participated in several outreach activities, including a barbecue for program participants in celebration of National Drug Court Month.

**CLEARING CASES.** The number of active pending civil and criminal cases was reduced by 14% in district and magistrate courts from FY21 through FY22.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE.** The Bayard Magistrate Court remained open to serve the public despite an internet outage that lasted 4 weeks.

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS.** All district and magistrate court judges and staff were trained on how to administer Naloxone for treatment of a drug overdose. The training was in response to a potential fentanyl exposure in the Bayard Magistrate Court from a person who entered the courthouse.

**EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY.** Chief Judge Jennifer DeLaney and Judge Jarod Hofacket attended the National Association of Drug Court Professionals Conference along with program manager Bobby Brookhauser and treatment court provider Manuel Ortega.

**SERVING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.** 446 supervised visits and safe exchanges for children in cases involving parental disputes, including divorce, custody and domestic violence. 42 children in abuse and neglect cases served by CASA volunteers.



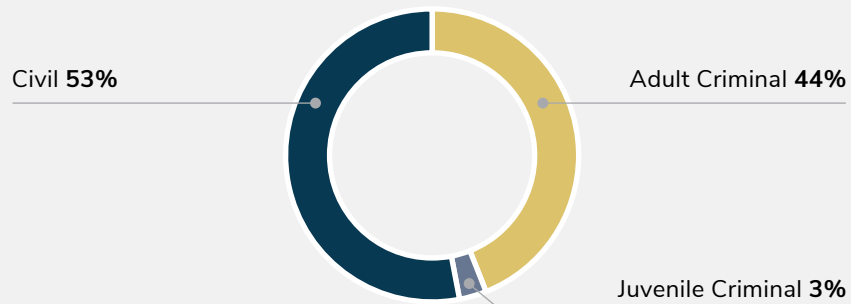
From left: District Judge Jarod Hofacket, Court Probation Officer Kelly Clark, Adult Drug Court Program Manager Edward Santa Maria, Court Monitor Sonia Carbajal, Adult Program Manager Bobby Brookhauser, Human Resources Generalist Susan Kirker, Court Executive Officer Angelic Muñoz, Administrative Assistant Sylvia Zapata, Sixth Judicial District Chief Financial Officer Angélica Garcés, Contractor with Luna County Adult Drug Court Program Richard Pacheco, and Chief Judge Jennifer E. DeLaney.

# 7<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

*Catron, Sierra, Socorro and Torrance Counties*

- 3 District Court Judges
- 4 Magistrate Court Judges
- 46 Full-Time Employees

## 2022 Fiscal Year Caseload New, reactivated and reopened cases: 2,543



## Disposition Rate



## Highlights

**JURY TRIALS.** 4 criminal jury trials conducted in district courts, and 1 jury trial in magistrate courts.

**TREATMENT COURTS.** 1 graduate of adult drug courts and 2 graduates of the Torrance County Magistrate Court DWI Drug Court. About 186 participants have graduated from all of the drug courts in the district since the programs started. There has been no recidivism by graduates of the DWI drug court.

**SERVING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.** 6 children in abuse and neglect cases served by CASA volunteers.

**PUBLIC SERVICE.** Alice Delgado, court manager at the Catron County Magistrate Court, retired after more than 32 years of service to the court in Reserve.

**BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS.** A renovation project at the Socorro County Courthouse replaced 21 heating, ventilation, and air conditioning units and 20,000 square feet of roofing materials. Solar panels will be installed on the covered parking available for staff.



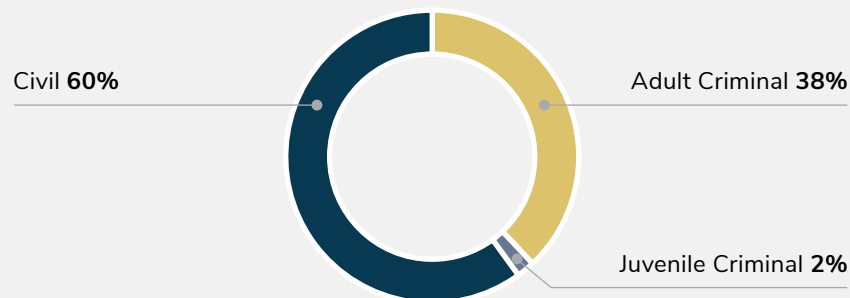
Seventh Judicial District Chief Judge Mercedes Murphy and Court Executive Officer Jason Jones in the New Mexico State Capitol.

# 8<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

*Colfax, Taos and Union Counties*

3 District Court Judges  
5 Magistrate Court Judges  
49 Full-Time Employees

## 2022 Fiscal Year Caseload New, reactivated and reopened cases: 2,857



## Disposition Rate



## Highlights

**JURY TRIALS.** 27 criminal jury trials in the district courts and 20 jury trials in magistrate courts.

**NEW JUDGE.** Amy Hronich was appointed by the governor as Colfax County Division 1 magistrate judge. She replaced Judge Warren Walton, who retired after 21 years of service in the judiciary.

**RECOGNITION.** District Judge Melissa Kennelly was appointed chair of the Supreme Court Commission on Mental Health and Competency. Chief Judge Emilio J. Chavez and Court Executive Officer Pamela Nay were named by the Supreme Court to the Judiciary's Budget Committee, which develops budget recommendations for the state court system.

**TREATMENT COURTS.** 10 graduates of adult drug courts in Taos and Raton. A Family Domestic Violence Court was launched in Taos in the fall of 2021, and 11 people have been referred to the program by the district and magistrate courts. A Behavioral Health Court will be piloted in Colfax County.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE.** 1,403 people assisted by the Help Desk. A virtual legal fair provided legal help to 65 people in the fall of 2021. Monthly family law clinics assisted 21 people, and 200 individuals scheduled pro-bono consultations with local attorneys.

**NEW COURT BUILDING.** Groundbreaking occurred in April 2022 for a new magistrate court building in Springer. Completion is expected in early 2023.

**SERVING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.** 224 supervised visits and safe exchanges for children in cases involving parental disputes, including divorce, custody and domestic violence.

*Court Services Specialist Benny Sanchez, District Judge Jeff Shannon, Laurie Moreau - Court Services Specialist, Kathy Chanler - Administrative Assistant, Dolores Romo - Paralegal, Justice Julie J. Vargas, Chief Justice C. Shannon Bacon, Chief Judge Emilio J. Chavez (back row), Karl Brooks - CEO, Lauren Felts-Salazar - Court Manager 3, Ashley Nespoli-Nelson - Court Manager 2, Cindy White - Law Clerk Intern, Magistrate Judge Sara Blankenhorn.*



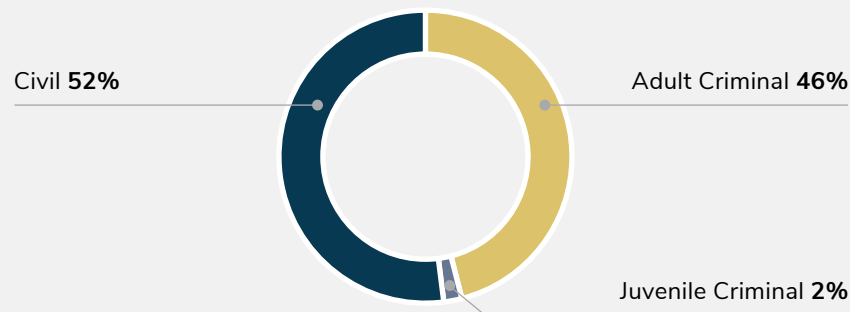


# 9<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

*Curry and Roosevelt Counties*

5 District Court Judges  
3 Magistrate Court Judges  
60 Full-Time Employees

## 2022 Fiscal Year Caseload New, reactivated and reopened cases: 3,430



## Disposition Rate



## Highlights

**JURY TRIALS.** 43 jury trials in district courts, and 24 jury trials in magistrate courts.

**CLEARING CASES.** The number of active pending civil and criminal cases in district and magistrate courts was reduced by 30% from FY21 through FY22.

**TREATMENT COURTS.** 10 graduates of adult treatment courts in Clovis and Portales.

**LANGUAGE ACCESS.** Court staff piloted a scribing project in which they assist self-represented litigants in filling out court forms. The assistance is for people who cannot read a document printed in English, who cannot write in English because of a disability or who have limited English proficiency.

**EVICITION PREVENTION.** Courts in the district piloted an eviction prevention and diversion program that the Judiciary phased in statewide in 2022. The program helps tenants access money through the state for unpaid rent, utilities and other housing costs. Trained facilitators can assist landlords and tenants in negotiating a possible settlement of their rental disputes.

**ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION.** About 50 mediations were conducted in a district court program that provides a mediation option in domestic relations and civil cases. Most of the participants were self-represented litigants. The Curry County Magistrate Court also provides mediation services in civil cases.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE.** 280 self-represented litigants assisted by the court's Pro Se Services Department.



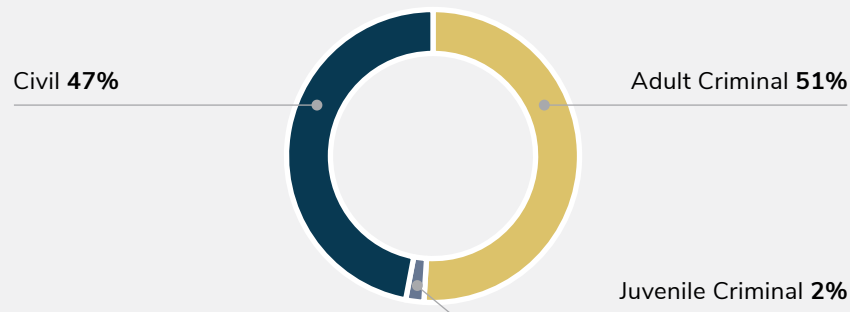
*Ninth Judicial District Court Judges (from left) Benjamin Cross, Drew Tatum, Donna Mowrer (Chief), Fred Van Soelen and David Reeb.*

# 10<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

*DeBaca, Harding and Quay Counties*

- 1 District Court Judge
- 3 Magistrate Court Judges
- 15 Full-Time Employees

## 2022 Fiscal Year Caseload New, reactivated and reopened cases: 736



## Disposition Rate



## Highlights

**JURY TRIALS.** 1 jury trial in district court, and 3 jury trials in magistrate courts.

**CLEARING CASES.** Achieved a disposition rate of 105% — the highest since FY15. The disposition rate measures whether a court has kept up with its incoming caseload. The number of active pending civil and criminal cases in district and magistrate courts was reduced by 3% from FY21 through FY22.

**NEW JUDGE.** Noreen Hendrickson was appointed Quay County Magistrate Court judge, replacing Judge Timothy O'Quinn, who resigned in 2021. Judge Hendrickson previously served as the Tucumcari Municipal Court judge.

**RETIREMENTS.** DeBaca County Magistrate Court Judge Buddy Hall and Harding County Magistrate Court Judge Karen Mitchell will leave the bench at the end of 2022. Each of them has served more than 20 years in the Judiciary.

**COURT ADMINISTRATORS.** Amanda Hammer became court executive officer and chief financial officer for the 10th Judicial District. She succeeds Marion Payton, who retired after 13 years with the Judiciary. Hammer previously served as a trial court administrative assistant. Laura Fought was named court manager for the Quay County Magistrate Court. She previously was a judicial specialist 2 in the court.



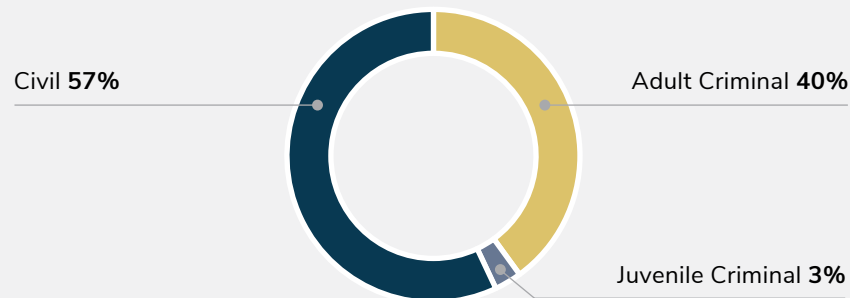
Tenth Judicial District Court Chief Judge Albert "Scooter" Mitchell (right) talks with Thirteenth Judicial District Court Chief Judge George P. Eichwald during a break from the Judiciary's Budget Committee meeting.

# 11<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

*McKinley and San Juan Counties*

8 District Court Judges  
9 Magistrate Court Judges  
120 Full-Time Employees

## 2022 Fiscal Year Caseload New, reactivated and reopened cases: 8,983



## Disposition Rate



## Highlights

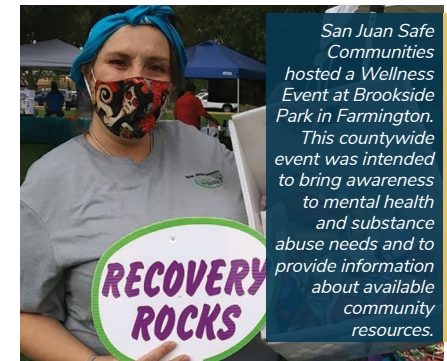
**JURY TRIALS.** 32 criminal and civil jury trials in district courts, and 30 jury trials in magistrate courts.

**FAREWELL AND WELCOME.** Court Executive Officer Weldon Neff retired after 24 years with the Judiciary. He was succeeded by Jodie Schwebel, who previously was deputy CEO.

**TREATMENT COURTS.** 53 graduates from adult and juvenile drug courts, adult mental health court and magistrate DWI court. The problem solving courts organized a wide range of activities, including having clients create an art piece to bring suicide prevention awareness to the community and raising plants to encourage clients to maintain a positive outlook in all of life's situations.

**PRETRIAL SERVICES.** Judges in the San Juan County Magistrate Courts began receiving evidence-based information from the Public Safety Assessment (PSA) and a comprehensive background check of defendants to help in setting conditions of release. About 3,000 PSA reports and background investigations were completed for felony and misdemeanor cases in the Farmington and Aztec courts. Of that, 2,041 magistrate court defendants were ordered to pretrial services supervision.

**GRANTS.** The district courts received two grants from the New Mexico Sentencing Commission: \$10,000 for the pretrial services program to help defendants make court appearances and comply with pretrial requirements and \$30,000 to aid in the recovery of drug and mental health court participants by expanding peer and alumni support services.



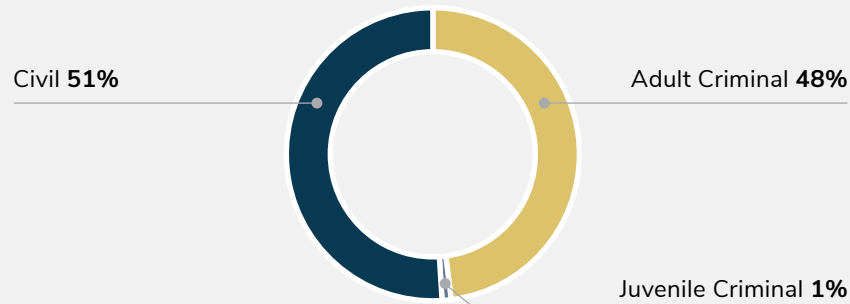


# 12<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

*Lincoln and Otero Counties*

5 District Court Judges  
4 Magistrate Court Judges  
56 Full-Time Employees

## 2022 Fiscal Year Caseload New, reactivated and reopened cases: 5,060



## Disposition Rate



## Highlights

**JURY TRIALS.** 68 criminal jury trials in district courts, and 17 jury trials in magistrate courts.

**TREATMENT COURTS.** 17 graduates of adult drug courts in Ruidoso and Alamogordo and a veterans treatment court.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE.** The self-help department used 5,922 times by members of the public, and about 182 visitors received assistance in Spanish. The clerk's office provided services in Spanish to 412 people.

**ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION.** 131 mediations conducted, with 46 full agreements and 27 partial agreements.

**SERVING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.** 87 children in abuse and neglect cases served by CASA volunteers. Launched a Safe Exchange and Supervised Visitation (SESV) program in Otero County and an expansion is planned into Lincoln County. The program provides supervised visits and places for safe exchanges of children in cases involving parental disputes including divorce, custody and domestic violence.

**NEW COURT BUILDING.** Construction began on a new courthouse in Ruidoso. The Judiciary partnered with the Village of Ruidoso for the magistrate court building that also will provide limited district court services, including in-person filing of cases. The facility will be completed in early 2023, providing better access to court services for Lincoln County residents.

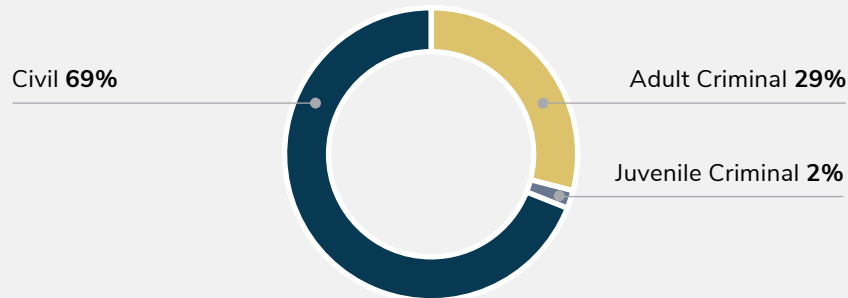


# 13<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

*Cibola, Sandoval and Valencia Counties*

8 District Court Judges  
8 Magistrate Court Judges  
117 Full-Time Employees

## 2022 Fiscal Year Caseload New, reactivated and reopened cases: 10,143



## Disposition Rate



## Highlights

**JURY TRIALS.** 16 criminal and civil jury trials in district courts, and 4 jury trials in magistrate courts.

**TREATMENT COURTS.** 34 graduates of adult and juvenile drug court, magistrate DWI drug court and a behavioral health treatment court.

**NEW JUDGE.** Karl W. Reifsteck was appointed district court judge in Sandoval County by the governor. He filled a new position created by the Legislature. Judge Reifsteck previously served as the district's court executive officer.

**PRETRIAL SERVICES.** 1,356 defendants referred to pretrial services in the district.

**PREVENTING FORECLOSURES.** 90% of cases resolved in which homeowners and other parties fully participated in the district's foreclosure settlement program. Services expanded to courts in the Fourth Judicial District and Lea County in the Fifth Judicial District. The program provides training to judges and court employees for implementing new programs in other districts.

**ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION.** 79% settlement rate for domestic relations cases referred to mediation.

**NEW COURTHOUSE.** Broke ground in April 2022 on a new courthouse in Belen for the magistrate and municipal courts. Completion is expected in early 2023.

**IMPROVED SECURITY.** Contracted with the sheriff's departments in Valencia and Sandoval counties for deputies to provide security at entrances of magistrate courts in the counties.

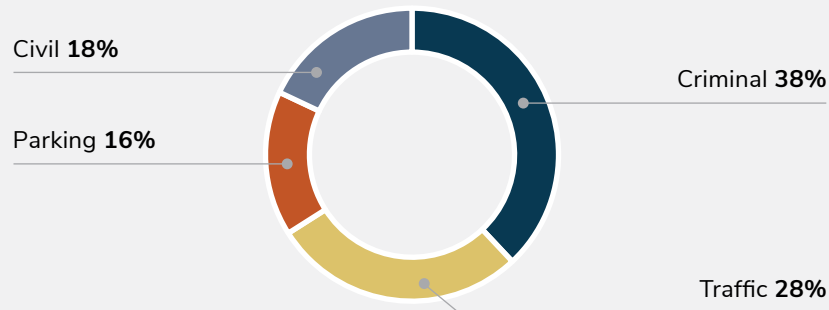


**LAW CLERKS.** The district participated in the Judicial Clerkship Program by providing training and mentoring for law students during a summer externship. Two students performed legal research and writing for judges and observed the work of court clerks and courtroom proceedings.

# BERNALILLO COUNTY METROPOLITAN COURT

19 Judges  
321 Full-Time Employees

## 2022 Fiscal Year Caseload New, reactivated and reopened cases: 58,580



## Disposition Rate



## Highlights

**NEW JUDGES.** Judges Nina Safier and Asra I. Elliott were appointed to the bench by the governor.

**RETIREMENTS.** Judges Henry A. Alaniz and Victor E. Valdez retired.

**NEW DUTIES.** Judge Vidalia Chavez transferred to the court's Civil Division after serving seven years on the criminal bench.

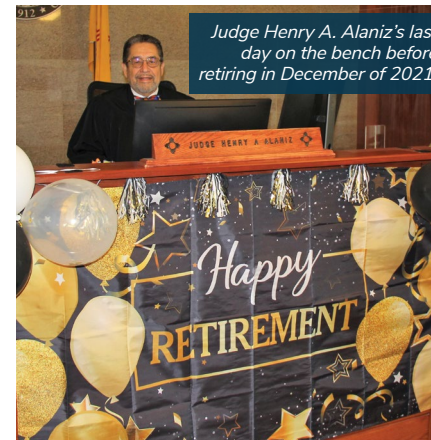
**TREATMENT COURTS.** 87 graduates of DWI recovery, healing-to-wellness, veterans, domestic violence and behavioral health treatment courts.

**SPECIALTY COURTS.** 80 graduates of the Domestic Violence Early Intervention Program and 72 homeless or precariously housed people graduated from the Outreach Court.

**CLEARING CASES.** 63,581 virtual hearings and 3,751 in-person hearings were conducted with protocols to safeguard people against the spread of COVID-19. 3,249 preliminary hearings were scheduled in felony cases. Criminal bench trials resumed in person in July 2021.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE.** Customer Service Division assisted 83,738 people over the phone and 16,521 in person. Self-Help Center celebrated 20 years of service and aided 9,834 self-represented litigants in person, by phone and through email. Monthly clinics offered free assistance over the phone on civil legal matters for 159 people.

**ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION.** Mediations in 639 cases.



## FINES, FEES AND RESTITUTION.

Transferred nearly \$2.2 million in fines and fees in traffic and criminal cases to various state funds and collected \$40,191 in court-ordered restitution payments to compensate victims for financial losses.

**PUBLIC RECORDS.** Responded to 3,046 public records requests.

**WEDDINGS.** Judges performed weddings virtually for 31 couples on Valentine's Day.



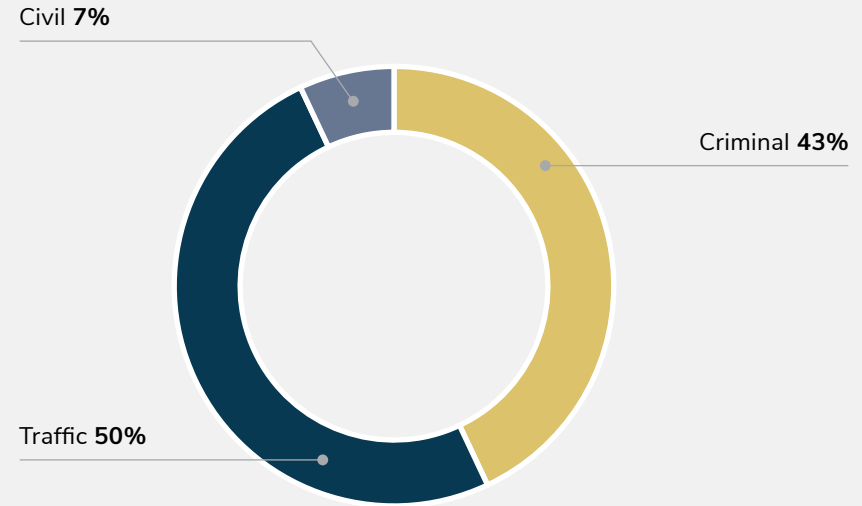
# MAGISTRATE COURTS

46 Courts Statewide  
67 Judges

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.



## 2022 Fiscal Year Caseload New, reactivated and reopened cases: 139,641



## Disposition Rate



# Administrative Office of the Courts - Court Operations

## THE WARRANT ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

expanded its focus to prevention of noncompliance by focusing efforts in three areas: citation processing, compliance, and customer service. With 21 employees working out of Las Cruces and Rio Rancho, the program has doubled the number of traffic cases processed, increased compliance with court orders, reduced failures to appear, and expanded customer service capabilities. The customer service unit serves all state courts, and the citation processing and compliance units will serve all magistrate courts by the end of fiscal year 2023.

**THE CITATION PROCESSING UNIT** continued to reduce failures to appear by an average of 19% in 29 counties across the state by conducting research (addresses, phone numbers) before entering data into the case management system. Implementation of the text message and automated phone call reminders in FY23 will continue to drive down the number of failures to appear across the state.

**THE COMPLIANCE UNIT** has undertaken an intensive review of all cases in warrant status. In FY22, the unit reviewed 18,149 cases. By obtaining new contact information for court customers, the unit assisted the public in becoming compliant in 14,727 outstanding cases. Of the cases researched, 8% were closed upon determination that the court customer is deceased. Additionally, the compliance unit is assisting courts in 19 counties with routine compliance duties including warrant validations, failure to pay summonses and failure to pay warrants.

**THE CUSTOMER SERVICE UNIT** expanded hours of operation and is now available from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. The Customer Service Unit serves the entire Judiciary by providing court information, forms, copies of documents, and general information on court procedures. By acting as a liaison between the court



*The New Mexico Supreme Court visited the Central Processing Unit in Las Cruces in early April, 2022. (Standing, from l-r) Adrian Herrera, Cynthia Pacheco, Hilda Ruiz, Justice Julie J. Vargas, Justice C. Shannon Bacon, Chief Justice Michael E. Vigil, Justice David K. Thomson, Rhonda Reeves, Justice Briana H. Zamora, Davina Nevarez, Judge Conrad Perea, Nayetzy Garcia, Valerie Vega. (Sitting, from l-r) Cesar Gaytan, Estevan Herrera, Jessie Archuleta, Desiree Martinez, Hanna Matthews and Mark Tomada.*

customer and the courts, the unit has been able to follow court customers through the court process, and this has promoted the goal of access to justice. In FY22, the customer service unit answered 32,030 calls and placed calls to 105,673 court customers.

**THE COURT SECURITY** team provided 12 in-person and remote training sessions throughout the year, which included Active Shooter, Stop the Bleed, Courtroom Safety, and New Judge Safety training. The training sessions were provided statewide to municipal, magistrate, district and appellate courts. 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. In addition to training, the court security team has conducted various security assessments at courts around the state and has made recommendations on emergency plans. The Statewide Courthouse Security Committee is developing standards and recommendations for implementing policies.



# Facilities Management

Magistrate courts require improved facilities to accommodate the public's need for judicial services. The Facilities Management Bureau has conducted site visits of all magistrate courts throughout the state to meet with court staff, assess and document needs, and prioritize projects.

## IN 2022, CONSTRUCTION BEGAN ON FOUR NEW MAGISTRATE COURT FACILITIES:

- Belen Magistrate Court, with completion date in early 2023;
- Springer Magistrate Court, which will be finished early in 2023;
- Ruidoso Magistrate Court, scheduled to be completed early in 2023;
- Lovington Magistrate Court, which will be completed in December 2022.

## THE FACILITIES MANAGEMENT TEAM ALSO WORKED ON THE FOLLOWING:

- Doña Ana County Magistrate Court in Anthony. Oversaw the project and played a major role in relocating Doña Ana Magistrate Court into a newly renovated facility. The court features a new building security system.
- Colfax County Magistrate Court in Raton. Combined resources with the Eighth Judicial District Court to upgrade with new security features and court furnishings in both courtrooms.
- Grant County Magistrate Court in Lordsburg. Received much needed upgrades including a new building security system, new carpet, new interior paint and new office furniture.
- Las Cruces Warrant Enforcement Office. Coordinated renovations that included repairs, electrical upgrades, new paint, complete restroom remodel and new energy efficient LED fixtures.
- Grant County Magistrate Court in Silver City. Renovating an old building donated by Grant County into a new magistrate court in Silver City, complete with a new building security system, new court furnishings with high-grade security features, a new audio-visual system and new office furniture. Mid-October opening.
- Completed digital file conversion projects in Clayton, Springer, Tucumcari, Truth or Consequences and Taos, reducing reliance on paper file retention and saving office space.



From L to R - AOC's Court Operations Director Jason Clack, District Judge Ellen Jessen, Magistrate Judge Mickie Vega, Magistrate Judge Katie Lund, New Mexico Supreme Court Chief Justice Michael Vigil, District Judge Daniel Bryant, Chief District Judge Angie Schneider and AOC Director Artie Pepin break ground on the new magistrate and district courthouse in Ruidoso, New Mexico.



The new courthouse in Springer, NM will have secure holding areas for in-custody defendants, a larger multi-purpose courtroom, jury box and gallery, attorney/client rooms, staff areas, public areas and a jury deliberation room. Currently, jury trials take place at Raton Magistrate Court because of space limitations. Breaking ground on April 18, 2022: (Left to Right) State Sen. Pete Campos, State Rep. Roger Montoya, Springer Mayor Boe Lopez, 8th Judicial District Chief Judge Emilio Chavez, Springer Magistrate Court Judge Felix Peña and Supreme Court Chief Justice C. Shannon Bacon.

City and state leaders broke ground on April 4, 2022, for the new magistrate/municipal courthouse in Belen. Pictured from left are Sen. Greg Baca, Belen Councilors Frank Ortega and Yvette Padilla, Magistrate Judge John Chavez, Belen Mayor Robert Noblin, New Mexico Supreme Court Chief Justice Michael E. Vigil, Belen Municipal Judge Keith Norwood and Councilors Danny Bernal Jr. and Steve Holdman.





### PLANS UNDER DEVELOPMENT:

- A new state-owned Santa Fe magistrate court building with five courtrooms
- New magistrate court buildings in Clovis and Grants
- Planning for court consolidation projects with Clayton and Santa Rosa as priorities







Chief Justice C. Shannon Bacon swears in Lysette Romero Cordova as Supreme Court Chief Deputy Clerk.



Outgoing Ninth Judicial District Chief Judge Drew Tatum swears in Judge Ben Cross who was appointed by the governor in October 2021.



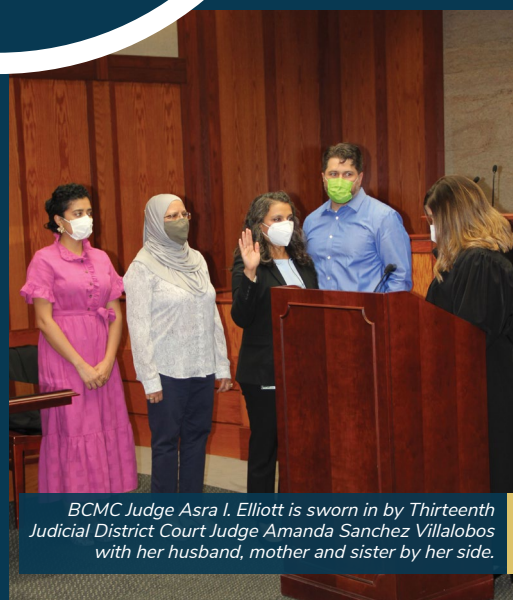
BCMC Judge Nina Safer is sworn in on March 14, 2022 by retired Metro Court Judge Henry A. Alaniz with her husband and daughter by her side.



Third Judicial District Court Judge Jessica Streeter was sworn in on April 18, 2022.



Judge Noreen Hendrickson on Tuesday, July 13, 2021 was sworn in as the new Quay County Magistrate Judge in the Quay County District Courtroom in Tucumcari. She was appointed by Governor Lujan-Grisham.



BCMC Judge Asra I. Elliott is sworn in by Thirteenth Judicial District Court Judge Amanda Sanchez Villalobos with her husband, mother and sister by her side.



Thirteenth Judicial District Court Judge Karl W. Reifsteck, with his wife at his side, was sworn in on July 7, 2022 by Chief Judge George Eichwald.





# Getting Back Into the Community





# PROGRAMS





# Adult Guardianship and Conservatorship

A district court judge may appoint a guardian and/or a conservator for an adult found lacking capacity to manage finances, property, health care or living arrangements. At the end of 2021, there were 5,760 open adult guardianship/conservatorship cases statewide.

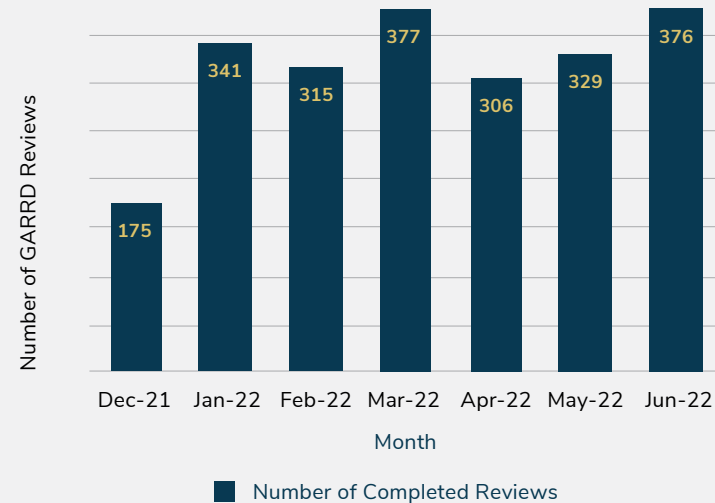
District	Pending	Reopened	Adjudicated	Total
1	155	38	423	616
2	133	104	1980	2217
3	36	4	651	691
4	6	3	231	240
5	30	6	419	455
6	15	9	114	138
7	69	7	28	104
8	24	5	79	108
9	9	3	117	129
10	3	1	25	29
11	39	13	119	171
12	25	6	177	208
13	79	36	539	654
Total	623	235	4902	5760

**HOUSE BILL 234.** The Legislature passed House Bill 234 in 2021, establishing a new division at the Administrative Office of the Courts. The Guardianship Annual Report Review Division ("GARRD") began compliance reviews of annual reports filed by court-appointed guardians in December 2021.

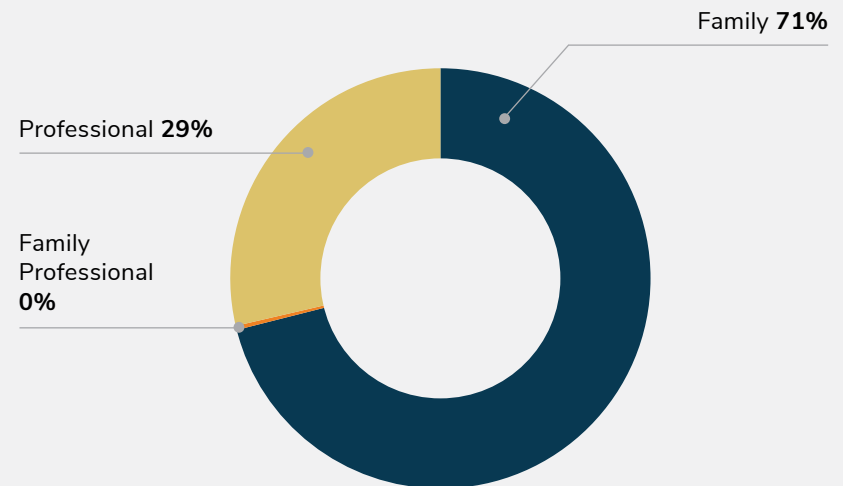
**GARRD COMPLIANCE REVIEWS.** Compliance reviews focus on the guardian's compliance with statutory obligations and previous judicial orders. GARRD staff does not conduct in-person visits to check on the protected person or make any legal determinations about the appropriateness of the guardianship or the guardian's actions. The results of GARRD's compliance reviews are forwarded to the assigned judge.

In first six months, GARRD staff reviewed 2,219 annual reports filed in adult guardianship/conservatorship cases:

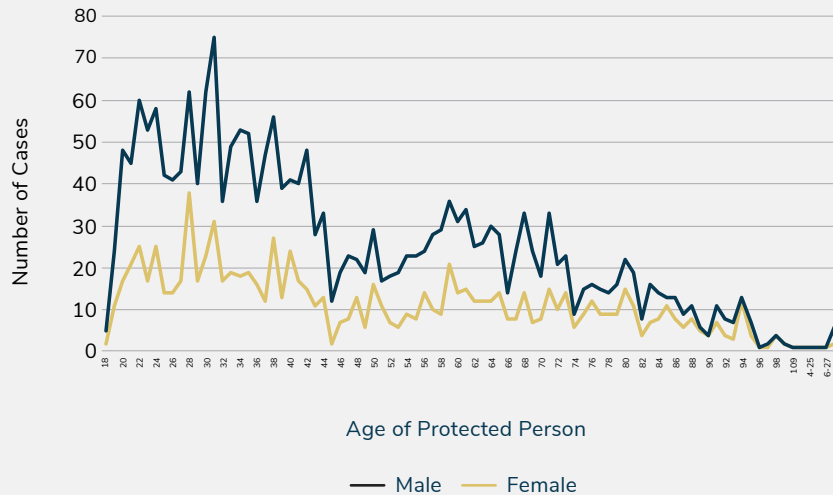
Completed GARRD Reviews 2022  
December 2021 - June 2022



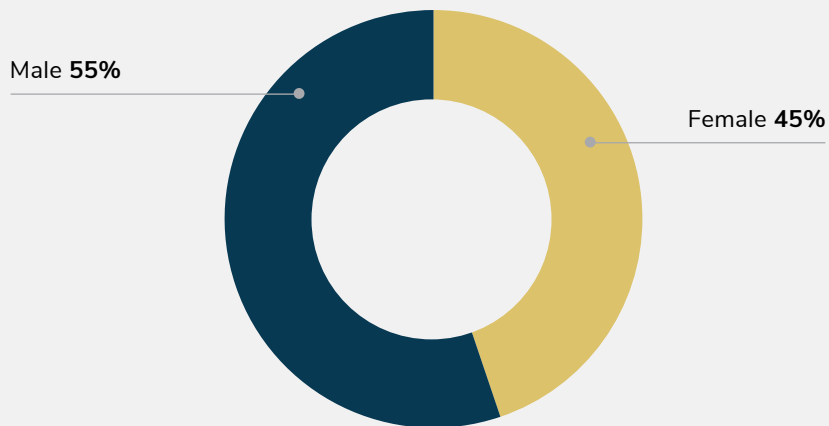
Allocation of Family and Professional  
Guardians GARRD Reviews:  
December 2021-2022



Age Distribution by Gender  
Guardianship Annual Report Review Division  
December 2021-June 2022



Gender of Protected Person GARRD Reviews:  
December 2021-June 2022



## Behavioral Health Department

The Behavioral Health Department seeks to improve outcomes for individuals with justice-system involvement and behavioral health needs by increasing cross system collaboration, providing ongoing support, and access to training and learning opportunities for professionals who work within the behavioral health and criminal justice systems.

### In FY22, major accomplishments:

- Created the Behavioral Health Department within the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to provide leadership and support for behavioral health initiatives within the Judiciary and in collaboration with local, statewide and national partners.
- Collaborated with other departments within AOC and judicial districts to provide “How Being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Responses” training to court and collaboration partner teams statewide.
- Trained cross system collaboration partners in how to plan and deliver Sequential Intercept Model/Leading Change Mapping Activities to identify resources and system gaps to improve outcomes for community members. Planned and facilitated SIM/Leading Change Mapping workshops for Taos, Colfax and Union Counties.
- Partnered with the Council of State Governments and the University of New Mexico to implement a pilot project aimed at increasing education on Substance Abuse and Medication Assisted Treatment for members of the Judiciary.
- Leveraging funds received from the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program grant to implement 10 pilot projects aimed at reducing engagement in the criminal justice system for individuals with behavioral health and substance misuse challenges in the following counties: Bernalillo, Colfax, Grant, Hidalgo, Lincoln, Otero, Roosevelt, Sandoval and Sierra. Each project will focus on implementing a solution developed by a team of local stakeholders and developing sustainability plans for the pilot after grant funding expires, if successful. A few of the approaches include:
  - Linking to services that are culturally responsive for Native American female identified individuals;
  - Bringing comprehensive behavioral health training opportunities to rural Northern New Mexico;

- System navigation services for individuals with behavioral health needs and court system involvement;
- Leveraging of telehealth in rural areas and enhanced training in mental health for law enforcement agencies in multiple rural communities.
- The department provided ongoing technical assistance and support to treatment court programs and judicial entities that include training, consulting, and reviewing treatment and behavioral response portions of the Department for Therapeutic Justice certification process, and facilitating connection to needed community resources.
- Provided administrative and subject matter support for the New Mexico Supreme Court Commission on Mental Health and Competency, established in 2022.

## Children's Court Improvement Commission

The Supreme Court's Children's Court Improvement Commission (CCIC) is the statewide, multidisciplinary taskforce and advisory board of the Children's Court Improvement Program (CCIP) in New Mexico, a nationwide initiative funded by a yearly grant awarded to the AOC from the federal Children's Bureau. The purpose of CCIP is to improve child safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes for families related to child abuse and neglect, foster care, and adoption, and it has been instrumental in improving the child welfare system by convening stakeholders from various fields.

Staffed by the AOC, the Commission's members come from both the private and public sectors and represent a broad range of sectors of the child welfare community, including: a Supreme Court justice and judges from district courts, tribal courts and the Court of Appeals; members of the Children's Youth and Families Department; court-appointed attorneys representing youth as Guardians ad Litem or Youth Attorneys and court-appointed attorneys who represent parents; statewide directors from Court Appointed Special Advocates and the Substitute Care Advisory Council; resource parents; education representatives; treatment providers; legislators; the Corrine Wolfe Center for Child and

Family Justice at the University of New Mexico School of Law; NMCAN; and young people and parents with *lived* experience in the child welfare system. In addition to voting commission members, the CCIC has more than 100 interested parties who participate in one or more of the CCIC's workgroups established in its 2021 strategic plan.

**COMMISSION WORKGROUPS.** Each workgroup plans and creates projects and training that directly affect child welfare. The CCIC's seven workgroups are: Legal Stakeholders Workgroup, Reinstatement of Parental Rights Workgroup, Early Intervention Legal Services Workgroup, Enhanced Family Supports Workgroup, Crossover Youth Workgroup, Data Driven Workgroup, and the Legislative Workgroup. Each workgroup engages members of the children's court community who historically have not always had a voice within the CCIC, and every workgroup has youth representatives.

**TRAINING.** The CCIP, through an agreement with the AOC, supports training opportunities in collaboration with the University of New Mexico's Corinne Wolfe Center for Child and Family Justice (CWC), and hosts the annual training for new attorneys and judges practicing in child welfare. Additionally, the CCIC/CCIP provides the AOC with time, knowledge, and financial support through an agreement to aid the annual Children's Law Institute (CLI) hosted by New Mexico State University's Center of Innovation for Behavioral Health and Wellbeing. In January 2022, the 29th annual CLI was virtual for a second year with a theme of "Finding Our Rhythm" and with 1,029 attendees. Multiple CCIC Workgroups coordinated training and/or presented workshops at the CLI.

**LEGISLATION.** In 2022, CCIC's legislative work and presence grew with the support and passage of two critical bills affecting child welfare:

- The Family Representation and Advocacy Act created a new Office of Family Representation and Advocacy which provides for a systematic improvement of representation of children and families involved in New Mexico's child welfare system.
- The Indian Family Protection Act (IFPA) codified the federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) for the State of New Mexico and added additional protections for Native American children and families.



Children's Court Judges' Association Chair and Chief Judge of the Twelfth Judicial District Angie Schneider talks with retired Judge John Romero at Raising the Bar training on June 15, 2022.

## Children's Court Judges' Association

On November 18, 2021, by order of the Supreme Court, the Children's Court Judges' Association (CCJA) was established as an official Supreme Court entity. In its order, the Supreme Court tasked the CCJA with arranging trainings, engaging in focused discussions, and working together to provide input and recommendations regarding Children's Court to courts, justices, and judges around the state as well as other Supreme Court Committees and Commissions.



On November 18, 2021, by Order of the Supreme Court, **the Children's Court Judges' Association (CCJA) was established as an official Supreme Court entity.**

The CCJA, under the leadership of new CCJA Chair Chief Judge Angie Schneider of the Twelfth Judicial District Court, meets monthly, rotating trainings and discussions between abuse and neglect and juvenile justice issues in the state.

### In FY22, the CCJA:

**SHARING IDEAS AND KNOWLEDGE.** Invited numerous speakers to share ideas and knowledge on topics such as Visitation Hosts/Icebreakers; the Positive Assessment Change Tool (PACT); Enhanced Family Time; Interest of Justice Implementation (new federal requirements under the Juvenile Delinquency and Justice Act); Youth Medication from the Youth Perspective; Youth Medication from the Behavioral Health Perspective; the Gun Violence Protection and Intervention Taskforce; and legislative updates pertaining to Children's Court.

**PROVIDED TRAINING.** Planned and hosted the first "Petra Jimenez Maes 'Raising the Bar' Children's Court Judges Training", a half-day, presession for Children's Court Judges at Judicial Conclave.

- The first session, "Elevate Your Practice: Court Review of the Case Plan for Sufficiency and Addressing the Impact of COVID-19," pertained to abuse and neglect and was presented by the Hon. John J. Romero, Jr. (retired) and Senior Attorney Twila Hoon.
- The second session, "Juvenile Probation Transformation, Community Partnership, and the Role of Judges: How COVID-19 affected juvenile probation agreements and what judicial officers can do to make it a more effective tool for young people and their families," was presented by Annie Salsich, Consultant on behalf of the Annie E. Casey Foundation; Albino Garcia, Exec. Director and Founder of La Plazita Institute; and Senior Attorney Alison B. Pauk.





## Children's Court Mediation Program

The Children's Court Mediation Program (CCMP) is committed to providing quality mediation services for child welfare cases. The program is operated and administered by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) with federal funding and support from the Children, Youth and Families Department

(CYFD). The program provides mediation services to families and professionals in 12 of the 13 judicial districts in New Mexico. Mediation participants may include a variety of professionals such as social workers, attorneys, child advocates and potential adoptive families, as well as the family members in crisis.

The program's 12 contract mediators are highly educated and skilled, and many have served the program since its inception. CCMP is very capable of managing current referrals but may look to contract with additional mediators if necessary. CCMP began contracting with a Spanish speaking mediator, which expands the program's ability to provide quality effective mediation services. A new statewide program manager provided training and educational opportunities for program mediators, promotional activities, budget management, administrative operations, as well as qualitative and quantitative reporting.

### In FY22:

- A total of 488 referrals were processed, down slightly from the prior fiscal year, with the majority of referrals being time limited reunification mediations numbering 421.
- The number of open adoption case referrals is 67, down from 76 in FY20 and FY21 respectively.
- The CCMP received funding from the Access to Visitation Grant through CYFD to provide post kinship guardianship contract agreement mediations for non-CYFD families but did not receive any referrals. AOC will make another effort to market this service effectively to all partner agencies and attempt to provide this specific mediation service again in FY23.

### Moving forward the focus will be:

- Continue to review and revise program forms, mediator policy and procedure handbook, and coordinator manual.
- Increase promotion of program services in parts of the state with low referral rates, particularly the Southeast.



## Commission on Access to Justice

The New Mexico Commission on Access to Justice continued its "Justice for All" initiative designed to assist people with essential civil legal needs. This year's initiative continued its focus on addressing the civil legal challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and also expanded its work on identifying barriers to access to justice and working to create recommendations to improve access.

### The commission continued to address civil legal challenges created for New Mexicans by the pandemic and other areas of need:

- Held biweekly meetings where legal service providers can share information and resources about pandemic-related challenges; expungement; wildfire relief; and self-help center access in New Mexico courts. Community webinars were recorded and are on the Access to Justice website under ATJ Resources – ATJ Community Webinars.
- Provided recommendations to the Supreme Court about the process for lifting the eviction stays in a modified rollout by district.
- Continued partnering on settlement facilitation programs to assist landlords and tenants in eviction cases.
- The ATJ Communications IT Group partnered with New Mexico United during an August 6th home game to further the "Justice for All" initiative by providing information about civil legal service providers during the game.
- Collaborated with civil legal service providers to coordinate efforts and highlight needs and access in rural New Mexico.

# Commission on Equity and Justice

The Commission on Equity and Justice meets quarterly and was established by the New Mexico Supreme Court on October 19, 2020. The commission core values are centered on identifying and repairing the causes of racial inequities in the judicial system.

The commission continued efforts to recognize the barriers hindering equity and justice, and courthouses around the state are exploring how their environments can be more welcoming and accessible to all New Mexicans. The commission's work was supplemented by work with other commissions and divisions within the Judiciary.

## In FY22, the commission:

- Increased participation from underrepresented groups by building relationships around the state.
- Partnered with Adrien Lawyer to provide mandatory Transgender Cultural Fluency Training for all judicial officers and employees, with a forward by Chief Justice C. Shannon Bacon.
- More than 95% of judges and employees have completed harassment prevention, bias awareness and diversity and inclusion training.

# Court Appointed Attorney Program

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. The Court Appointed Attorney Program (CAAP) coordinates and processes payments for contract and noncontract counsel across the state. The CAAP seeks to equitably allocate funds while maintaining focus on quality representation.

Attorneys are typically appointed in abuse and neglect proceedings, cases involving parentage, mental health and disabilities proceedings,

cases warranting Guardians ad Litem in adult guardianship cases or family law, child guardianship cases, persons involuntarily quarantined as well as parent representation in private adoption cases. The program also supports judicial districts needing to identify potential appointee pools and coordinates more than 100 contracts for attorneys available to represent children, youth and parents or other guardians in the proceedings or in appeals resulting from those cases.

Attorneys funded by the CAAP provided representation in more than 2,500 cases, including sequestered and appellate matters.

The Administrative Office of the Courts provides fiscal oversight, ensures compliance with contractual obligations by attorneys, identifies and provides training materials and opportunities, and works collaboratively with the Court Improvement Project, New Mexico State University's Center of Innovation, and the University of New Mexico's Corinne Wolfe Center for Child and Family Justice to offer attorneys free or reduced cost continuing education and trial skills training. The program also coordinates and provides administrative assistance to the Family Representation Commission and the newly-formed Office of Family Representation and Advocacy.

## During FY22 the AOC contracted with:

- 87 abuse and neglect attorneys who also handle cases under Fostering Connections and ICWA matters. These contractors are composed of solo practitioners, small firms and three nonprofit legal organizations. CAAP also contracted with three appellate attorneys.
- 12 mental health attorneys on contract and numerous noncontract attorneys statewide representing various civil law cases.

## Training, sponsorship and other efforts:

- Funded attendance for approximately 90 attorneys at the Children's Law Institute, which provides continuing education and training on child welfare cases.
- Provided opportunity for New Mexican practitioners to attend the American Bar Association Children's Law training, a 4-day program featuring sessions about the implementation of the Indian Family Protection Act.

- Produced appellate training manual and coordinated the training at the Children's Law Institute.
- Collaborated with the Children, Youth and Families Department to draft materials and provide input on federal reports, as well as engage in cross-agency meetings to address challenges.
- Supported expansion and continuation of the federally funded interdisciplinary New Mexico Family Advocacy Program in the Second, Eleventh and Thirteenth Judicial Districts. Preliminary data indicates the cases which utilized the program saw a decrease in the time it took children to exit foster care.

### Support in developing attorney pilot programs:

- CAAP helped organize trainings and provided materials before the newly created Indian Family Protection Act went into effect July 1, 2022.
- CAAP supported implementation of the Indian Family Protection Act while continuing to support the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Court in the Second Judicial District's Children's Court. The ICWA Court serves specific needs of Native American families and is the sixth ICWA Court in the United States.



## 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 reenter foster care and more likely to succeed in schools according to national data.

### CASA at a glance:

- 13 CASA programs operate in 26 counties
- 879 trained and supervised volunteers donated 46,941 hours to advocate for children in foster care.
- 24,278 hours applied to advocacy for children in foster care.
- 1,353 children and youth received support from a CASA.
- 797 cases were assigned a CASA.

### FY22 Highlights:

- All programs completed the New Mexico CASA Standards training which included standardization of processes and documentation for programs statewide.
- The newly developed New Mexico CASA website rolled out. This tool allows local CASA programs to access information relevant to New Mexico CASA programs such as state practice standards and assessment information, volunteer training and continuing education opportunities, the CSE-IT *Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool*, Indian Child Welfare Act resources and Educational Advocacy resources to name a few.

NMCASA Performance Measures FY22 (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022)		
Judicial District	Number of Abuse/Neglect Cases Assigned to CASA Advocates this Fiscal Year	Number of Children in Abuse/Neglect Cases Assigned to CASA Advocates this Fiscal Year
1	91	146
2	102	162
3	76	124
4	16	45
5	256	445
6	30	42
7	6	6
8	63	113
11	67	132
12	51	87
13	39	51
Statewide	797	1353



The number of children in protective services has declined, which contributed to lower numbers of children served in CASA programs in the state. In the Second Judicial District, the number of children in protective custody declined by 50% over the last two years.

Another factor is that volunteerism has declined. Fidelity Charitable Organization reported two out of three stopped volunteering or contributing time due to the pandemic. Of those who continued to volunteer, two out of three turned to virtual or remote opportunities. Before the pandemic, 81% of volunteers worked in person. Recruiters have been hired in the Second, Fourth and Thirteenth Judicial Districts to engage with their communities and build volunteerism for CASA.

Despite the realities, the number of children served in the state in FY22 versus FY21 decreased by only 114. CASA programs have adapted and appoint volunteers who report to the courts the needs of children who have been abused and neglected.



## Department for Therapeutic Justice

The Department for Therapeutic Justice (DTJ) advances the healing, transformative administration of law in support of justice-involved persons and the professionals who work within the criminal justice and behavioral health systems.

New Mexico's 56 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, these yearlong programs treat justice-involved individuals with substance use and/or mental health conditions – common drivers of repeat criminal behavior – while supporting and holding the offender accountable through frequent drug tests, supervisory support visits and judicial hearings.



*The first meeting of NM attendees at the National Association of Drug Court Professionals national conference in July, 2022.*

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

### In FY22, major accomplishments included:

- Adding a statewide program manager position to enhance the program certification process, the centerpiece of the department's quality engagement initiatives. The NM certification process seeks to align individual programs with the NM Treatment Court Standards and is the most thorough and supportive initiative of its kind.
- Maintaining an active training schedule to support current and fledgling treatment courts. Coordinators and judges regularly attend "guild" meetings, joining colleagues to consider 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.





## Six treatment court alumni programs exist or are in the process of forming around the state.

- Making treatment court data and comparative analytics available through dashboards accessible in local jurisdictions and in aggregate by the DTJ through a statewide information management system. Coordinating provision and evaluation of services is increasingly more efficient as implementation continue. Several local government misdemeanor compliance programs have begun using probation modules within this same information management system, further expanding the potential efficiencies of both service delivery and reporting.
- Creating alumni startup guides to assist local jurisdictions in establishing alumni programs. Six treatment court alumni programs exist or are in the process of forming around the state. Ongoing dialogue and training occurred with 12 prospective alumni coordinators. A dozen training opportunities were provided for treatment court program professional staff to better understand how to develop and manage an alumni program.
- Coordinating with local government misdemeanor compliance programs that agreed to serve as pilot sites for a Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) Framework pilot project. Located primarily in jurisdictions with treatment courts at the magistrate and district court levels, these sites will receive enhanced professional development opportunities to understand and implement services according to RNR principles.
  - Strategies include engaging supportive supervision and treatment interventions for the right people, at the right time, in the right dosage/intensity, for the right duration, and in the right way.
  - The DTJ hosted a kick-off event in partnership with the National Drug Court Institute attended by more than 60 justice professionals.

## FY22 Performance Measures

Total Treatment Court Programs: **56**

Active Participants on 6/30/2022: **608**

Total Participants Since Inception: **27,281**

Total Graduates Since Inception: **14,019**

Intent-to-Treat Recidivism: **17.18%**

Graduate Recidivism: **9.73%**

# of Graduates: **325**

Graduation Rate: **57.22%**

Cost/Client/Day: **\$32.91**

Employment Rate of Adult Graduates: **92.68%**

Educational Attainment Rate of Juvenile Graduates: **54.55%**

# Domestic Violence-Firearm Relinquishment

State law allows judges to order the relinquishment of firearms in a domestic violence order of protection 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 nonrelinquishment 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 judge makes a credible threat finding. Firearm relinquishment forms were filed in 170 domestic violence order of protection cases from July 2021 to June 2022.

**FIREARM RELINQUISHMENT RECEIPT.** The judge made a separate finding that the restrained party posed a credible threat to the protected party in 33 cases in which firearms were relinquished to either law enforcement or a federal firearms licensee, and in each case a receipt was filed with the court.

**DECLARATION OF NONRELINQUISHMENT.** Of the 170 total cases, a declaration of nonrelinquishment form was filed with the court in 137 cases by the restrained party, denying ownership or possession of any firearms that could be surrendered.

**FORMS FILED.** Counties with the most relinquishment forms filed are: Bernalillo (83), Cibola (9), Curry (6), Doña Ana (7), Grant (5), Otero (10), Quay (6), San Juan (6), Sandoval (6), Santa Fe (7) and Valencia (13).

- Counties with no firearm relinquishment forms filed are: Catron, Colfax, Eddy, Guadalupe, Harding, Hidalgo, Lea, Los Alamos, McKinley, Mora, Roosevelt, San Miguel, Sierra, Socorro, Torrance, and Union.

# Eviction Prevention and Diversion Program

The New Mexico Supreme Court phased in the Eviction Prevention and Diversion (EPD) Program statewide and in stages lifted a moratorium on evictions of people unable to pay their rent during the COVID-19 pandemic. The EPD was created to assist landlords and tenants in court eviction proceedings, in settlement facilitation and with rental and relocation assistance applications and processing. The program began as a pilot in the Ninth Judicial District on February 1, 2022 and was rolled out to the rest of the state in phases as stays on writs of restitution mandated by the Supreme Court were lifted.

For the purposes of the program, eviction cases involving nonpayment of rent were divided into Track A and Track B. Track A consists of cases where a stay is currently in place. Track B cases are newly filed eviction cases or pending cases with no judgment. A case must involve nonpayment of rent to be part of the EPD Program.

Parties in both tracks are contacted prehearing by navigators who assist parties in filling out rental or other assistance applications, and at the hearing, parties will be given the opportunity to participate in settlement facilitation. A post facilitation process ensures proper payment and dismissal of settled cases.

**TIER I:** EPD “navigators” use calls, texts, and emails to reach out to both parties soon after an eviction case is filed to provide information about rental assistance, the court facilitation process, remind parties about the hearing, help fill out rental assistance applications, and facilitation. The Department of Finance and Administration prioritizes EPD-assisted Emergency Rental Assistance Program (now called NM Home Fund) applications. Navigators also help fill out relocation or hotel applications.

**TIER II:** Services also occur post-hearing. At the restitution trial, the judge must ask parties if they will participate in settlement facilitation. If both parties agree, the court will refer the case to settlement facilitation. The parties can work with a third party impartial facilitator to brainstorm options in the hopes of finding a resolution that is satisfactory to both.



## Family Advocacy Program

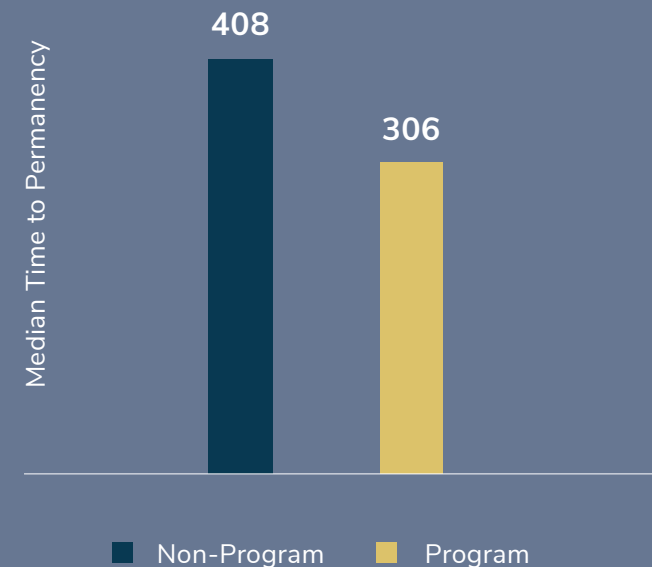
The New Mexico Family Advocacy Program (NMFAP) provides parents in child abuse and neglect cases with an interdisciplinary legal team composed of a lawyer, licensed master's level social worker and a parent peer mentor who has lived experience with the child welfare system. The team collaborates to give needed support to parents to help reunify families when possible and strengthen the parents' ability to care for their children.

**NMFAP SITE EXPANSION AND REACH:** The Children's Bureau awarded the Administrative Office of the Courts 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.

- Expanded to Cibola (13th Judicial District), and San Juan (11th Judicial District) in July and September 2021, respectively. Further expansion to McKinley County (11th Judicial District) began in September 2022.
- By the close of FY22, the program served a total of 207 parents and 326 children.
- The AOC contracted with eight licensed master level social workers, 17 respondent attorneys, two parent peer mentors, one clinical social work consultant, one resource attorney, and the National Center for State Courts, which leads the independent evaluation of the program. Recruitment and training of qualified parent peer mentors is ongoing.
- Facilitated 11 virtual trainings in FY22 on a wide array of topics geared towards improving legal advocacy and practice through the NMFAP ECHO, a knowledge-sharing platform that includes the entire statewide child welfare community.
- Conducted additional outreach to practitioners around the state including court professionals and the state child welfare agency, CYFD. Created joint stakeholder meetings, training sessions and active engagement to develop practice modifications.

**INITIAL FINDINGS ON LONG-TERM OUTCOMES.** Preliminary findings indicate statistically significant differences in program and nonprogram case outcomes, with shorter times to permanency (see chart), higher rates of dismissals and lower rates of reentry into foster care. Surveys of parents were also conducted and indicate parents believe they are receiving the intended support.

### Median Time in Days to Case Closure



**DEVELOPING NMFAP.** Continued to engage in efforts undertaken by the Family Representation Commission (FRC) at meetings and legislative sessions.

- Legislation was signed into law creating an independent agency and NMFAP has continued efforts to support 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

Established in 2020, the Family Representation Commission (FRC) provides guidance on how New Mexico's child welfare system could be better served through legal representation to participants. FRC is chaired by Sixth Judicial District Court Judge Jennifer DeLaney.

### In FY22, the FRC:

- Spearheaded the development of an independent Office of Family Representation and Advocacy (OFRA) ultimately removing from the Judiciary the funding and oversight of court appointed counsel in abuse and neglect cases and other foster care related cases.
- Shepherded the bill through the legislative process with contractors assisting FRC by providing testimony, materials and support to legislators. The legislation passed and was signed into law by the governor, creating OFRA as an independent adjunct executive agency.

**SMOOTH TRANSITION PROCESS.** FRC will assist in coordinating the creation of the new adjunct agency and in assuring that the transition process is able to occur smoothly without a disruption in services of appointed counsel.

- OFRA will commence organizational activities in FY23 and will assume oversight of all abuse and neglect/fostering connection cases in FY24.
- FRC is slated to finish its mission in December of 2022 and will transfer the garnered knowledge and data collected by FRC and stakeholders to the Commission of the Office of Family Representation and Advocacy.



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

## Compilation Commission

The New Mexico Compilation Commission is the official legal publisher of the State of New Mexico. Through updated technology, the commission offers the state's official — current and historical — database of annotated

content of the New Mexico Statutes Annotated 1978, New Mexico Rules, the uniform case law, the New Mexico Constitution, Attorney General Opinions and Session Laws free to the public at [www.NMOneSource.com](http://www.NMOneSource.com)

Print versions of the official annotated statutes, court rules, and specialty manuals remain important to the state to address broadband insufficiencies and user preferences. Through an exclusive content license awarded to a national law publisher, mobile apps and eBooks are now available in addition to print publications when internet service is unavailable in parts of rural New Mexico.



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### New content added in FY22:

- In response to requests from attorneys and legal researchers, the commission has added unannotated versions of the official statutes and court rules as part of its free online public access to NMOneSource.com. The unannotated version of this content provides users with the ability to more easily accomplish legal research within the text of a statute or rule.

## Human Resources Division

The mission of the Administrative Office of the Courts Human Resources Division (AOC HRD) is to provide the New Mexico Judicial Branch (NMJB) with effective, engaging, and innovative direction and guidance and to foster a culture of high performance, respect and excellence.

AOC HRD serves approximately 2,000 judicial officers and employees, and provides expertise and best practices in all areas of human resource management including recruitment, selection and retention, classification and 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.

## During FY22 the AOC HR Division:

- Administered the classification system for the NMJB to ensure administration uniformity. In March 2022, a systematic analysis and position evaluation commenced to confirm that NMJB job descriptions accurately describe the assigned job duties, reflect the current job responsibility and that necessary job-related qualifications standards such as education and experience, are established at an appropriate and consistent level. The evaluation includes a reevaluation of each job classification using both Supreme Court adopted methodology of job measurement and judicial officer and employee feedback scheduled for completion in FY23.
- Continued to manage the New Mexico Judicial Branch Workforce Investment Plan moving employees through the ranges based on time in the job classification. In 2022, the Legislature authorized a 3% salary increase in addition to the 1.5% percent salary adjustment approved by the 2021 Legislature. Both were successfully implemented in FY22.
- Provided a comprehensive list of statewide services to all judicial entities including position recruitment, position reclassification, pay for performance programs, salary adjustments and compensation initiatives, investigations into claims of harassment, discrimination, and retaliation, and personnel rule interpretation and training as well as personnel rule, policy, and employment law compliance guidance.
- Provided training and development opportunities to increase managers' and employees' professional proficiency in supervisory techniques and knowledge of critical employment laws.
- Managed and provided onboarding and new employee orientation monthly to approximately 160 judicial employees via a virtual platform.
- Recruited for approximately 940 job opportunities Judiciary-wide.
- Continued serving on the Supreme Court's Emergency Response Team, assisting judicial entities with COVID-19 cases and questions as well as tracking, logging, and monitoring COVID-19 tests, vaccination data and statistics Judiciary-wide.

The AOC HRD continues to deliver quantitative functions to help ensure that employees thrive and are performing to the best of their ability with the proper guidance, training, and tools to best serve the needs of the Judiciary.

## Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative

The Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) is a nationwide initiative of the Annie E. Casey Foundation to reform the front end of the juvenile justice system by promoting effective collaboration and objective decision making. New Mexico joined the JDAI reform effort in 2003, and Bernalillo County became a JDAI Model Site and Network Learning Lab, one of only four local sites nationwide, in 2005. The JDAI Model Site hosts and teaches hundreds of representatives from all over the country to this day.

In 2015, the Supreme Court, the Children, Youth and Families Department, the New Mexico Counties 33 Strong (formerly Association of Counties), and the Public Education Department formed the collaborative Statewide Leadership Team responsible for expanding JDAI system improvements. The team promotes changes to policies, practices and programs to reduce reliance on secure confinement, reduce crime, improve public safety, reduce racial disparities and bias, save taxpayer dollars and stimulate overall juvenile justice reforms. Supreme Court Justice Julie J. Vargas leads the team.

### In FY22:

- The Leadership Team established a JDAI Coordinating Council whose primary goal is to expand statewide.
- The Leadership Team identified and invited stakeholders from all over the state to participate in the Coordinating Council's kickoff meeting on April 21, 2022. Since then, the Coordinating Council meets monthly to identify issues, prioritize goals, and formulate recommendations and activities for approval by the Leadership Team.

Identifying priorities is still underway for the new JDIA Coordinating Council.



## Judicial Information Division

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

### In FY22, JID:

- Planned and executed a successful statewide implementation of modernized credit card payment options for court fines and fees. District and magistrate courts now process card payments online and at courts for the convenience of the public, a system that was implemented in full compliance with strict security standards and daily protocols to ensure payment data confidentiality. JID also conducted hands-on training for more than 300 judicial personnel.
- Launched cybersecurity training to help ensure the integrity of court data across the state. Judicial staff in all districts leaped forward in their understanding of email intrusions, successfully identifying potential phishing attacks nearly 90% of the time. The JID cybersecurity team also added a team member and increased the focus on network tools and additional authentication for IT staff, and strengthened policies and procedures.
- In partnership with the AOC Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) team created the ADR Magistrate Mediation Application, an Odyssey integrated scheduling and reporting application used by the AOC ADR team and volunteer mediators for remote mediations. The application has simplified the process and saved time, allowing for parties involved to focus on mediation instead of meeting logistics. More than 100 remote mediations were held in the first several months.
- Continued investment in the NM dataXchange platform, working with multiple counties, detention centers, and other justice partners to provide secure, trusted data for informed planning and decision-making. The powerful tool includes maps and other visual tools created with statewide data shared among multiple justice partners. Multiple new

datasets and reports were added to the platform, supporting important initiatives such as pretrial services.

- Created “Connect IT” to understand how to better serve internal court personnel, with a focus on IT solutions that solve pain points, eliminate manual tasks, provide training for key tools, and more.
- Created the What's Next Text service to send text reminders to parties with upcoming court dates. More than 3,000 text messages were delivered to the public within the initial months of operation. The feature is integrated with Odyssey and will be expanded in the future as the courts offer convenient methods to improve communications with people in the justice system.



## Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission

The Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission (JPEC) was established in 1997 by the Supreme Court of New Mexico to support improving the performance of judges and provide useful, credible information to voters about metropolitan, district and Court of Appeals judges, as well as Supreme Court justices standing for retention.

JPEC is an independent, nonpartisan, volunteer group made up of 15 individuals – seven lawyers and eight nonlawyers – who are appointed to staggered terms by the Supreme Court. Commission members are selected from nominations by the governor, chief justice, speaker of the House, Senate president pro tempore, House minority leader, Senate minority leader, and New Mexico State Bar president. Members are appointed to represent divergent professions, backgrounds and geographical areas of the state.





**CHANGE GOVERNING JPEC EVALUATIONS.** In the past, all eligible district court judges stood for retention every six years and all eligible Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court judges stood for retention every four years. Supreme Court justices and Court of Appeals judges stood for retention as their staggered terms expired.

**In 2021, Senate Bill 266 was passed by the Legislature with the stated purpose to:**

- Balance the number of judicial positions appearing on the ballot in any one election cycle,
- Enable more effective evaluation of justices and judges by JPEC, and
- Create greater continuity of judges at the trial court level by not having all judges up for judicial retention in the same election cycle.
- Stagger the terms of district court judges with a third of judges standing for retention in 2024, 2026, and 2028 based on their assigned divisions. For Metropolitan Court judges, the new law staggers their terms so that half of the divisions (even numbers) were up for retention in 2022, and the other half of the divisions (odd number) will be up for retention in 2024. Due to this law change, there may be insufficient time to perform confidential midterm evaluations for some district court judges between now and the 2024 general election because:

- There is not enough time to survey populations twice, thus affecting the quality and quantity of responses; and
- Judge(s) would not have time to improve if weaknesses were identified.

JPEC evaluates judges using an objective, carefully monitored process. Evaluations are based on performance in four main areas: legal ability, fairness, communications skills preparation, attentiveness, temperament and control over proceedings.

JPEC conducts evaluations of judges and justices twice whenever possible:

- Midway through the judge's term in office for the purpose of improving performance. The results are confidential.
- Before a retention election for the purpose of providing information to voters. The results are made public at least 45 days before the retention election.

**Evaluations are performed through:**

- Confidential written surveys conducted by an independent research firm and disseminated to individuals who have worked with the justice or judge.
- Personal interviews with each judge/justice being evaluated.
- Data collected by the Administrative Office of the Courts including caseloads, excusals, recusals, and time it takes to get cases resolved.
- After the interview, self-assessment and review of survey results, JPEC completes an evaluation containing a recommendation to voters of:
  - Retain.
  - Do not retain.
  - No opinion (a majority of eight JPEC members did not agree on a recommendation) or;
  - Insufficient time to evaluate. (JPEC could not conduct an evaluation and make a recommendation to voters because of the time frame of the evaluation, the rules governing JPEC's evaluation process, and New Mexico legislation on judicial retention terms.)

## FY22 Evaluations

JPEC completed retention evaluations for one Supreme Court justice and eight Metropolitan Court judges. Reports and recommendations were posted on the nmjpec.org website on September 16, 2022 and JPEC Chair Denise Torres announced results on that day through a press release and dissemination on social media.

JPEC also conducted confidential interim evaluations for two Supreme Court justices and two Court of Appeals judges.



## The Administrative Office of the Courts Jury Program

The Administrative Office of the Courts Jury Program (AOC Jury) supports the statewide jury management system (JMS) and its related services, and is committed to exploring new and varied procedures, processes, and technology to improve the overall jury service experience for both jurors and court staff.

AOC Jury has surveyed jurors about COVID-19 safety protocols since 2020. The results have been very positive: 96% of 3,195 respondents reported feeling safe within courthouses. Frequency of jury trials overall is showing a gradual uptick in relation to pre-pandemic levels.

During FY22, AOC Jury focused on implementation and support for Clearview Jury, a new jury management system with a new vendor for mailing summonses:

- Configuration of the online juror portal and JMS began in September 2021 with the assistance of the Judicial Information Division (JID). The online portal allows jurors to fill out juror questionnaires, and request disqualifications, excusals or ADA requests. Jurors upload requests for accommodations and questionnaires directly from the online portal to Clearview Jury.
- In November 2021, jury division managers and JID representatives attended training provided by Avenu, the JMS vendor. The training

introduced Clearview and provided a test environment that allowed trainees to use real-life scenarios such as summoning jurors, utilizing the juror portal, entering attendance, entering disqualifications, submitting payments and adjustments, and after the completion of service, closing out the created case. The training allowed program staff to create and implement training to court jury staff around the state.

- 175 employees from courts attended statewide training in February 2022 and were trained during several sessions.
- Three employees attended a week-long training to assist AOC Jury with creating and changing baseline reports for the Clearview JMS.
- A new JMS system went live on April 25, 2022 with AOC Jury providing multiple Google Meet sessions to assist each court as it began using the Clearview JMS. Court staff were able to share their screens, ask any questions and receive immediate answers as they navigated Clearview.

Since the launch for the new JMS, AOC Jury has provided support and training to the courts on the new system through:

- Recurring project status calls with Avenu to address functionality issues reported by courts.
- Weekly audit reports submitted by courts to ensure jurors are properly paid for their service.

As the courts become more familiar with the new JMS, AOC is beginning to focus more on data compilation and is tailoring reports generated in Clearview to better meet the needs of New Mexico. Through data analysis, AOC Jury can develop better methods to manage jurors and make jury service a more streamlined, efficient, more enjoyable process.

## Magistrate Court Mediation Program

In FY22, the Magistrate Court Mediation Program (MCMP) expanded to offer remote mediation services to magistrate courts statewide. Expansion occurred specifically in the Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Tenth, and

Eleventh Judicial Districts, and MCMP staff met with judicial staff to communicate new processes.

After feedback and recommendations from judicial specialists, MCMP staff devised a process to refer a new case to mediation, decreasing the amount of administrative work and cutting the time in half. The expansion was made possible by collaboration between ADR staff and Judicial Information Division (JID), which created an application. The “Magistrate ADR Web Application” has several features that increase the abilities of MCMP:

- Clerks throughout the state can use a code in Odyssey to refer general civil cases to mediation, no longer needing to schedule in a separate Google calendar.
- Document upload functionality allows staff to upload signed completed mediation documents directly to the case file.
- Invitations to mediate are sent directly to mediators via email, where they can click ‘accept’ or ‘decline’ which populates directly into the application.
- Mediators have access to an individualized calendar and to all the case specific information required to mediate.
- Created a formal standard operating procedure with the assistance of JID.

MCMP staff filled manager positions with a trained mediator and a certified Language Access Specialist.

### Moving forward:

- Continue to provide mentorship to existing program mediators and recruit mediators to assist with the anticipated increase of referrals due to the expansion into remote ADR.
- Improve upon the Magistrate ADR Web Application.
- Strengthen MCMP’s ability to identify and provide reasonable accommodation to people with disabilities.
- Create sustainability with a 40-hour basic mediation class to train and educate court staff and community members.



# Pretrial Justice Program

Over the last several years, New Mexico has become a leader in pretrial justice. With the assistance of the National Institute of Corrections (NIC), the Administrative Office of the Courts Pretrial Justice Program has developed a framework and capacity for legal and evidence-based pretrial expansion throughout New Mexico.

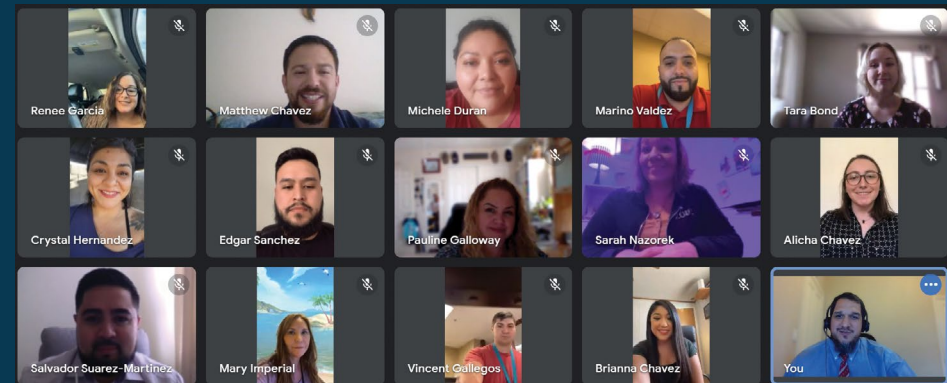
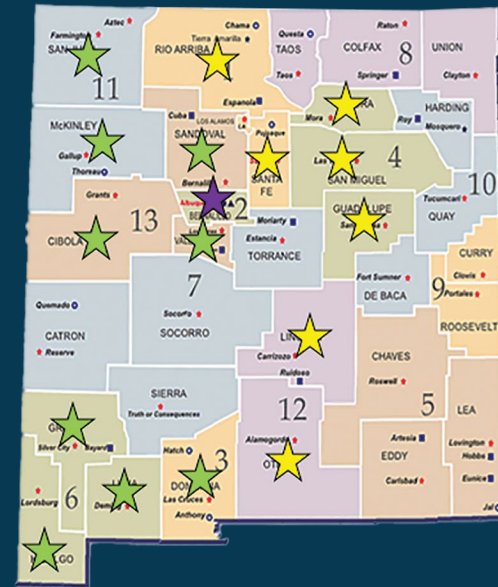
Using national pretrial standards and NM legal framework, New Mexico is the first state to utilize implementation science developed by the NIC, which was highlighted during the National Association of Pretrial Service Agencies (NAPSA) conference in September 2022. In addition, the Pretrial Justice Program held a workshop during the NAPSA conference that focused on successful pretrial implementation and strategies in New Mexico.

The Pretrial Justice Program, with tremendous collaboration from local stakeholder groups and court leadership, has successfully implemented these practices and programs in 10 counties, and planning is underway to launch in eight additional counties in FY23. Full implementation is targeted to be complete by the end of June 2025. Implementing these practices requires not only technical changes to a system but also 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 the Pretrial Justice Program is to provide guidance and support in facilitating the expansion and implementation of pretrial legal and evidence-based practices throughout the state.

### Key Highlights:

- Statewide pretrial justice training courses were developed and are available for all pretrial staff. Course materials include “New Mexico Legal Framework”, “What is Pretrial Risk?” and “Pretrial Supervision,” which will provide fundamental understanding of pretrial practices for new pretrial professionals.
- San Juan County, Sandoval County, 3rd Judicial District and 6th Judicial District pretrial outcomes for supervised defendants who had a case closed between October 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022 demonstrate:
  - An Appearance Rate (appearing at all court hearings) of 77%;
  - A Public Safety Rate (no new charges while on pretrial supervision) of 86%;

# New Mexico State Courts





Pretrial Program Services Electronic Monitoring Unit from top left: Alicia Vigil, Oscar Garcia, Charmayne Willie, Carmen Garcia, Daniel Orejel-Tovanche, Nicholas Sanders, Claudia Rodriguez-Nuñez, and Joseph Filerio.

- A No New Violent Criminal Activity Rate (no new violent offense charges while on pretrial supervision) of 95%;
- 4,094 defendants on pretrial supervision (defendants actively reported to AOC Pretrial Program sites between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022).
- The Public Safety Assessment (PSA) was validated for New Mexico in June 2021 by the University of New Mexico Institute of Social Research. The validation study showed that not only was the tool predictive of future court appearance and public safety, it also was found not to drive bias within the pretrial justice system.
- The AOC Electronic Monitoring and Supervision Unit became operational in October 2021 and has expanded to new sites where GPS monitoring is used as a tool to monitor a condition of pretrial release for some defendants. From October 2021 to the end of July 2022 the EMS Unit:
  - Received and investigated 28,316 alerts;
  - Requested 85 bench warrants for conditions of release violations (on-call judges granted all of the requests).
- AOC Director Artie Pepin was awarded the John C. Hendricks Pioneer Award during the NAPSA 2022 Conference. The Pioneer Award was established to honor individuals having demonstrated leadership and vision to improve pretrial justice systems and agencies.
- Justice Michael E. Vigil was awarded the Charles W. Daniels Judicial Leadership Award, created to memorialize the career of New Mexico Supreme Court Justice Charles W. Daniels and presented to a judicial officer who exemplifies leadership to reform pretrial systems and agencies through legal and evidence-based practices.
- The AOC Background Investigation Unit (BI/PSA Unit) continues to expand capacity to provide background investigation services and conduct the PSA and Early Delegated Release for low risk defendants at new pretrial sites.



# Safe Exchange and Supervised Visitation

The Safe Exchange & Supervised Visitation program (SESV) provides for the 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.

New Mexico has 15 SESV providers in 11 judicial districts: Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, and Santa Fe (First Judicial District), Bernalillo (Second), Doña Ana (Third), San Miguel, Mora and Guadalupe (Fourth), Chaves, Eddy, and Lea (Fifth), Grant, Hidalgo, and Luna (Sixth), Taos, Colfax and Union (Eighth), Curry and Roosevelt (Ninth), San Juan (Eleventh), Otero and Lincoln (Twelfth), Cibola, Sandoval and Valencia (Thirteenth).

## SESV FY22 Accomplishments:

- All providers adopted remote visitation tools allowing families to maintain consistent communication during the pandemic even when separated by significant distances.
- In collaboration with CYFD, the AOC received federal Access & Visitation funding that allowed for the expansion of the program and the provision of vital safe exchange services for more children in New Mexico. New providers in both the Ninth and Twelfth Judicial Districts grew the program reach into Otero and Lincoln counties for the first time and allowed for restoration of services in Curry and Roosevelt counties, which have been without SESV services since 2017.

## FY22 Safe Exchange & Supervised Visitation Program

District	Q1 Visits	Q2 Visits	Q3 Visits	Q4 Visits	YE Total	FY22 Target
First JD	349	299	177	221	1,046	
Second JD	1,052	923	996	995	3,966	
Third JD	173	170	230	251	824	
Fourth JD	98	77	29	25	229	
Fifth JD	571	548	648	614	2,381	
Sixth JD	163	117	101	65	446	
Eighth JD	82	55	52	55	244	
Ninth JD				9	9	
Eleventh JD	123	72	132	92	419	
Thirteenth JD	723	575	535	615	2,448	
<b>Total Visits &amp; Exchanges</b>	<b>3,334</b>	<b>2,836</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>2,942</b>	<b>12,012</b>	<b>12,000</b>
<b>Avg. Per Month</b>	<b>1,111</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>981</b>	<b>1,001</b>	<b>1,000</b>

Families Served Each Month	Children Served	Adults Served
	717	994
Services Provided This Year	Supervised Visits	Safe Exchanges
	8,400	3,612
Hours of Service Invested in the Safety of New Mexico Families	Total Service Hours	
	15,109	





## Supreme Court Law Library

The Supreme Court Law Library (SCLL) began as New Mexico's Territorial Library and was first referred to in 1851 in an act of the First Legislative Assembly, which provided for an appropriation to establish the library and protect the archives in the Palace of the Governors. In 1853, the Territorial Legislature passed an act for the preservation and regulation of the Territorial Library, and in 1915, the New Mexico Legislature established it as the Supreme Court Law Library. Located in the Supreme Court Building, the SCLL is the only public law library in the state of New Mexico with a mission to provide legal information to the judicial, legislative, and executive branches of state government, the legal community and the public at large so they may have equal access to the law. The SCLL also has a special, distinct mission in support of the legal research needs of the New Mexico Judiciary.

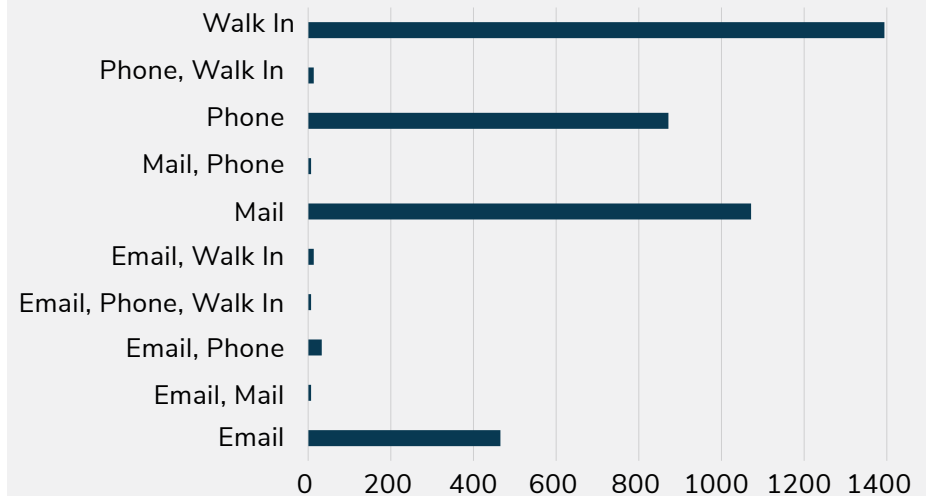
**FIRST CORE OBJECTIVE:** maintain knowledgeable library staff who prepare and maintain records and provide access to materials and legal reference services to patrons. Staff worked to promote the Law Library and reach out to its service communities in a variety of ways:

- The State Law Librarian attended virtual meetings of the New Mexico Commission of Public Records, the First Judicial District Court's Access to Justice Committee, and the Supreme Court's Commission on Equity and Justice.
- Staff attended the State Bar of New Mexico's annual meeting as an exhibitor to hand out free resources and sign up attorneys for new library cards.
- Maintained active social media presence on Twitter.
- Published and widely distributed a monthly newsletter in order to virtually open its doors to everyone and highlight its special collections and services, new materials, and topical book displays on view in the library.

**SECOND CORE OBJECTIVE:** acquire, house, maintain, and provide access to all legal materials pertinent to the needs of the Judiciary, other branches government, and the people of New Mexico. The SCLL:



How People Contacted the SCLL in FY22







The SCLL is a designated Federal Depository Library and receives free federal government publications from the Government Publishing Office.

- Maintains a large library of 270,000+ volumes and a comprehensive legal research collection including current and historical New Mexico and federal laws and cases, regulations, water law, land grant law, tribal law, criminal law, family law, civil procedure, practitioner treatises, forms, and self-help legal materials.
- Acquires materials in a variety of formats, including paper, microfiche, electronic, and online to balance the needs of legal research with the realities of space limitations, technological capabilities, preservation requirements, and cost.
- Makes careful collection development decisions for its service populations, while striving to maintain print and digital access to vital legal publications and databases. Access to online research databases including Westlaw, LexisAdvance, LexisNexis Digital Library eBooks and HeinOnline, along with other resources is available for free.
- As a designated Federal Depository Library, receives free federal government publications from the Government Publishing Office.
- Supported by the SCLL's website, with links to self-help guides, resource guides and the searchable online catalog, centralizes the source of information and services and is an important resource for those who cannot visit the SCLL in person.

**THIRD CORE OBJECTIVE:** provide research materials, access to reference resources, and reference services to patrons. The SCLL specializes in New Mexico law, and the majority of people helped by the Library in FY22 were New Mexicans. In FY22, staff saw a 17% increase in reference assistance requests, a 59% increase in the number of new library cards issued, and a 14% increase in circulation transactions. In addition to the print collection, SCLL's physical library provided free access to Wi-Fi, low-cost copying and printing services, and public computers with free access to vital legal research and government information databases.



In FY22, staff continued to safeguard, preserve, promote, and provide access to public records and legal information. The increased number of people using the SCLL's services illustrates a greater need for the specialized services and collections provided by the SCLL to the people of New Mexico.

### FY22 Accomplishments:

- **3,872** reference interactions
- **43** new cardholders registered
- **1,197** circulation transactions
- **822** titles cataloged
- **2,602** new items/volumes added
- **3,338** bibliographic records updated
- **200+** staff hours spent physically updating the collection
- **1,079** responses to prisoner letters
- **1,320** federal government documents received and added to the collection
- **12** newsletter issues published



## Tribal-State Judicial Consortium

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 establish working relationships based on mutual understanding, respect, and trust among tribal and state courts throughout New Mexico to achieve seamless justice for all.

This year the Supreme Court appointed four new members to the TSJC; Hon. Catherine Begaye of the 2nd Judicial District Court, Hon. Donald Gallegos of the Taos Pueblo Court, Hon. Tammi Lambert of the Santa Ana Pueblo Court, and Hon. Amanda Sanchez Villalobos of the 13th Judicial District Court. Justice Briana H. Zamora also assumed a new position as the Supreme Court Liaison to the TSJC.

### The Tribal-State Judicial Consortium's goals:

The consortium met quarterly in FY22, via Zoom, to address cross jurisdictional issues and receive input from legislators, state agencies judges and lawyers. The TSJC provided analysis on a bill to furnish state-level procedures and protections like those in the federal Indian Child Welfare Act. The result was the New Mexico Indian Families Protection Act, signed into law in March.

The TSJC met in person in May for an annual retreat and planning session in Santa Fe. With the help of a facilitator, the consortium adopted a new strategic plan, including the mission statement and goals outlined above. The TSJC also honored retired Justice Barbara J. Vigil for her years of service to the consortium.

The consortium's goals are to create court rules and forms accessible within shared authority and interest areas, to foster relationships between courts, and to provide training at the 2024 Judicial Conclave on procedural issues to common issues.



Members of the TSJC pose for a photo during a break at the 2022 annual retreat and strategic planning session, in Santa Fe. Pictured from left to right: (back row) Judge Donald Gallegos, Judge Jason Lidyard, Judge William Parnall, Judge Randolph Collins, Judge Frank Sedillo, Judge Catherine Begaye, Justice Briana H. Zamora, Judge Mekko Miller; (front row) Judge William Johnson, Judge Tammi Lambert, Judge Rene Torres, Judge Peggy Bird.



Retired Supreme Court Justice Barbara J. Vigil (center) receives an engraved award plaque in recognition of her nearly two decades of work on behalf of the New Mexico Tribal-State Judicial Consortium. The award was presented by Consortium co-chairs Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court Judge Renee Torres (left) and Acoma Pueblo Tribal Court Judge Randolph Collins (right).

# NEW MEXICO STATE COURTS



- ★ District & Magistrate Courts
- ▲ Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court
- Magistrate Circuit Courts
- ★ District Courts
- Magistrate Full Courts

**1<sup>st</sup> Judicial District Court**  
Santa Fe, Rio Arriba & Los Alamos

**2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District Court**  
Bernalillo

**3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District Court**  
Doña Ana

**4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court**  
San Miguel, Mora & Guadalupe

**5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court**  
Chaves, Eddy & Lea

**6<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court**  
Grant, Hidalgo & Luna

**7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court**  
Torrance, Socorro, Catron & Sierra

**8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court**  
Taos, Colfax & Union

**9<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court**  
Curry & Roosevelt

**10<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court**  
Harding, De Baca & Quay

**11<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court**  
San Juan & McKinley

**12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court**  
Otero & Lincoln

**13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court**  
Cibola, Sandoval & Valencia

**Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court**

**Supreme Court**  
Santa Fe

**Court of Appeals**  
Santa Fe & Albuquerque





New Mexico Administrative Office of the Courts

**NMCourts.gov**



# Annual Report