



NEW MEXICO JUDICIARY

ANNUAL REPORT 2023





Acknowledgements:

This report was prepared with special assistance from Administrative Office of the Courts staff, court personnel, and judges throughout the state.

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Above: The Supreme Court holds an oral argument in Española for the Rule of Law Program in April, 2023.
Inside back cover: Chief Justice C. Shannon Bacon delivers the State of the Judiciary address on January 24, 2023.

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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 2023 fiscal year (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023) and includes a summary of statistical data for New Mexico's appellate, district, metropolitan, and magistrate courts. Find this report, as well as the complete Statistical Addendum, at www.nmcourts.gov.

Message from Chief Justice Bacon



I am proud to present the Judicial Branch's 2023 Annual Report. In these pages, you will see the judiciary's commitment to equal justice, hard work, and innovation. You will also see highlighted our courts' many achievements.

These achievements include the continuing expansion of technology in our courtrooms. Remote and hybrid hearings, depositions, mediations, and even bench trials have kept participants safe, saved time and costs, and improved access for those New Mexicans who have a difficult time traveling to court. We started a pilot program to select jurors remotely for jury duty. We are using the recent legislative allocation of \$10 million to implement For The Record (FTR) Speech-to-Text in our courtrooms to reduce time to final disposition in our appellate courts, and we expect to request continued funding to ensure statewide expansion of FTR.

The Eleventh Judicial District has opened "justice stations" in two Navajo Nation chapter houses, a public library in Gallup, and the Gallup Magistrate Court, so litigants can appear remotely even if they do not have broadband. We hope to expand "justice stations" statewide.

Equally important, I am pleased to announce the formation of three new working groups:

1. The New Mexico Supreme Court Commission on Judicial Selection and Retention is a bipartisan group consisting of members from all three branches of government. This commission has studied and discussed recruitment and retention barriers. One key barrier is compensation (both salary and retirement). To minimize this barrier, the Commission is recommending an increase in judicial and employee salaries and improvements to the Judges and Magistrate Retirement Funds. They are also considering innovative approaches to judicial selection and the composition of judicial districts. The New Mexico Judicial Compensation Commission also endorses these changes.
2. The Judicial Performance Subcommittee is recommending improvements to the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission (JPEC) process to enhance public trust and confidence in the judicial system. This process includes studying the potential for unintended biases that influence the evaluation process.
3. The Commission on Legal Regulatory Reform is looking at ways to close the justice gap in New Mexico by creating a new tier of legal professionals who can offer affordable legal help.

Finally, we all know that when people have access to legal resources such as plain language forms, legal advice, self-help centers, or a pro-bono attorney, they are empowered with knowledge about their full rights and the legal process, giving them access to the justice they deserve. Therefore, we are asking the Legislature for funding to expand self-help centers statewide, and to develop rural clerkships throughout New Mexico to serve those who live in the remote areas of our state – including the four counties without a single lawyer.

As always, thank you for reviewing the collaborative, engaging work of the judiciary. 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, appearing to read "C. Bacon".

C. Shannon Bacon
Chief Justice

Message from the Director



The past year saw the New Mexico courts return to “normal,” or at least as close to pre-pandemic practices as we are likely to get. Virtual court proceedings are here to stay, with more than 90% of traffic cases being resolved through video instead of in-person in the courtroom. Courts continue to expand their outreach to parties who are not represented by an attorney to make the legal process more accessible to more participants. Data measurement and reporting continues to grow to meet requests from the public and legislators. The old saying, “nothing is constant but change” seems to capture the experience of the New Mexico judiciary.

A dramatic change occurred with passage of legislation giving the judiciary responsibility for education of judges and staff. The new Court Education Institute (CEI) at the Administrative Office of the Courts is at full speed providing high quality training and planning robust educational opportunities online and in-person. Employees and judges have embraced this exciting endeavor and both they and the public we serve will increasingly benefit from the great work being done by CEI.

The legislature provided funding for a number of court initiatives in addition to CEI, including speech-to-text (S2T) technology for use in court proceedings. S2T will upgrade the audio quality to state of the art in all district courts. Jurors, judges and the public will find the quality of proceedings remarkably improved whether in the courtroom or online. In addition, S2T provides a real-time printed record of court proceedings that, while not the same as a verbatim transcript, is very accurate. Results from pilot implementations in Clovis and Albuquerque are very promising and will inform a plan for statewide implementation.

As the Warrant Enforcement Program continues to transition to compliance, the Customer Service Unit (CSU) keeps increasing the assistance provided to thousands of New Mexicans through a toll-free number available six days each week. The data on clients served indicates the great value of this program as do the numerous unsolicited notes of thanks for the very professional and valuable support provided by CSU to callers, frequently in a language other than English, about cases and programs throughout the state.

These are just a few highlights of the many efforts at all levels of courts to deliver justice to all who have contact with the judiciary. I trust that anyone who reads this report will be impressed by the exceptional work being done by court employees and judges. It continues to be a great pleasure and an honor to work with so many dedicated professionals whose complete focus is on advancing cases efficiently and effectively.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arthur W. Pepin'.

Arthur W. Pepin

Director, Administrative Office of the Courts

2022-2023 Tour

Chief Justice C. Shannon Bacon prioritized visiting at least one court in every judicial district, Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court, and the Court of Appeals during the first year of her term as Chief Justice to meet with staff and judges in open-dialogue, small-group settings. Court staff, in particular, were asked to describe their successes and challenges during the last few years. District and magistrate judges and staff were also encouraged to ask questions about the Supreme Court, the judiciary, and the 2023 legislative session.

Discussions with staff reflected genuine pride, emphasizing their teamwork and perseverance throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Challenges were thoughtfully presented, and the justices provided support, resources, recommendations, and assurances that participants' concerns would be addressed.

Common themes and unique perspectives were identified and shared. In particular, education for all members of the judiciary was identified as a critical need. A list of requested education and training was provided to the newly formed Court Education Institute (CEI), and it has been included in planning education programs.

Successes

The most common comments reflecting staff pride were that everyone is helpful, courts are an excellent place to work, and there is great teamwork. Staff was also proud of the way everyone came together to keep the courts open during the pandemic. This was achieved through cross training, innovations and diligence by the information and technology staff, and pivoting to remote proceedings. Staff was grateful for being able to telework and having flexible schedules.



The messaging that the judiciary is an essential function of New Mexico was taken to heart.

Courts reported success with in-person self-help desks and the use of remote access to help desks, which allows for virtual self-guided assistance rather than assistance by telephone.

Courts are having more in-person hearings and enjoy them, but also want to continue to use remote hearings because they save time and money, especially in transporting defendants.

Challenges

Overall, courts identified funding issues and issues with older facilities as being a real challenge. They want to make areas family and child friendly, and some larger courts would like a children's waiting room. Education services, recruitment and retention, and technology were also identified as challenges.

Technology

Some judicial districts are large geographically, so technology has been extremely helpful. Technology has alleviated the stress of judges, lawyers, and litigants traveling all day for a five minute hearing. Court monitors reported they often hear better in virtual hearings compared to in-person and hybrid hearings.

Courts reported the Judicial Information Division (JID), the technology arm of the judicial branch of government, does a good job. Many courts have custom software. E-filing has come a long way, especially by self represented litigants, and one court stated they have finally achieved a paperless office.

Treatment Courts

Although most districts were very proud of the treatment courts, they reported a decline in enrollment during the pandemic. Toward the end of the court tours, more districts reported that enrollment numbers are starting to rebound.

One district is working with the Department of Health to provide case management in the treatment courts. They coordinate with other agencies, i.e. housing, jobs, etc., and have also built a treatment court store with items participants need (hygiene, houseware, children's toys and backpacks, business clothing, etc.).

Another district rolled out an online DWI court, and only charged \$50 for DWI school. This program is so successful that it had participants from other counties scheduled to take the course.

This year-long tour was invaluable to the Chief Justice in understanding staff needs and daily challenges. Each district and courthouse has unique obstacles, and the tour was essential in supporting local leadership dedicated to the administration of equal justice under the law.

Recruitment and Retention

Toward the end of the court tours, courts reported that employment is picking up, but recruitment and retention are still a real challenge for some courts. Some districts encouraged recruitment through Indeed.com, job fairs, and internships coordinated with high schools, colleges, and universities. Others said they needed competitive salaries, education, and career opportunities.

Remote work and child care were offered as solutions to retention, and it was recommended that CEOs talk together about job fairs. Districts also said they need court reporters, interpreters (especially in languages other than Spanish), clinicians, probation officers, district attorneys, and public defenders.



(L-R): Retired Magistrate Judge Maurine Laney, Chief Justice C. Shannon Bacon, and Justice Julie J. Vargas at Silver City Magistrate Court.

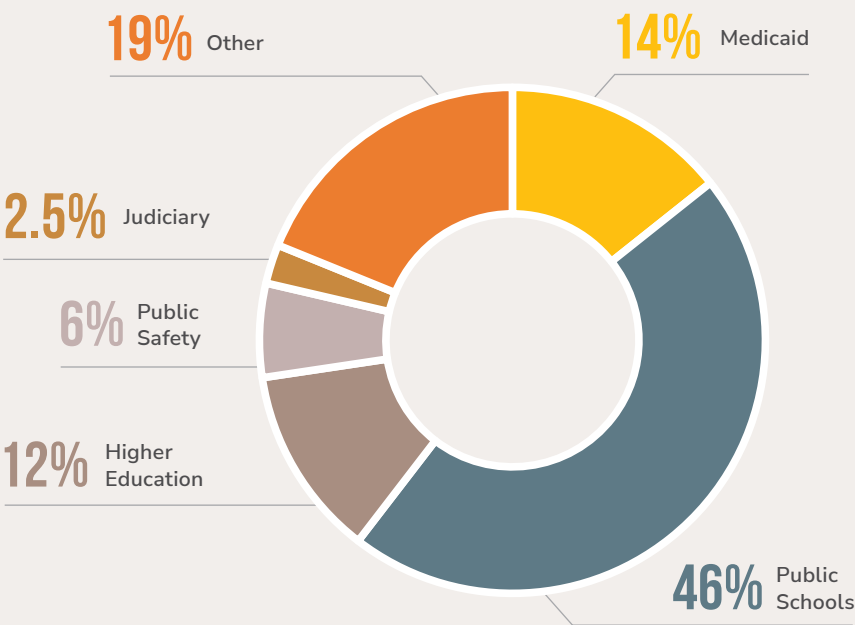


Chief Justice Bacon talks with employees of the Thirteenth Judicial District Court.

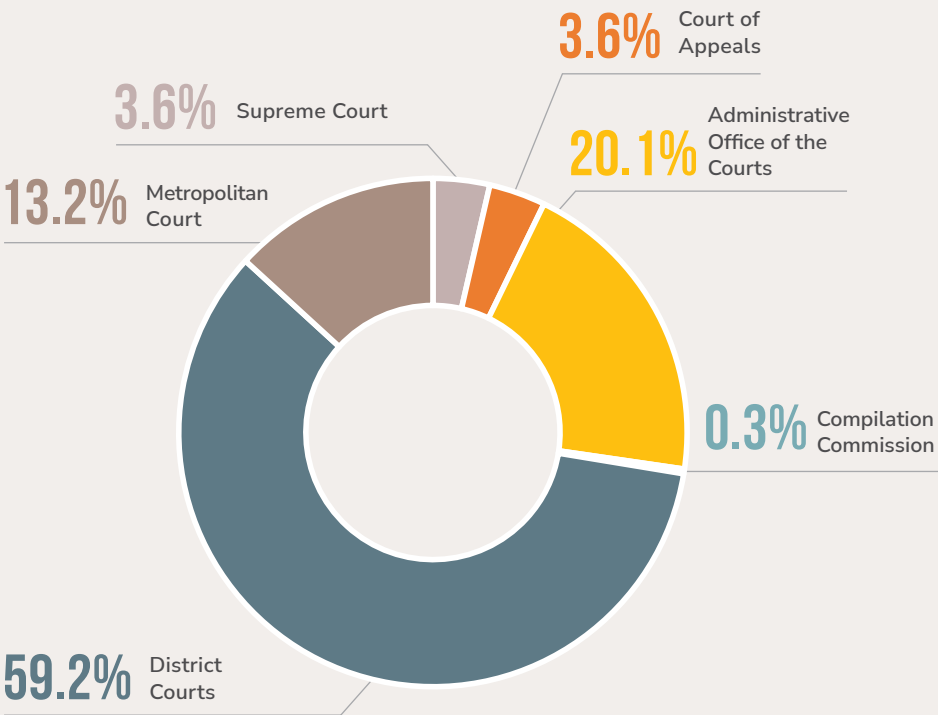
Judicial Budget

The judiciary's general fund operating budget totaled \$207.7 million in the 2023 fiscal year — an increase of about \$20 million or 10.7% from FY22. Appropriations to the judiciary represented 2.5% of the \$8.4 billion general fund budget for all of state government, including public education and health care programs.

FY23 State General Fund Budget
\$8.4 Billion



New Mexico Judiciary FY23 Operating Budget
\$207.7 Million



A desert landscape at sunset. The foreground is filled with numerous saguaro cacti. In the background, there are rugged mountains under a sky with soft, orange and yellow light from the setting sun. Overlaid on the image are several large, stylized arrows: a white arrow pointing right from the top right, a blue arrow pointing right from the middle right, and a blue arrow pointing right from the bottom left.

Courts

SUPREME COURT

5 Justices, 56 Full-Time Employees



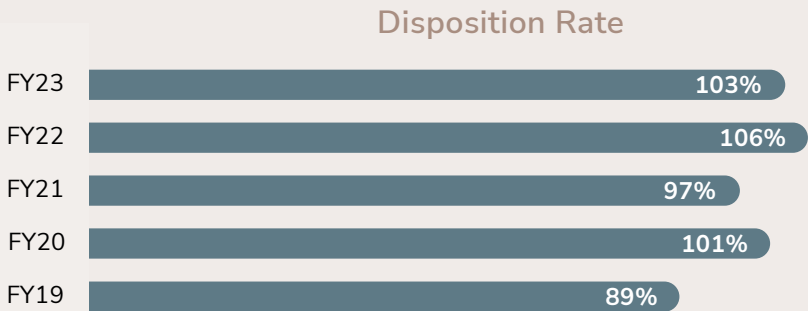
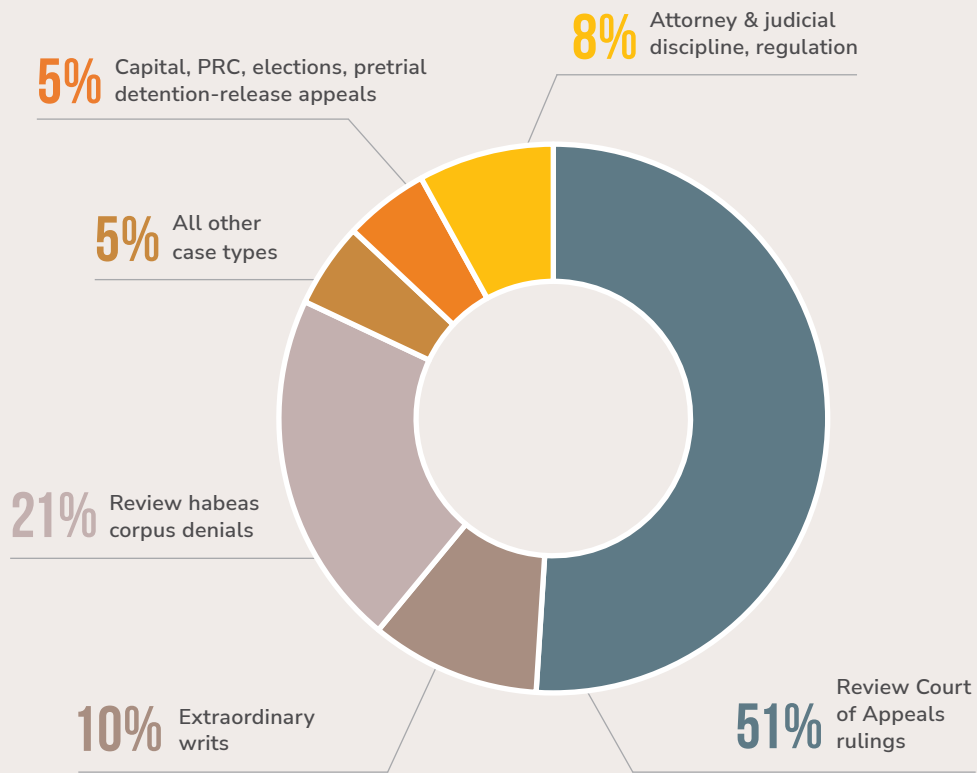
From left to right: Justice Julie J. Vargas, Senior Justice Michael E. Vigil, Chief Justice C. Shannon Bacon, Justice David K. Thomson and Justice Briana H. Zamora.

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.



Members of the Supreme Court with retired Justice Richard Ransom, who is holding a commemorative volume of opinions he authored.
From left to right: Justices Julie J. Vargas and Michael E. Vigil, Chief Justice C. Shannon Bacon, retired Justice Ransom, and Justices David K. Thomson and Briana H. Zamora.

2023 Fiscal Year Caseload
New, reactivated, and reopened cases: **547**



Highlights



Front row (l-r): Justice Michael E. Vigil, Judge Katherine A. Wray, Astrid Carrete, Justice Julie J. Vargas, federal District Judge David Herrera Urias, Judge Gerald E. Baca, Dr. Amanda Parker, Justice David K. Thomson.

Second row (l-r): Elizabeth Garcia, Alyssa Segura, Celina Baca, Cody Jeff, Sonya Duke-Noel.

Third row (l-r): Kristen Edwards, Serafina Seluja, Brenda Macias-Lopez, Bethany Peterson, Alex Alvarado, Lysette Romero Córdova.

Fourth row (l-r): Royce Deller, Nicolas Cordova, Alexis Jones, Ricardo Guadarrama, Justin Lauriano, Elisa Cibils, Ambrose Kupfer, Xaveria Mayerhofer, Taryn Osborne, Julia Bowman, Sabrina Lujan.

Fifth row (l-r): Frederick Michael Hart, Oona Bjornstad, Connor Joy, Elliot Heater Brown.

STATE OF THE JUDICIARY. Chief Justice C. Shannon Bacon delivered a State of the Judiciary speech to the 2023 legislature, highlighting initiatives to expand access to legal services, expedite criminal cases, assist people facing possible eviction, and other judicial system improvements.

LEADERSHIP AWARD. Justice Briana H. Zamora was selected to participate in the Council of State Governments 2023 Toll Fellowship, one of the nation's premier leadership development programs for state government officials.

RETIRED JUSTICE HONORED. The Court published a commemorative volume of opinions written by Justice Richard Ransom during his 10-year tenure and presented him with the compendium at a ceremony in the Hall of Chief Justices.

RESOLVING CASES. The Court reduced case processing times after conducting a case flow management review. The Court had a 103% clearance rate of cases in FY23, resolving more cases than were opened during the year.

CIVICS EDUCATION. Over 225 students attended an oral argument in Española as part of a program to help young people understand the role of courts and the rule of law. Several schools also had students watch a live stream of the argument.

JUDICIAL PIPELINE. The Judicial Clerkship Program was expanded to 15 students, including a federal court clerkship. The program offers opportunities to students in demographic groups traditionally underrepresented in the legal profession.

COURT TECHNOLOGY. The Court implemented new audio and video technology in its courtroom to improve the experience of the public viewing proceedings.

LAW LIBRARY. The library received a New Mexico Library Foundation grant to enhance its services. Library staff responded to 3,883 requests for reference assistance.

TRIBAL-STATE JUDICIAL RELATIONS. Navajo Nation Supreme Court Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne visited the state Supreme Court and gifted to the Law Library a reproduction of the Treaty of 1868, known in Diné as Naaltsoos Sáńí.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION. The Court received an award from the National Center for State Courts Court Statistics Project in recognition of its excellence and leadership in reporting caseload data.

LOCAL RECOGNITION. The Supreme Court Building was named by the Santa Fe Reporter as one of the "25 Things We Love About Santa Fe Now." The Building Commission works to preserve and enhance the historic building.

NEW ATTORNEYS. The Court swore in 392 attorneys to the New Mexico Bar in FY23.

MEETING LEGISLATORS. The Court and the Administrative Office of the Courts hosted a breakfast for House and Senate members during the 2023 legislative session. The event in the Law Library included a presentation about the mission and operation of state courts.

COURT OF APPEALS

10 Judges, 52 Full-Time Employees



Standing from left to right: Judges Gerald Baca, Shammara Henderson, Zachary Ives, Jane Yohalem, and Katherine Wray.
Seated from left to right: Judges Jacqueline Medina, Jennifer Attrep, J. Miles Hanisee, Kristina Bogardus, and Megan Duffy.

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, non-capital 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 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.

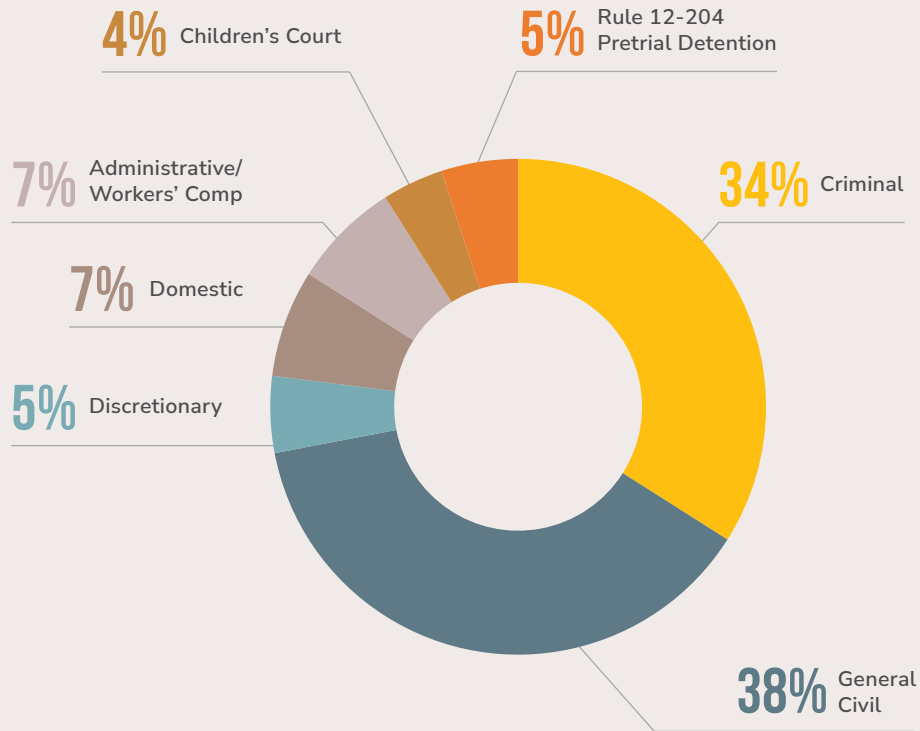
The Division of Appellate Court Attorneys screens all appeals for assignment to the Court's summary and general calendars. Staff attorneys provide the Court with proposed opinions and recommendations on applications for interlocutory appeals, petitions for writs of certiorari, and petitions for writs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



Judge Jennifer Attrep being sworn in as chief judge by outgoing Chief Judge J. Miles Hanisee.

2023 Fiscal Year Caseload

New cases: **745**



Disposition Rate



Highlights

COURT LEADERSHIP. Judge Jennifer Attrep was elected chief judge of the Court of Appeals in January 2023 for a two-year term. She succeeded Judge J. Miles Hanisee, who had served as chief judge since October 2019.

CLEARING CASES. Achieved a disposition rate of 104% — resolving 778 cases while 745 new cases were opened. The disposition rate measures whether a court has kept up with its incoming caseload. The total number of cases pending before the Court dropped by 6% in FY23, totaling 761 at the end of the year.

SPEEDIER DECISIONS. The average time to resolve an appeal dropped by nearly 11% in criminal cases, as the Court implemented a criminal case pilot project for streamlining appeals. Three district courts, the Appellate Public Defender, and the Attorney General's Office collaborated with the Court of Appeals in implementing the initiative.

EXPEDITED APPEALS. Quickly decided 34 appeals concerning the pretrial detention of criminal defendants. Additionally, the Expedited Bench Decision program accelerates resolution of appeals involving custody of children and other time sensitive matters.

MANAGING CASELOADS. Maintained a historically average backlog, with 270 cases ready for decision on the general calendar at the end of FY23.

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH. Continued to collaborate with the University of New Mexico Law School 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.

BAR OUTREACH. Implemented a joint project with the State Bar of New Mexico to provide the bench and bar with timely access via email to Court of Appeals opinions and decisions.

DISTRICT COURTS STATEWIDE

102 Judges
1,304 Full-Time Employees

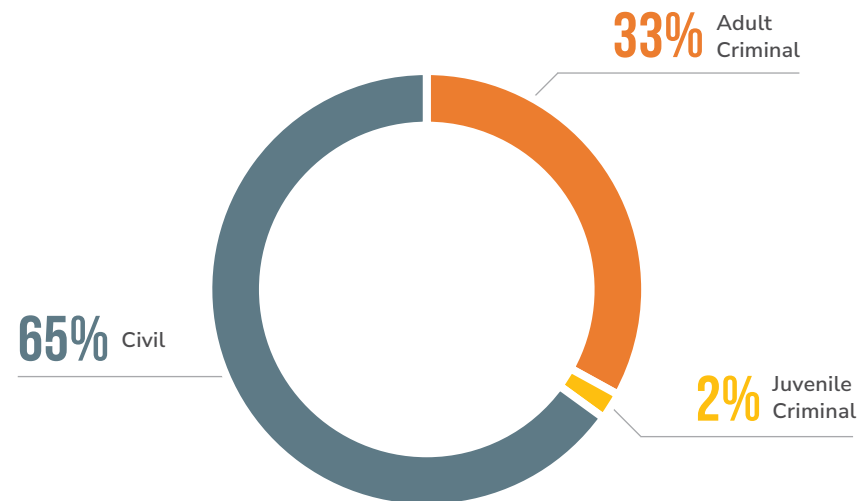
District courts are general jurisdiction courts. They hear and determine adult and juvenile criminal cases as well as civil matters, including contract disputes, personal injury litigation, and domestic relations cases such as divorce, custody, and child support enforcement.

Disposition Rate



There were 102 judges in 34 district courts across New Mexico in the 2023 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.

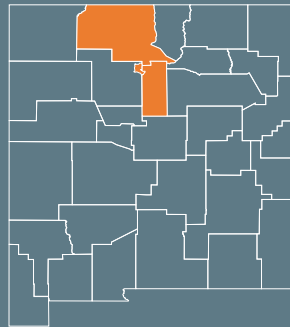
2023 Fiscal Year Caseload New, reactivated, and reopened cases: 112,446



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 rate below 100% results in a growing backlog of cases awaiting disposition.

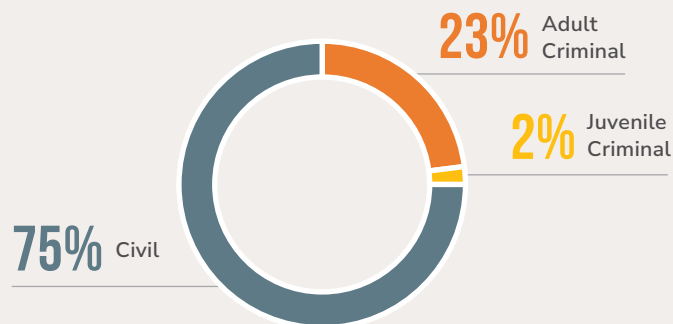
1st JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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



Santa Fe, Rio Arriba,
and Los Alamos
Counties

2023 Fiscal Year Caseload
New, reactivated, and reopened cases: **9,166**



Disposition Rate



Highlights

JURY TRIALS. District courts conducted 42 criminal and civil jury trials. Magistrate courts held 10 jury trials.

PRETRIAL JUSTICE. The Pretrial Services Division fully launched in Santa Fe County in September 2022, in Rio Arriba County in May 2023, and in Los Alamos County in June 2023. Judges now have evidence-based information about defendants from the Public Safety Assessment and a criminal history background report to assist in setting conditions of release. The division supervised defendants in 599 cases at the end of FY23.

RESOLVING CASES. 91 civil, domestic relations, and probate cases were referred to the Alternative Dispute Resolution program. Two-fifths of those cases were fully settled before or during the settlement conference. About half of the cases involved self-represented litigants. Forty-four attorneys serve as settlement facilitators.

FORECLOSURE SETTLEMENT. 89% of foreclosure cases were resolved after completing a settlement facilitation program, and nearly three-fifths of the homeowners remained in their houses through a loan modification or reinstatement of the loan. Of the 102 cases referred to the program, 28 completed it.

ASSISTING FAMILIES. Family Court Services conducted 228 mediations, 388 priority consultations, and 21 advisory consultations involving child custody, kinship guardianship, and grandparent visitation issues. Mediations occurred in 51 abuse and neglect cases.

LANGUAGE ACCESS. Court interpreters assisted 1,494 litigants, witnesses, parents, and others in 1,208 proceedings and helped 63 jurors over 43 full days of trial and other hearings. Spanish accounted for 97% of the interpreting services.

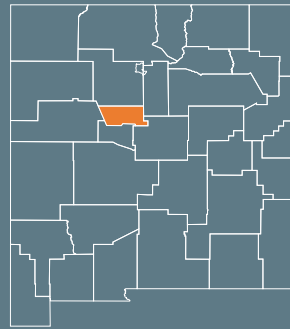
ACCESS TO JUSTICE. The Santa Fe district court reopened its Self-Help Center in a centrally located space on the courthouse's first floor. Two paralegals staff the center, providing people with forms and procedural information.



Celebrating Jury Appreciation Week in the First Judicial District.

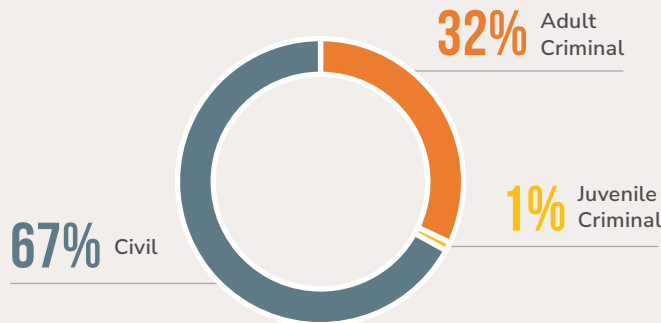
2nd JUDICIAL DISTRICT

30 District Court Judges
361 Full-Time Employees



Bernalillo County

2023 Fiscal Year Caseload
New, reactivated, and reopened cases: **39,005**



Disposition Rate



Highlights

JURY TRIALS. The district court conducted 151 criminal and civil trials.

NEW JUDGES. District Judges David Murphy and Emeterio Rudolfo were sworn in and serve on the criminal bench. Judge Murphy filled a newly created position on the court and previously served on the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court. Judge Rudolfo operated a private law practice before his appointment to the court.



Second Judicial District Judge Emeterio Rudolfo being sworn in.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE. The court conducted about 15,000 proceedings remotely, totaling 283 hours. Incoming cases rose by 15% from the previous fiscal year.

TREATMENT COURTS. 58 people graduated from adult, juvenile, felony DWI, and behavioral health treatment courts.

MEETING COMMUNITY NEEDS. The Center for Self-Help assisted 15,819 individuals, a nearly 16% increase from the last fiscal year. The clerk's office helped about 100,000 people by phone and in person, and processed more than 500,000 filings in court cases.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE. Spanish language interpretation was provided in 3,188 cases, a 40% increase from last year.



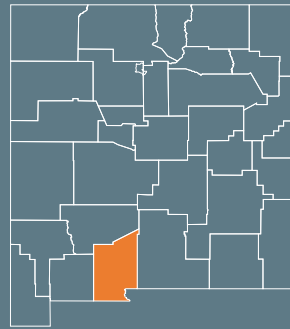
(L-R) Second Judicial District Judge Jane Levy, Chief Judge Marie Ward, and Judge Nancy Franchini.

SERVING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES. 44 teens completed the Children's Court Community Gun Violence Intervention program, and the Family Court Clinic provided services to about 1,500 individuals in 372 families.

GIVING TREE PROJECT. Judges and court employees conducted a food drive that raised over \$1,900 for the Roadrunner Food Bank and collected nearly 560 pounds of food. Each year judges and court staff select a community cause to support.

3rd JUDICIAL DISTRICT

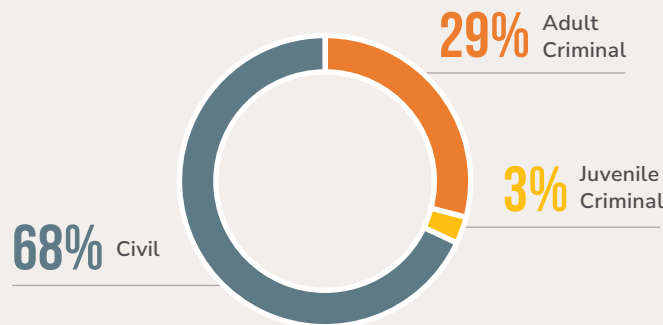
9 District Court Judges
7 Magistrate Court Judges
122 Full-Time Employees



Doña Ana County

2023 Fiscal Year Caseload

New, reactivated, and reopened cases: **10,673**



Disposition Rate



Highlights

JURY TRIALS. 43 criminal and civil jury trials conducted in district court, and magistrate courts held 33 jury trials.

NEW LEADERSHIP. Judge Conrad F. Perea was elected chief judge of the district in April 2023. He has served on the court since 2017, and is a New Mexico native. He succeeded Judge Manuel Arrieta as chief judge.

NEW JUDGES. District Judges Robert Lara and Mark Standridge joined the court in 2023. Judge Lara had been a staff attorney with the district court for five years. Judge Standridge had worked as an assistant U.S. attorney.

TREATMENT COURTS. 28 people graduated from adult, DWI, family, and veterans courts. The Veterans Treatment Court celebrated its fifth anniversary of assisting veterans charged with crimes who are struggling with addiction and other disorders.

PRETRIAL JUSTICE. The court's pretrial services program has experienced promising outcomes since launching in 2020. Released defendants appeared at 86% of scheduled court dates in the nearly 3,000 cases filed and disposed of in fiscal year 2023. The pretrial program employs minimally intrusive conditions of release, including remote reporting by defendants in most cases and at most requires check-ins twice a month. Individuals at the lowest pretrial monitoring level receive only court date reminders. The use of GPS tracking devices is limited.

RECOGNITION. Former district court Domestic Violence Commissioner Isabel Jerabek was honored for her work by the Doña Ana Board of County Commissioners in a proclamation for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Jerabek served in the position in 2015-2022.

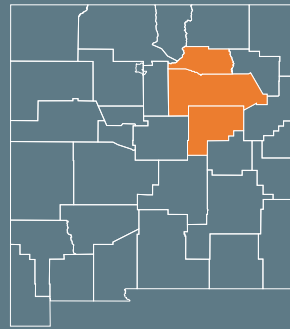
SERVING FAMILIES. The district court observed National Adoption Day with the adoption of four children by families.

ASSISTING CHILDREN. 98 children in abuse and neglect cases were served by Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) volunteers. 904 supervised visits and safe exchanges were held for children in cases involving parental disputes, including divorce, custody, and domestic violence.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES. Nearly two dozen students from New Mexico State University and area high schools worked as interns in the courts during the fiscal year, learning about the justice system. The internship program has been in place for 11 years.

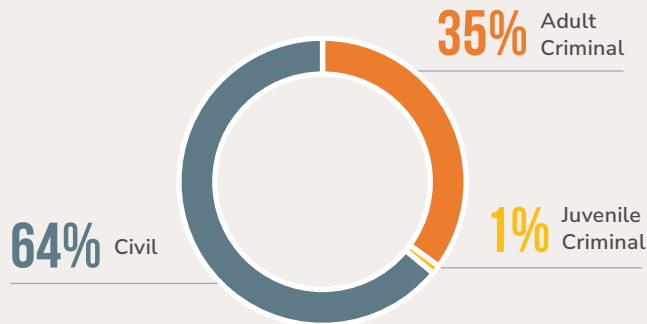
4th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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



San Miguel, Mora,
and Guadalupe
Counties

2023 Fiscal Year Caseload
New, reactivated, and reopened cases: **2,986**



Disposition Rate



Highlights

JURY TRIALS. District courts conducted 17 criminal and civil jury trials.

TREATMENT COURTS. 13 people graduated from the adult drug court and magistrate DWI drug court in Las Vegas.

PRETRIAL JUSTICE. The court launched a pretrial services program in June 2023 in San Miguel and Mora counties. The program uses evidence-based practices and helps identify individuals needing greater pretrial monitoring and supervision to ensure they comply with release conditions, return for future court hearings, and avoid rearrest. Judges receive information from a risk assessment and criminal background check of defendants to assist in setting conditions of release.



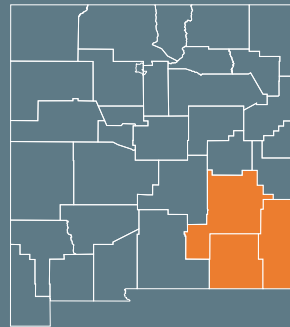
On June 20, 2023 the Fourth Judicial District implemented a pretrial services program in San Miguel and Mora counties. Pictured are Pretrial Services Officer I Joseph Gutierrez, Pretrial Services Supervisor Stephanie Romero, and Pretrial Services Officer I Amor Gallegos.

CLEARING CASES. The number of active pending civil and criminal cases in district courts declined by about 7% from FY22 to FY23.

SERVING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) volunteers served 20 children in abuse and neglect cases.

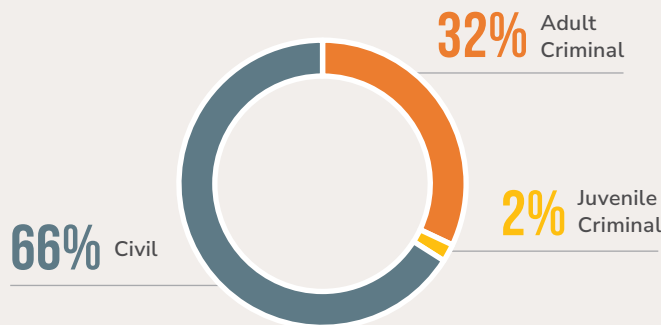
5th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

12 District Court Judges
9 Magistrate Court Judges
112 Full-Time Employees



Chaves, Eddy, and
Lea Counties

2023 Fiscal Year Caseload
New, reactivated, and reopened cases: **12,247**



Disposition Rate



Highlights

JURY TRIALS. 62 criminal and civil trials were held in district courts, and magistrate courts conducted 23 jury trials.

NEW JUDGES. Eddy County Magistrate Judge Megan Fish and Chaves County Magistrate Judge James Mason won election in 2022. Judge Fish succeeded Judge Richard Van Dyk, who did not seek election. Judge Mason replaced Judge E. J. Fouratt, who retired.

CLEARING CASES. The age of active pending criminal cases in the district courts declined by about 4%, averaging 214 days from filing of a case until the end of the 2023 fiscal year.

TREATMENT COURTS. 13 people graduated from the adult drug court in Roswell, magistrate DWI drug court in Carlsbad, and family reunification court in Hobbs.

HELPING FAMILIES. 2,221 supervised visits and safe exchanges were held for children in cases involving parental disputes, including divorce, custody, and domestic violence.

SERVING CHILDREN. 290 children in abuse and neglect cases were served by CASA volunteers.

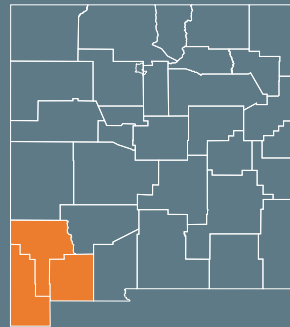
NEW COURT BUILDING. A new magistrate courthouse opened in Lovington. The event was celebrated by a ribbon-cutting ceremony in June 2023. The \$6 million, 10,400 square foot courthouse features two courtrooms and provides a modern space for the public, jurors, judges, and court staff to conduct judicial business.



New Lovington Magistrate Court ribbon cutting ceremony on June 2, 2023. Fifth Judicial District Judge David Finger is cutting the ribbon and Lea County Magistrate Judge Keith Clayton is to his left.

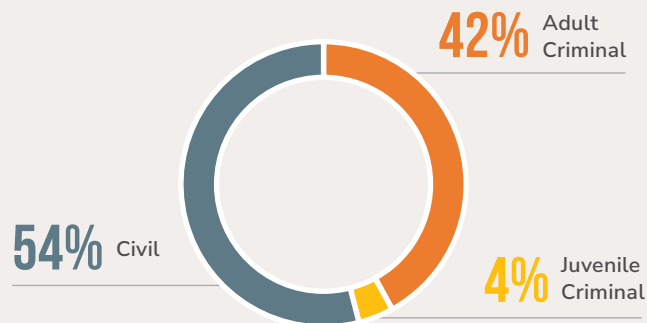
6th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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



Grant, Hidalgo,
and Luna Counties

2023 Fiscal Year Caseload
New, reactivated, and reopened cases: **3,831**



Disposition Rate



Highlights

JURY TRIALS. District courts conducted 6 criminal jury trials, and 1 magistrate court jury trial was held.

NEW CHIEF JUDGE. District Judge Jarod K. Hofacket was sworn in as chief judge of the Sixth Judicial District in May 2023, succeeding Judge Jennifer E. DeLaney.

NEW JUDGES. Silver City Magistrate Judge Justin C. Garwood and Deming Magistrate Judge J. Scott Chandler joined the bench in 2023 after winning election to their posts. They respectively replaced Judges Maurine Laney and Ray Baese, who retired at the end of 2022.

PRETRIAL JUSTICE. A pretrial services program began district-wide in 2021. Judges receive evidence-based information from a risk assessment and criminal background history about defendants to help with pretrial decision-making. In FY23, 92% of released defendants returned for all court hearings in cases in which there was a disposition of all charges and a Public Safety Assessment was completed after the person's arrest.

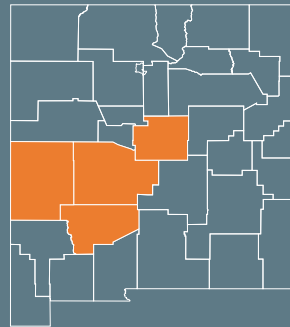
TREATMENT COURTS. 11 people graduated from adult drug courts in Deming and Silver City. The Luna County Adult Treatment Court earned gold certification in May 2023 for aligning with standards and best practices. Grant, Hidalgo, and Luna County courts hosted a barbecue for program participants in celebration of National Drug Court Month.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH. Stakeholders in Grant, Hidalgo, and Luna counties attended a Behavioral Health Summit in Silver City in July 2023 hosted by the court, Judge Jennifer E. Delaney, and Scott Patterson-Alatorre, the statewide behavioral health manager for the Administrative Office of the Courts. Attendees focused on identifying gaps in services and addressing the behavioral health needs of people at various points in the justice system.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES. Grant, Hidalgo, and Luna County treatment court program managers received training in Oklahoma City. Deming program manager Bobby Brookhouser and Luna County officials attended a national conference for drug court professionals. Judges and staff attended the 2022 annual conference of the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies.

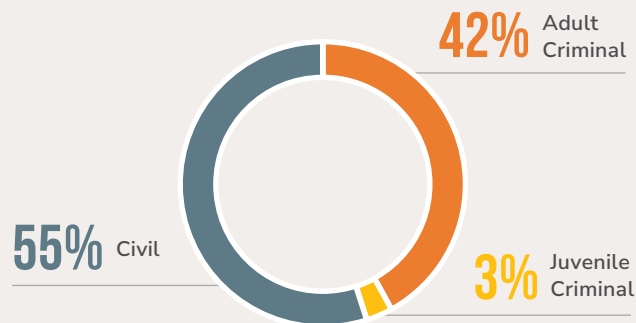
7th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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



Catron, Sierra,
Socorro, and
Torrance Counties

2023 Fiscal Year Caseload
New, reactivated, and reopened cases: **2,385**



Disposition Rate



Highlights

JURY TRIALS. 4 criminal and civil jury trials conducted in district courts.

NEW JUDGES. District Judge Roscoe A. Woods won election in 2022 after his appointment to the bench in the previous year. Three new magistrate judges won election: Susan Griffin in Catron County, George Lee in Sierra County, and Craig Davis in Torrance County.



Seventh Judicial District Judges (l-r): Sierra County Magistrate Judge George Lee who was sworn in, District Judge Roscoe A. Woods, Chief Judge Mercedes Murphy, Catron County Magistrate Judge Susan Griffin, and Socorro County Magistrate Judge Felix Saavedra.

TREATMENT COURTS. 5 participants graduated from the adult drug court in Socorro and the Torrance County Magistrate Court DWI Drug Court. More than 460 people have participated in treatment court programs in Sierra, Socorro, and Torrance counties since their inception. There has been no recidivism by graduates of the magistrate court's DWI drug court.

CLEARING CASES. The age of active pending civil cases in district courts declined by 6.8% from FY22 to FY23.

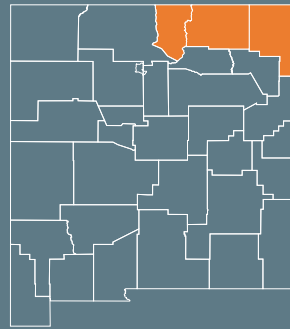
SERVING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES. CASA volunteers served 4 children in abuse and neglect cases.



BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS. New metal detectors and x-ray inspection machines were installed to upgrade security in courthouses. Bench seating for the public was replaced in the large courtroom at the Sierra County Courthouse and Socorro County Courthouse renovations were completed, including installation of solar panels on covered parking for staff and the sheriff's office.

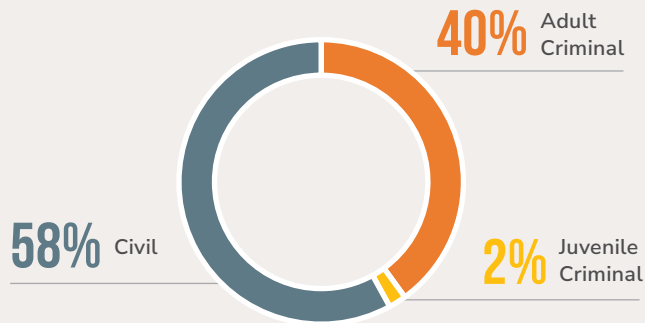
8th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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



Colfax, Taos, and Union Counties

2023 Fiscal Year Caseload
New, reactivated, and reopened cases: 2,887



Disposition Rate



Highlights

JURY TRIALS. 42 criminal and civil jury trials were conducted in the district courts, and 14 jury trials were held in magistrate courts.

NEW JUDGE. Judge Steven A. Romero joined the district court in September 2023. He filled a vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Melissa Kennelly.

TREATMENT COURTS. 9 people graduated from adult drug courts in Taos and Raton. A Family Domestic Violence Court in Taos celebrated its first three graduates since starting in 2021. The district plans to pilot a Behavioral Health Court for Colfax County to serve defendants with severe or complex mental illness.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE. The Help Desk assisted more than 1,200 people, answering general questions from self-represented litigants and reviewing documents for completeness. A hybrid legal fair was held during Pro Bono Month. The Help Desk worked with 11 private attorneys to assist 41 people, and attorneys scheduled free consultations with 192 individuals.

RECOGNITION: Program Specialist Sivreana Tafoya received the Outstanding Legal Fair Organizer award in 2022 from the Volunteer Attorney Program.

NEW COURT BUILDING. A new magistrate courthouse in Springer opened in October 2023. The courthouse features secure holding areas for in-custody defendants, a multi-purpose courtroom, attorney/client rooms, and a jury deliberation room.

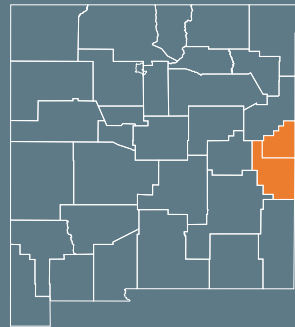


Eighth Judicial District Court Program Specialist Sivreana Tafoya was recognized as the Outstanding Legal Fair Organizer of the Year in FY23 by New Mexico Legal Aid's Rebecca O'Gawa (left). Program Manager Hannah Smith is on the right.

SERVING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES. 184 supervised visits and safe exchanges were held for children in cases involving parental disputes, including divorce, custody, and domestic violence. CASA volunteers served 25 children in abuse and neglect cases.

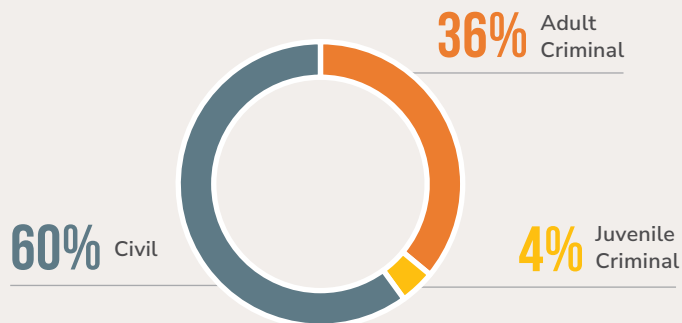
9th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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



Curry and Roosevelt Counties

2023 Fiscal Year Caseload
New, reactivated, and reopened cases: 3,559



Disposition Rate



Highlights

JURY TRIALS. District courts conducted 29 criminal and civil jury trials, and 14 jury trials were held in magistrate courts.

CLEARING CASES. The age of active pending criminal cases in the district courts declined by 15%, averaging 214.8 days from the filing of a case until the end of the 2023 fiscal year. The age of active pending civil cases dropped by nearly 7%, averaging 296.9 days from filing until the end of FY23.

TREATMENT COURTS. 7 people graduated from adult treatment courts in Clovis and Portales. An incentive called the Treatment Court Store was created for participants in the programs. There have been 197 graduates since the treatment courts began.

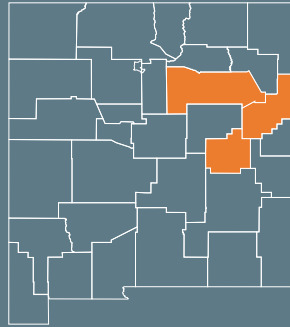


LANGUAGE ACCESS. The district successfully piloted a scribing project that helps people fill out court forms if they have difficulty reading or writing. Based on the success of pilot programs in Curry and Roosevelt counties and a Bernalillo County program, the Supreme Court has authorized other courts across New Mexico to offer scribing services.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION. About 30 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. The court's Pro Se Services Department assisted 325 self-represented litigants.

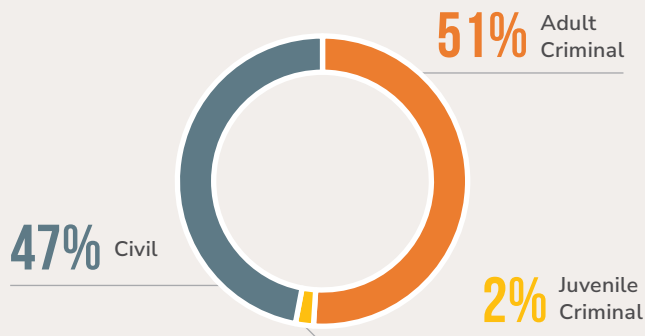
10th JUDICIAL DISTRICT



De Baca, Harding,
and Quay Counties

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

2023 Fiscal Year Caseload
New, reactivated, and reopened cases: **861**



Disposition Rate



Highlights

TRIALS. 3 civil and criminal jury trials were conducted in district court, and 2 jury trials were held in magistrate courts.

NEW JUDGES. New magistrate judges were elected: Josephine Cones in De Baca County, Trubert Flores in Harding County, and Noreen Hendrickson in Quay County. Judge Cones previously was the county assessor. Judge Flowers was a former law enforcement officer. Judge Hendrickson, a former Tucumcari Municipal Court judge, was appointed to the magistrate court in July 2022, and then won election in November.



Fort Sumner Municipal Judge Cindy Rhodes is swearing in Magistrate Judge Josephine Cones, with husband Jason Cones looking on.
Photo credit Lisa Stinnett, De Baca County News

RETIREMENTS. De Baca County Magistrate Judge Buddy Hall and Harding County Magistrate Judge Karen Mitchell retired at the end of 2022. Each of them served more than 20 years in the judiciary. Kevin Elkins, the Harding County Magistrate Court manager, retired with over 21 years in the court system, and Judicial Specialist Supervisor Barbara Lopez retired from the Quay County District Court after 24 years of service.

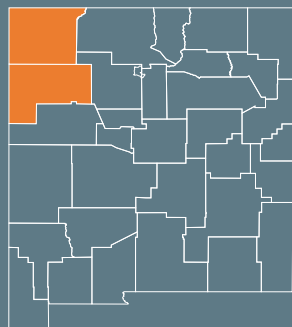
CLEARING CASES. The age of active pending civil district court cases declined by nearly 6%, averaging 615.3 days from filing until the end of the 2023 fiscal year. The court had a disposition rate of 106% for cases involving family relations. A rate of 100% or higher indicates a court is clearing at least as many cases as were newly filed, reactivated, and reopened.



Tenth Judicial District Court employees and judges: **Back Row (left to right):** Joseph Martinez, Amy Gutierrez, Leslee Nunez, Chief Judge Albert Mitchell, and Magistrate Judge Trubert Flowers. **Front Row (left to right):** Amanda Hammer, Stephanie Esquibel, Magistrate Judges Noreen Hendrickson and Josephine Cones, Laura Fought, Dana Pacheco, Jessica Rey, Samantha Stephenson, April Sisneros, Leilani Gutierrez, and Whitney Gauna. **Not pictured:** Perly Alderete and Lina Weisdorfer.

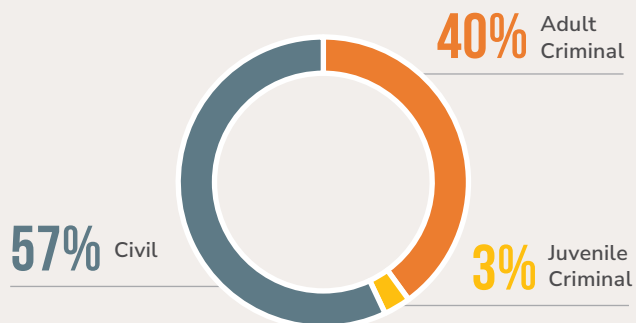
11th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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



McKinley and San Juan Counties

2023 Fiscal Year Caseload
New, reactivated, and reopened cases: **9,690**



Disposition Rate



Highlights

JURY TRIALS. 68 criminal and civil jury trials conducted in district courts, and 33 jury trials held in magistrate courts.

NEW JUDGES. The district welcomed five new judges: District Judge Douglas Decker in Gallup, Magistrate Judges Stanley King and Erich Cole in Farmington, Russell Bradford in Aztec, and Brent Detsoi in Gallup.

TREATMENT COURTS.

46 participants graduated from adult and juvenile drug courts, adult mental health court, and magistrate court DWI court. A support program was implemented to assist families with a loved one struggling with addiction. An adult alumni group and peer mentorship program were developed to support participants and their families.



San Juan County Magistrate Judge Erich Cole is sworn in by Chief Judge Curtis Gurley.

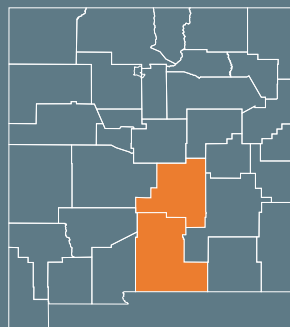
PRETRIAL JUSTICE. Courts across the district employ evidence-based pretrial justice practices to maximize public safety and the appearance of defendants at court hearings. In FY23, 85% of released defendants in McKinley County and 83% in San Juan County returned for all court hearings in cases in which there was a disposition of all charges and a Public Safety Assessment after the person's arrest.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE. Newly installed justice stations at Navajo Nation chapter houses and other locations in the judicial district permit people to use a touchscreen computer to appear before a judge in a remotely conducted hearing, such as in a traffic case. The justice stations offer more convenience to people who otherwise would need to travel to a courthouse. District courts expanded their hours to remain open to the public during the noon hour. Courts offer a scribing service to help people fill out court forms if they have difficulty reading or writing in English.

RESOLVING CASES. Settlement and mediation services helped resolve disputes: 57% of participating custody/visitation mediated a parenting plan, 56% of participating debt and money due cases reached a settlement, and 28% of participating foreclosures had a facilitated settlement.

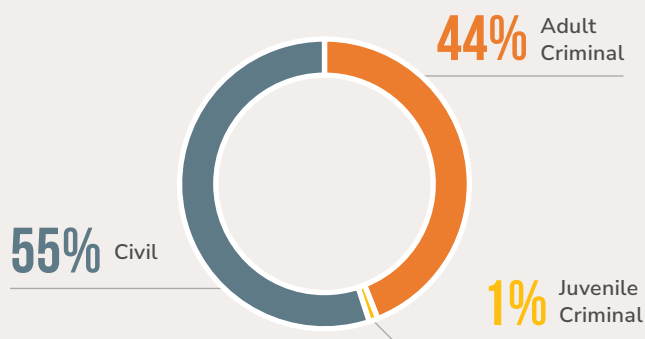
12th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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



Lincoln and Otero Counties

2023 Fiscal Year Caseload
New, reactivated, and reopened cases: 4,867



Disposition Rate



Highlights

JURY TRIALS. 76 criminal and civil jury trials conducted in district courts, and 36 jury trials held in magistrate courts.

NEW JUDGES. District Judge Stephen Ochoa joined the court in July 2023, filling a vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Steven Blankinship. Otero County Magistrate Judge Albert R. Green III was appointed to the Division II position effective in October 2023, succeeding Judge Michael Ryan Suggs, who became staff attorney for the Eleventh Judicial District Court. Otero County Magistrate Judge John R. Secrest III was elected to the Division I position in 2022.

RETIREMENTS. Certified Court Monitor Phyllis Starr retired after more than 20 years of service.

TREATMENT COURTS. 10 participants graduated from adult drug courts in Ruidoso and Alamogordo, and a veterans treatment court.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH. Received grant funding for a mental health case manager-court navigator in both Otero and Lincoln counties. The goal is to improve outcomes for people with mental illness by intervening earlier so they are diverted from the criminal justice system.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE. More than 4,600 people visited the self-help department. Legal fairs were held in Ruidoso and Alamogordo in partnership with the local Pro Bono Committee and New Mexico Legal Aid. At the Alamogordo event, 63 people received legal assistance.

SERVING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES. Arranged 250 supervised visits and safe exchanges for children in cases involving parental disputes, including divorce, custody, and domestic violence. CASA volunteers served 17 children in abuse and neglect cases.

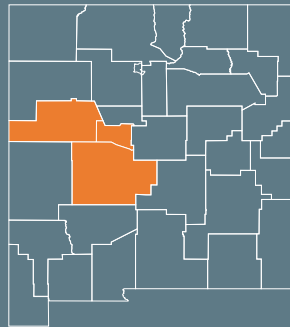
NEW COURT BUILDING. A new courthouse opened in Ruidoso in April 2023. It houses the Lincoln County Magistrate Court and provides limited district court services, including a district court clerk, treatment court staff, self-help, and mediation services.



Chief Judge Angie K. Schneider looks on as Magistrate Judge John R. Secrest III, signs his oath of office.

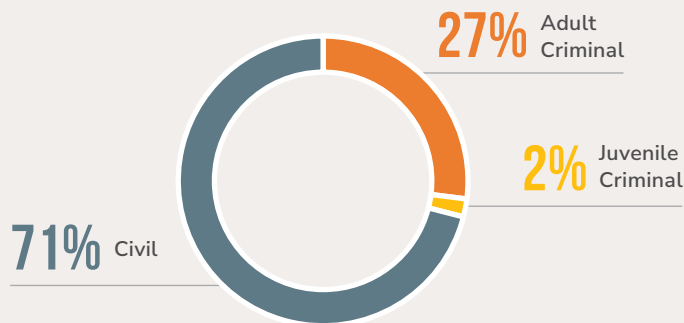
13th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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



Cibola, Sandoval,
and Valencia
Counties

2023 Fiscal Year Caseload
New, reactivated, and reopened cases: **10,289**



Disposition Rate



Highlights

JURY TRIALS. District courts held 24 criminal and civil jury trials, and magistrate courts conducted 3 jury trials.

COURT LEADERSHIP. Judge James A. Noel was elected chief judge of the district for a three-year term. Phillip A. Romero was named the district's court executive officer.

NEW JUDGES. The district welcomed four new judges: District Judge Allison P. Martinez in Sandoval County and Magistrate Judges Tony Mace in Grants, Deseri A. Sichler in Los Lunas, and F. Kenneth Eichwald in Cuba.

TREATMENT COURTS. 34 participants graduated from adult and juvenile drug courts, a magistrate court DWI drug court, and a behavioral health treatment court. The DWI court has a success rate of nearly 96%, as measured by participants who had no arrests for three years after their graduation.

PRETRIAL SERVICES. 1,937 defendants were referred to pretrial services for support and supervision using evidence-based practices. In FY23, 83% of defendants released pretrial in Cibola County, 81% in Valencia County, and 79% in Sandoval County returned for all court hearings in cases in which there was a risk assessment after the person's arrest and all charges were resolved.

PREVENTING FORECLOSURES. Settlements occurred in 95% of the cases in which homeowners and other parties fully participated in the district's foreclosure settlement program.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION. Two-thirds of domestic relations cases with self-represented litigants reached a settlement after being referred to a court mediation program.

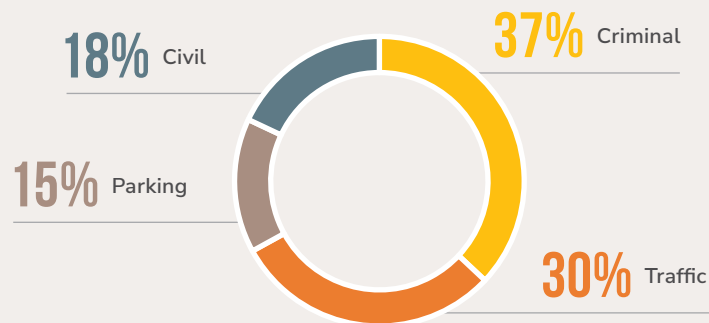
NEW COURTHOUSE. An 11,100-square-foot courthouse in Belen for the magistrate and municipal courts opened for business in April 2023. The "Gillie Sanchez Building" is named after the first magistrate judge elected in Valencia County.

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

BERNALILLO COUNTY METROPOLITAN COURT

19 Judges
317 Full-Time Employees

2023 Fiscal Year Caseload
New, reactivated, and reopened cases: **71,863**



Disposition Rate



Highlights

JURY TRIALS. The court conducted 20 criminal and civil jury trials.

CIVIL CASES. The court held 9,165 virtual and in-person hearings in civil cases.

COURT LEADERSHIP. Judge Joshua J. Sánchez was elected chief judge of the Metropolitan Court in April 2023. Lissa Lowe was named court executive officer in May, succeeding Robert Padilla, who retired after nearly 32 years with the court.

NEW JUDGES. Judges Claire A. McDaniel and Shonnetta R. Estrada were appointed to the court.

RETIREMENTS. Judge Sandra Engel retired after 16 years on the bench.

TREATMENT COURTS. 91 participants graduated from DWI recovery, healing to wellness, veterans, domestic violence, and behavioral health treatment courts. The DWI Recovery Court received the prestigious DWI Court Leadership Award at the 2023 conference of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals. The Urban Native American Healing to Wellness Court was named a mentor court for similar programs across the country.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH. Created a Behavioral Health Division to better serve participants in behavioral health specific specialty courts. 76 homeless or precariously housed individuals graduated from the Outreach Court. 20 defendants completed the Behavioral Health Resource Connection program.



Chief Judge Joshua J. Sánchez breaks down the contents of a case file with visiting students from RFK Charter School in February of 2023.

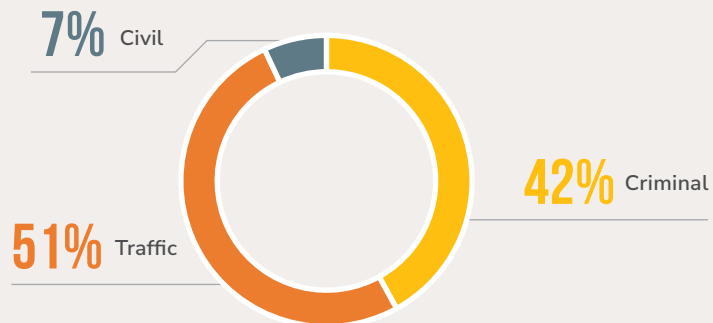
ACCESS TO JUSTICE. The Self-Help Center served 11,271 self-represented litigants in-person, by phone and through email — a 15% increase. Paralegal Renee Valdez was appointed by Chief Justice C. Shannon Bacon to assist in creating a statewide Self-Help Center. The Customer Service Division assisted 80,427 people over the phone and 42,466 in-person.

RESOLVING WARRANTS. The court held its first virtual Safe Surrender event, “Zoom On In,” where 232 warrants were resolved.

MAGISTRATE COURTS

46 Courts Statewide
67 Judges

2023 Fiscal Year Caseload
New, reactivated, and reopened cases: **145,683**



Disposition Rate



Highlights



Annual Magistrate Judge Conference in Albuquerque. Judge Trubert Flowers (Harding County) and Judge Linda Flores (Doña Ana County).

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.



Cutting the ribbon at the new Valencia County Courthouse in Belen. Magistrate John R. Chavez, Belen Mayor Robert Noblin, former Speaker of the House Raymond Sanchez, and his sister Regina are flanked by court employees.

A Year in Pictures



Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court Judge Claire McDaniel, on the right, is sworn in by Judge Vidalia Chavez on Sept. 2, 2022.



Metropolitan Court judges renewed their oaths of office on January 3, 2023 after being retained or securing their seats in partisan races in the November 2022 general election.



Swearing In Ceremony for Eighth Judicial District Judge Steven Romero (L-r): U.S. District Judge Kenneth Gonzales, Union County Magistrate Judge Mary Louise Harkins, Colfax County Probate Judge Royal Quint, Taos County Probate Judge Suzanne Valerio, Taos County Magistrate Judge Ernest Ortega, Judge Romero, Colfax County Magistrate Judges Felix Peña and Amy Hronich, and District Judge Jeffrey Shannon.



Metro Court Judge Shonnetta R. Estrada and Court of Appeals Judge Shammara H. Henderson at Judge Estrada's swearing-in ceremony in November 2022.



Third Judicial District Judge Robert Lara was sworn in on March 31, 2023 by District Judge Douglas Driggers as Judge Lara's wife Rosenda looks on.



Eleventh Judicial District Judge Douglas Decker is sworn in as court employees look on.



Third Judicial District Judge Mark Standridge takes the oath of office with wife Micah by his side and Chief Judge Conrad Perea administering the oath.



McKinley County Magistrate Judge Brent Detsoi is sworn in by Eleventh Judicial District Judge R. David Pederson at the historic McKinley County Courthouse as his father, Oscar Detsoi, looks on.



Twelfth Judicial District Judges. Front row l-r: District Judge Ellen Jessen, District Chief Judge Angie Schneider, District Judge Stephen Ochoa, and Magistrate Judge Mickie Vega.

Back row: District Judge John Sugg, Magistrate Judge John Secrest III, retired District Judge Frank Wilson, District Judge Daniel Bryant, and former Magistrate Judge Michael Ryan Suggs.



Santa Fe County Magistrate Judge Morgan H. Wood signs her oath of office after being sworn in by First Judicial District Chief Judge Bryan Biedscheid. Judge Wood's husband Douglas is holding her robe.



Torrance County Magistrate Judge Craig Davis taking the oath of office from County Deputy Clerk Sylvia Chavez.



Fifth Judicial District Judge Efren Cortez with his wife Elaine and child Layla after being sworn in on August 25, 2023.



Sixth Judicial District Judges: Pictured from left to right: (back row) Grant County Magistrate Judge Hector Grijalva, Hidalgo County Magistrate Judge Mark Thomas, District Chief Judge Jarod Hofacket, and Luna County Magistrate Judge J. Scott Chandler, (front row) District Judge Jim Foy, District Judge Jennifer DeLaney, Grant County Magistrate Judge Justin Garwood, and District Judge Tom Stewart.



Staff of the Administrative Office of the Courts after a meeting in December 2022.



(l-r): State Law Librarian Stephanie Wilson, Chief Clerk of the Supreme Court Elizabeth Garcia, and Ann Keith, General Counsel to the Chief Justice.



Patrick Perea worked for the Administrative Office of the Courts for more than 25 years as a procurement specialist.



Retired Justice Edward L. Chávez (at right) received the Pamela B. Minzner Professionalism Award from State Bar of New Mexico President Benjamin Sherman.



Programs

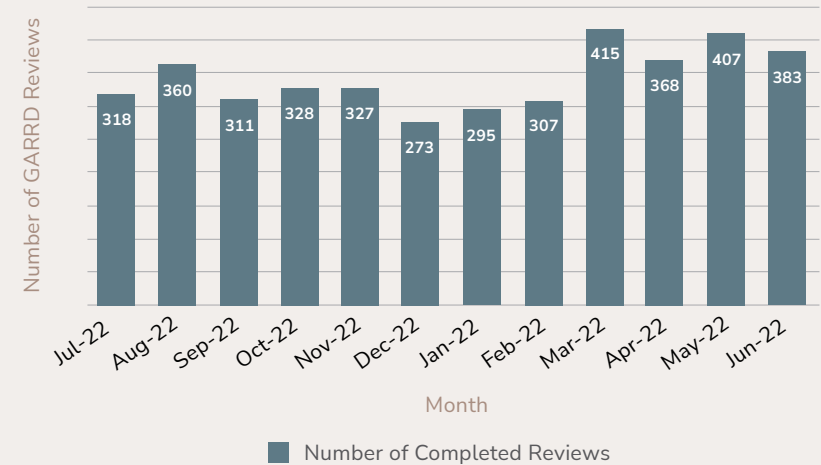
Adult Guardianship and Conservatorship

A district court judge may appoint a guardian and/or conservator for adults found to lack capacity to manage their finances, property, health care, or living arrangement. At the end of 2022, there were 5,860 open adult guardianship/conservatorship cases statewide.

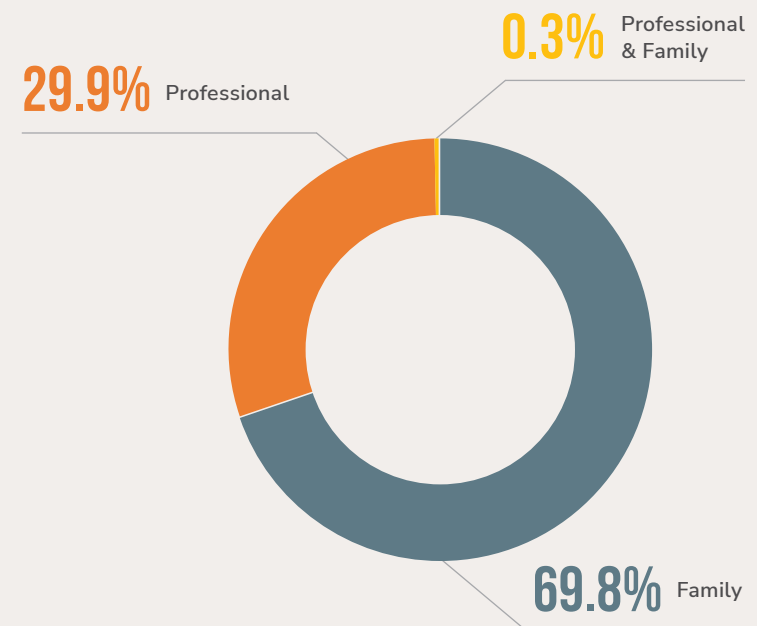
District	Pending	Reopened	Adjudicated	Total
1	104	36	488	628
2	112	98	2,068	2,278
3	40	14	689	743
4	1	3	192	196
5	24	6	443	473
6	10	4	130	144
7	38	4	54	96
8	15	3	87	105
9	4	3	119	126
10	1	2	27	30
11	14	3	161	178
12	16	4	175	195
13	49	30	589	668
Total	428	210	5,222	5,860

The Guardianship Annual Report Review Division (GARRD) began compliance reviews of annual reports filed by court-appointed guardians in December 2021. A review focuses on whether the guardian is complying 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 guardian or the guardian's actions. The results of compliance reviews are forwarded to the assigned judge. In fiscal year 2023, GARRD staff reviewed 4,092 annual reports filed in adult guardianship cases. The following is the cumulative FY23 data obtained through the reviews:

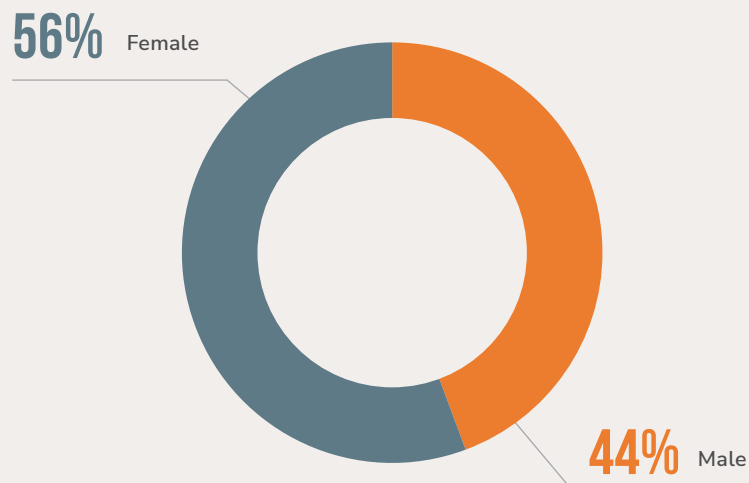
Guardianship Annual Report Review Division (GARRD) Completed Reviews - FY23 (July 2022 - June 2023)



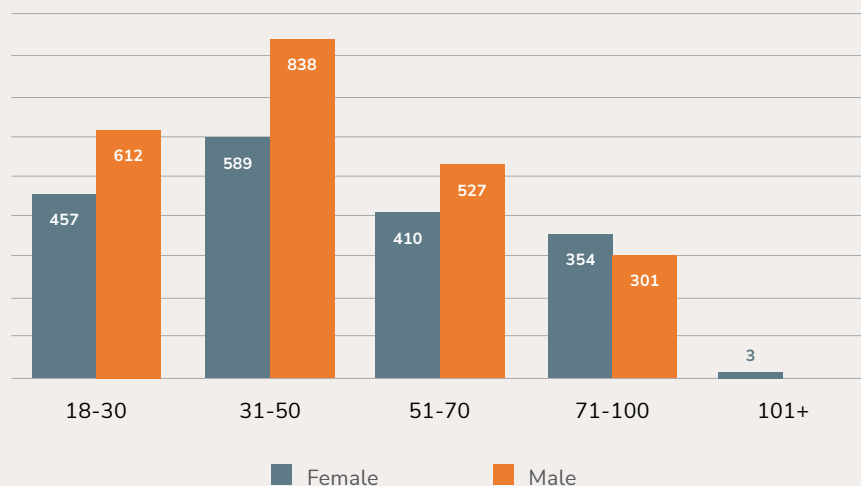
Allocation of Family and Professional Guardians GARRD Reviews: July 2022-June 2023



Gender of Protected Person
GARRD Reviews: July 2022-June 2023



Age and Gender of Protected Person GARRD Reviews:
July 2022-June 2023



Behavioral Health Department

The Behavioral Health Department in the Administrative Office of the Courts works to improve outcomes for individuals with behavioral health needs who become involved with the justice system. During FY23, the department expanded access to training for professionals in the behavioral health and criminal justice systems, improved cross-system collaboration, and provided ongoing support.

In FY23, accomplishments included:

- The Supreme Court Summit on Improving the Court and Community Response to Those with Mental Illness in New Mexico. Teams from all 33 counties established local plans to help individuals who may end up in court and jail because they are experiencing a behavioral health problem.



Cibola County Sequential Intercept Model Mapping Summit - District Judge Amanda Sanchez Villalobos, third from right, and community stakeholder team.

- Convened stakeholders from all three branches of government to participate in the federal Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration's GAINS Center Competency to Stand Trial Policy Academy. They met with national and local experts to develop practices and policies to support people with behavioral health needs who frequently come into contact with the criminal justice system.

- Leveraged federal grant funds from the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program to support community initiatives in Bernalillo, Colfax, Grant, Hidalgo, Lincoln, Otero, Roosevelt, and Sierra counties. Approaches included:
 - ♦ System navigation and resource connection services for individuals experiencing a crisis.
 - ♦ Linkage to culturally responsive services for Native Americans with behavioral health and substance misuse issues.
 - ♦ Advanced training for law enforcement and first responders to improve responses to individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis.
- Conducted training sessions for court and collaboration partner teams statewide on “How Being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Responses,” “Mental Health First Aid,” and “QPR: Question, Persuade, Refer.” Developed and delivered community specific training sessions related to behavioral health and criminal justice for members of the judiciary and treatment court teams.
- Provided administrative and subject matter support for the New Mexico Supreme Court Commission on Mental Health and Competency.
- Ongoing collaboration with the Human Service Department’s Behavioral Health Services Division and its Office of Peer Recovery and Engagement to develop forensic endorsement for Certified Peer Support Workers to provide services to individuals within the justice system. The support workers use their personal recovery experiences to help others.
- Facilitated Sequential Intercept Model Mapping Activities for judicial district and community stakeholder teams.

Court Improvement Program and the Children’s Court Improvement Commission

The federally-sponsored State Court Improvement Program (CIP) provides

grant funds in each state to improve the child welfare system. The Administrative Office of the Courts manages the CIP to improve child safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes for families in child welfare proceedings such as child abuse and neglect, foster care, and adoption.

Each CIP must maintain a statewide multidisciplinary task force. In New Mexico, this is the Children’s Court Improvement Commission (CCIC), which was established by the Supreme Court in 2009. Justice Briana H. Zamora serves as the Supreme Court’s representative to the commission, and the co-chairs in FY23 were Second Judicial District Chief Judge Marie Ward and Arika Sanchez of New Mexico Child Advocacy Networks.

COMMISSION WORKGROUPS. In FY23, CCIC workgroups:

- Helped develop a Family Wellbeing Legal Consultation Services program piloted in the Second Judicial District Court. The program provides an option of prepetition legal consultation to parents and caregivers who are subject to a CYFD investigation.
- Prepared training and bench cards for judges on the Fostering Connections program, which extends foster care for young adults.
- Made recommendations on procedural rules to the Children’s Court Rules Committee regarding crossover youth who are involved in both the child welfare and justice systems.
- Created a form order for courts and parties concerning family time when children in foster care are together with their parents. The order will be piloted in FY24.

LEGISLATION. The CCIC prepared legislation (Senate Bill 31) that was enacted in 2023. The bill revised the Kinship Guardianship Act.

TRAINING. The CIP collaborates with the University of New Mexico’s Corinne Wolfe Center for Child and Family Justice on annual training for new attorneys and judges practicing in child welfare. The CIP also supports the Children’s Law Institute (CLI) hosted by New Mexico State University’s Center of Innovation for Behavioral Health and Wellbeing. In January 2023, the 30th annual CLI had 1,077 attendees and 47 workshops.

Children's Court Judges Association

The Children's Court Judges Association (CCJA) provides training and a space for discussion for judicial officers who preside over child welfare and/or juvenile justice cases. Twelfth Judicial District Chief Judge Angie Schneider chairs the association, which meets monthly.

In FY23, the CCJA received updates about legislation related to Children's Court, and a bill eliminating post-adjudication fees in traffic and criminal cases. Speakers also shared information about the Substitute Care Advisory Council, the Juvenile Justice Advisory Commission, Fostering Connections program support services, the Fostering Family program that works with kinship guardians, and the Children, Youth and Families Department's Office of Children's Rights.



Professor Vivek Sankaran presenting to the Children's Court Judges Association.

The CCJA planned and hosted the second annual "Raising the Bar" training for Children's Court judges. The half-day session is named in honor of retired Justice Petra Jimenez Maes. Speakers included Vivek Sankaran, professor at the University of Michigan Law School and director of the Child Advocacy Law Clinic, and Sheri Freemont, Casey Family Programs managing director of the Judicial and National Engagements Team. Their presentation explored how compassion can be used to build trust and engagement with families.



Children's Court Mediation Program

The Children's Court Mediation Program (CCMP) continued to accept referrals from the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) stemming from abuse and neglect, guardianship, time limited reunification, and open adoption cases. The program operates exclusively online and by feedback from professionals in the child welfare community. Online mediation is preferred because remote participation is far more convenient and accessible for parties.

IN FY23:

- A total of 515 referrals were processed, up 5% from the 2022 fiscal year. As in prior years, a majority of referrals were for time limited reunification mediations. Referrals for open adoption cases numbered 43, a significant decrease from previous fiscal years: 76 in FY20, 76 in FY21, and 67 in FY22.
- The statewide coordinator delivered training and program marketing in areas that have underutilized the program. A presentation was conducted in Cibola County for staff, and with region 5 CYFD legal staff. These trainings strengthen and build relationships across the child welfare community and highlight the valuable role quality mediation services can bring to all involved. The Administrative Office of the Courts also offered trainings about the Indian Family Protection Act and the Indian Child Welfare Act.

...And Justice For All

Civil Legal Help For Everyone

Commission on Access to Justice

The New Mexico Commission on Access to Justice expanded its Justice for All initiatives to develop meaningful access to justice, prioritize collaborative community efforts, and identify challenges and barriers to justice.

IN FY23:

- The commission's Community Integration Workgroup presented a series of virtual webinars on topics ranging from agricultural workers' rights and resources to wildfire claims.
- The Modest Means Helpline began offering free legal assistance over the telephone on civil matters to moderate income New Mexicans. The helpline assisted more than 2,500 people. The program is a collaborative effort of the commission, the Administrative Office of the Courts, the State Bar of New Mexico and the State Bar Foundation.

New Mexico Commission on Access to Justice
Community Webinar Series




This webinar focuses on

Predatory Lending

Wednesday, April 19, 2023
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

- The commission launched a monthly newsletter featuring champions of access to justice, a spotlight on civil legal service providers, and events and innovations occurring across the state.
- The commission continued to encourage plain language forms, support the expansion of scribing services, and foster community outreach and civil legal services provider collaboration.

Free Legal Assistance on Civil Matters

Modest Means Helpline

Mon-Fri
8:30 - 5:30


888-857-9935
OR
505-797-6013

September 2023 Vol. 1 No. 4

JUSTICE FOR ALL

NEW MEXICO ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Champions of Access to Justice



Representative Gail Chasey

Representative Gail Chasey has served in the New Mexico House of Representatives since her election in 1996 and is currently the longest-serving member of the House. Gail is a retired educator, having taught high school History and English in the Salinas Valley of California, and Special Education in the Albuquerque Public Schools. She earned a Master's and Doctorate degree in Special Education from the University of New Mexico. Gail was inspired to run for office in 1985 after working with New Mexican parents who were successful in their effort to secure public education services for children with developmental delays, ages 3-5.

Representative Chasey quickly advocated for civil rights, criminal justice reform, and equal access to justice in the Legislature. In her first session, she sponsored a bill to end filing fees for victims of domestic violence, which was signed into law. She later championed efforts to end discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Serving on the House Judiciary Committee inspired Representative Chasey to seek a law degree from the University of New Mexico School of Law while continuing to serve in the Legislature. After graduation, she began a second career as an attorney.

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SPOTLIGHT

DISABILITY RIGHTS NEW MEXICO (DRNM)

Disability Rights New Mexico (DRNM) is an independent, private nonprofit organization that has, for over 40 years, protected, promoted, and expanded the rights of persons with disabilities. DRNM's services are free and are provided statewide. DRNM is the designated protection and advocacy program for New Mexico and has authority under federal law to pursue legal, administrative, and other remedies on behalf of persons with disabilities.

DRNM's mission is to promote the independence, productivity, and full community inclusion of persons with disabilities, facilitating consumer control of individual services, and self-help through knowledge and self-advocacy skills. DRNM services are vital to the well-being of persons with disabilities by responding to their legal needs relating to education, employment, housing, health services, protection from abuse and neglect, and fundamental legal rights.

DRNM provides several services: information and referrals about services for persons with disabilities and about their legal rights; individual case advocacy services to resolve specific disability rights problems; advocacy efforts to improve service systems; generally promote, protect and expand the rights of persons with disabilities; outreach and training activities to increase awareness of disability rights; and to increase consumer empowerment.

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www.accessjustice.nmcourts.gov

- Closed captioning of video is provided for the commission's hybrid meetings to ensure access for all people who wish to participate, and interpretive services are arranged when needed online or in person.
- Second Judicial District Judge Erin O'Connell, who chairs the commission, presented on the judiciary's foreclosure settlement program at the 2023 Equal Justice Conference in Dallas.
- In FY24, the commission will consider developing a legal assistance portal, with a recently completed feasibility study helping to guide the decision-making process.
- The commission will broaden the diversity of its membership through new nomination criteria to fill future vacancies.

Commission on Equity and Justice

The Commission on Equity and Justice was established by the New Mexico Supreme Court in 2020 to study and ultimately eliminate biases and inequities within New Mexico's justice system. The commission's core values are centered on identifying and repairing the causes of racial inequities in the judicial system.

IN FY23, THE COMMISSION:

- Submitted recommendations and proposed rule changes.
- Identified areas of implicit bias.
- Developed and encouraged trainings in harassment prevention, bias awareness, and diversity.
- Developed and proposed implementation of enhanced data collection.
- Encouraged diversity in the legal profession.
- Raised awareness of socio-economic barriers.

Efforts are underway to conduct surveys around the state to determine how the courthouse environment can be more welcoming and accessible to all New Mexicans.

Commission on Mental Health and Competency

The New Mexico Supreme Court Commission on Mental Health and Competency brings together public, private and community-based stakeholders working at the intersection of behavioral health and criminal justice. The commission met quarterly during FY23 with more frequent subcommittee meetings focused on subject matter specific work.

The commission's mission is to improve outcomes for individuals experiencing behavioral health and cognitive challenges by:

- Inspiring collaborative change across systems.
- Ensuring access to services and treatment.
- Ending stigma and discrimination.



The Commission on Mental Health and Competency met in Santa Fe. From l-r: First Judicial District Judge Jason Lidyard, Justice Briana H. Zamora, Twelfth Judicial District Chief Judge Angie Schneider, Public Defender Robert Work, Senator Jerry Ortiz y Pino, Albuquerque Police Department Commander Matt Dietzel, AOC Statewide Behavioral Health Manager Scott Patterson-Alatorre, Eighth Judicial District Judge (Ret.) Melissa Kennelly, UNM Law School Professor Ann Delpha, UNM Law School Student Marco Alarid White, NM Association of Counties General Counsel Grace Philips, Subcommittee Chair (Ret.) Michael Barndollar, Doña Ana County Health Services Director Jamie Michael, Governor's Office Housing and Homeless Advisor Amy Whitfield, forensic evaluator Dr. Simone Viljoen, Ninth Judicial District Deputy District Attorney Brian Stover, and Fifth Judicial District Judge James Hudson.

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FY23:

- Established subcommittees to develop educational and training materials for providers, individuals with lived experience, and criminal justice partners about the process for determining whether a person is competent to stand trial on criminal charges.
- Partnered with stakeholders from other branches of government to build awareness of the stigma associated with mental illness and justice system involvement.
- Partnered with the Council for State Governments Justice Center and communities around the state to provide leadership, support, and guidance for the States Supporting Familiar Faces initiative, which assists local efforts to better serve individuals who frequently cycle through the criminal justice and behavioral health systems.
- Established a 5-year strategic plan to improve outcomes for systems and individuals with serious mental illness and substance abuse disorders who become involved with the justice system.

- Worked with partners in the executive branch of government to increase reimbursement rates for forensic evaluation to build workforce capacity in New Mexico.
- Collaborated with the legislative and executive branches of government and community partners to support removal of antiquated language about developmental and intellectual disabilities from state statutes.
- Engaged in ongoing work with national partners to support court systems from other states in developing a similar commission and initiatives related to behavioral health.



Compilation Commission

The New Mexico Compilation Commission is the official legal publisher of the State of New Mexico. Through updated technology, the commission provides a free online database of current and historical versions of New Mexico Statutes Annotated, New Mexico Rules Annotated, the uniform body of case law, the New Mexico Constitution, Attorney General opinions, State Ethics Commission opinions, the New Mexico Administrative Code, and session laws. The public can access the information at 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 with a national law publisher, mobile apps and eBooks are available in addition to print publications.



Court Appointed Attorney Program

The Court Appointed Attorney Program (CAAP) of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) provided fiscal oversight, ensured compliance with contractual obligations by attorneys, and supplied training materials to child welfare professionals.

The CAAP also recruited attorneys to provide representation in parentage, mental health and disabilities proceedings, and matters warranting a guardian ad litem (GAL) in adult kinship guardianship and family law cases. CAAP-funded attorneys provided legal representation in more than 2,500 cases.

IN FY23, THE CAAP:

- Issued 99 contracts for abuse and neglect representation for attorneys representing children and parents, guardians, and custodians in abuse and neglect matters. Attorneys also handled appeals and cases for the Fostering Connections program, Indian Child Welfare Act Court, and pilot projects.
- Maintained contracts with 12 mental health attorneys who provide representation to adults and children in sequestered cases involving mental health or developmental disabilities.
- Reviewed and processed numerous non-contract attorney submissions for matters in which the court appointed counsel.
- Funded attendance for 64 attorneys at the Children's Law Institute, which provides continuing education and training on child welfare cases.
- Developed and provided training for lawyers and other professionals statewide on New Mexico's newly enacted Indian Family Protection Act.
- Supported the development of attorney pilot programs and expansion efforts in existing programs.
- Collaborated with the Court Improvement Program, New Mexico State University's Center of Innovation for Behavioral Health and Wellbeing, and the University of New Mexico's Corinne Wolfe Center for Child and Family Justice to offer free or reduced cost continuing education to attorneys. Training also was provided about the Indian Family Protection Act, which requires the AOC to assure training occurs annually.
- Coordinated with the Office of Family Representation and Advocacy (OFRA), which was newly created by law to provide legal representation for families in abuse and neglect cases, and the OFRA Oversight Commission.



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 provide judges with reports and recommendations to help 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 is more likely to succeed in school, according to national data.

CASA AT A GLANCE:

- 13 CASA programs in 26 counties.
- 550 CASA volunteers spent 13,693 hours advocating for children in foster care.
- 821 children and youth received support from a CASA.
- 507 cases were assigned a CASA.

FY23 HIGHLIGHTS:

- New Mexico CASA (NMCASA), in collaboration with the Second Judicial District Court, implemented a new court report along with supporting policy to ensure youth aging out of foster care connect to essential resources and documentation such as their New Mexico Real ID, Social Security card, medical card, and electronic benefits transfer card. In FY24, the new court report will be standardized in New Mexico programs and judicial districts.

New Mexico Court Appointed Special Advocates Performance Measures Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023)

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	71	107
2	74	115
3	58	98
4	18	20
5	172	290
6	11	14
7	4	4
8	14	25
11	42	85
12	11	17
13	32	46
Statewide	507	821

- The First Judicial District CASA developed and provided early childhood advocacy training, focusing on best practices for children up to 3 years old. CASA First presented the training to all New Mexico CASA directors.
- NMCASA provided a 4-week “lunch and learn” training on educational advocacy best practices to local programs and their volunteers in conjunction with the New Mexico Office of Special Education.



Court Education Institute

The Supreme Court established the New Mexico Court Education Institute (CEI) on May 30, 2023. The institute will centralize and modernize court education to ensure all members of the judiciary receive the training and education necessary to effectively and efficiently serve the public. CEI is working to expand and enhance existing programs as well as offer new in-person and online programs.

CEI ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE ITS INCEPTION:

Developing a three-year strategic plan with goals aligned with the judiciary's strategic plan:

- ♦ Identifying the judiciary's educational needs.
- ♦ Aligning court education with national best practices.
- ♦ Adopting the Continuous Improvement (Kaizen) Model.
- ♦ Providing community outreach.
- ♦ Assembling a team that includes a director, senior attorney, statewide training coordinator, program manager, and event planner.

TRAINING AND CONFERENCES:

- Delivered multiple in-person training sessions and conferences, including for new municipal, magistrate, and district court judges.
- Worked with locally and nationally recognized speakers to join the institute as subject matter expert faculty, and contracted with several experts to deliver training for upcoming sessions.

NATIONAL AND LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS:

- Collaborated with the Institute of Court Management to offer a leadership summit in 2024, the National Judicial College to offer scholarships for judges to attend training, and the Judicial Science

School at Los Alamos National Laboratory to provide judges with an understanding of modern scientific research methodology.

- Contracting with the New Mexico Department of Transportation to provide a state judicial outreach liaison for training on DWI and other traffic safety topics.



Back row l-r: Administrative Office of the Court's Court Education Institute (CEI) Attorney Sr. Sonya Duke-Noel, Twelfth Judicial District Judge Stephen P. Ochoa, Second Judicial District Judge David Murphy, Third Judicial District Judge Mark Standridge, Third Judicial District Judge Robert Lara, Fifth Judicial District Judge Efren Cortez, Eleventh Judicial District Judge Douglas Decker, Sixth Judicial District Chief Judge Jarod Hofacket, Fifth Judicial District Judge David Finger, CEI Statewide Training Coordinator Jamie Lindemann, and CEI Event Planner Laurie Moreau.

First row l-r: Third Judicial District Judge Casey Fitch, Fifth Judicial District Judge AnneMarie Lewis, CEI Director Paula Couselo-Findikoglu, Supreme Court Chief Justice C. Shannon Bacon, Eighth Judicial District Judge Steven Romero, Ninth Judicial District Judge Benjamin Cross, Thirteenth Judicial District Judge Allison Martinez, Second Judicial District Judge Emerterio Rudolfo, and CEI Program Manager Margarita Terrell.

TECHNOLOGY:

- Working to acquire a robust learning management system. The online platform will allow participants to enroll in courses, register for conferences, track progress and build a learning plan based on continuing education requirements and areas of interest. An electronic learning component will include instructor-led and self-paced training programs with the capacity to track educational requirements.
- Secured a mobile application to help event attendees and planners manage their conference experience.
- Developed a webpage courteducation.nmcourts.gov that will expand to include the learning management system platform and an e-library with educational materials.

Administrative Office of the Courts – Court Operations Division

THE WARRANT ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM focuses on preventing noncompliance with court orders by members of the public. Twenty-six employees in Las Cruces, Rio Rancho, and Santa Fe work on citation processing, compliance, and customer service. In FY23, the program also supported the judiciary's efforts to eliminate post-adjudication fees.

THE CITATION PROCESSING UNIT serves 12 of the 13 judicial districts. The unit began using automated phone calls and text messages to send reminders about court and compliance dates to New Mexico drivers issued a citation. The reminders and the unit's research before entering citations have helped reduce failure to appear rates across the state. The unit also worked on a pilot program to assist courts with heavy dockets by diverting some of their traffic cases to judges in courts with lighter dockets. Beginning in September 2023, judges from Harding and De Baca counties will conduct remote hearings for out-of-county citations issued in San Miguel County.

THE COMPLIANCE UNIT serves all judicial districts by reviewing outstanding warrants to update contact information for defendants and determine whether a defendant has died. The first Safe Surrender event since the pandemic was held in Alamogordo and 297 cases were resolved. The unit is working on automation projects with the Department of Public Safety to reduce the data entry required to issue warrants and complete warrant validations. The initiative will improve data quality significantly.

THE CUSTOMER SERVICE UNIT assists the public from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. It provides forms, copies of documents, and general information about courts and their procedures. Incoming calls have increased by 72% as people became more aware of the service. There were 7,981 incoming calls in June 2023, the highest monthly amount so far. The unit also made 136,694 outgoing calls to court customers. Judicial districts forward phones to the customer service unit during a closure or when a high call volume prevents a court's staff from assisting in-person customers.

THE COURT SECURITY team provided more than 20 in-person and remote training sessions to courts statewide and issued over 250 certificates for active shooter, courtroom safety, security screening, and Narcan training.



The team presented at a supervisory mentorship program offered by the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Magistrate Court Manager Conference, and the Magistrate Judge Conference.

The team also:

- Conducted security assessments and evaluations at courts.
- Made recommendations on security plans for new and existing courthouses.
- Provided security for Supreme Court justices when traveling for remote hearings and other engagements.
- Evaluated security incident reports filed in FY23, offering support or recommendations for solutions.
- Maintained access control and video camera systems for over 30 locations statewide.

Facilities Management

The Facilities Management Bureau conducted site visits at magistrate courts throughout the state to meet with court staff, assess and document needs, and prioritize projects.

PROJECT STATUS:

- The new magistrate courthouse in Lovington was completed on January 24, 2023.
- The new magistrate courthouse in Belen was completed on March 14, 2023.
- The new magistrate courthouse in Ruidoso was completed on April 14, 2023.
- The new magistrate courthouse in Springer was completed on September 18, 2023. The courthouse opened on October 12, 2023.
- The new magistrate courthouse in Clovis is set to break ground by the end of 2023.
- The new magistrate courthouse in Santa Fe will break ground in the spring of 2024.



Lovington Magistrate Courtroom.



Lea County Magistrate Courthouse front entrance.



Colfax County Magistrate Court in Springer.



Valencia County Magistrate Court in Belen.

Department for Therapeutic Justice

The Department for Therapeutic Justice (DTJ) in the Administrative Office of the Courts advances the healing and transformative administration of law through New Mexico's 58 treatment courts, which offer an alternative to the costly revolving door of incarceration. The court programs exist in 12 of the 13 judicial districts, serving 22 of the 33 counties. A multidisciplinary team of professionals oversees these yearlong programs, which treat a person's substance use and 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.

Studies have found that treatment courts are two times more effective than prison in preventing rearrest and four times less expensive.

Accomplishments in FY23:

- DTJ hosted its first Treatment Court Alumni Summit. More than 100 treatment court graduates attended the two-day event, which celebrated ongoing recovery and provided training to extend their influence as peers.
 - ♦ Thirty-three treatment courts began development of alumni programs or started a program.
 - ♦ Seven pilot sites worked with the DTJ to initiate and evaluate alumni members and program guides.
- Professional development began in five sites for a pilot project using a Risk-Needs-Responsivity (RNR) framework. The RNR strategy matches supervision and treatment to an individual's needs and risk factors. Appropriately matching service intensity and dosage reduces recidivism and potential harm to the justice-involved individual.
- Twenty-five treatment courts participated in the department's certification process: three earned gold tier certification, four earned bronze tier, and 18 are in provisional status. The certification process measures a program's alignment of programs with state standards.
- The DTJ provided virtual professional development and networking sessions twice monthly as well as special virtual and in-person summits, workgroups, and other training and technical assistance. More than 300 justice and behavioral health professionals attended a virtual conference co-hosted with the New Mexico Association of Drug Court Professionals.



- Development and beta testing of a smartphone app for field support officers in treatment courts.
- Initiated a pilot program in partnership with the University of New Mexico's Institute for Social Research (ISR) to evaluate treatment court programs.





Valencia County Magistrate Judge Miles Tafoya (middle of back row) at the certification presentation for the DWI Drug Court. Also pictured, left to right: Martin Burkhart, Carlos Gonzales and Deanna Corriz of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC); attorney Greg Gaudette; County Compliance Officer Michelle Gonzales; County Compliance Supervisor Lori Kurtz holding plaque; DWI Drug Court Coordinator Marisha Mae; Treatment Provider Katherine Harris; Judge Tafoya; Surveillance Officer Alan Montano; and Anna Quintana-Sanchez, Pamela Trujillo, Tommy Zold and Rob Mitchell of the AOC. County Compliance Officer Cheryl Luna is shown on the video monitor.

FY23 Performance Measures

Total Treatment Court Programs Reporting:
56

Active Participants on 6/30/2023:
869

Total Participants Since Inception:
27,839

Total Graduates Since Inception:
14,098

Intent-to-Treat Recidivism:
17.15%

Graduate Recidivism:
9%

of Graduates:
344

Graduation Rate:
58%

Cost/Client/Day:
\$34.67

Employment of Adult Graduates:
77%

Education Attainment of Juvenile Graduates:
93%

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 non-relinquishment is filed with the court.

Court forms are used when a judge makes a credible threat finding. Firearm relinquishment forms were filed in 179 domestic violence order of protection cases from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

FIREARM RELINQUISHMENT RECEIPT. The judge made a separate finding that the restrained party posed a credible threat to the protected party in 36 cases, and firearms were relinquished to either law enforcement or a federal firearms licensee and a receipt was filed with the court.

DECLARATION OF NON-RELINQUISHMENT. Of the 179 total cases, a declaration of non-relinquishment form was filed with the court in 143 cases by the restrained parties stating they did not own or possess any firearms that could be surrendered.

FORMS FILED. Firearm relinquishment forms were filed in the following counties: Bernalillo (115), Colfax (1), Curry (3), Doña Ana (4), Eddy (1), Grant (3), Otero (6), Roosevelt (1), San Juan (2), Sandoval (2), Santa Fe (4), Taos (13), Union (6), and Valencia (18). The following counties had no firearm relinquishment forms filed: Catron, Chavez, Cibola, De Baca, Guadalupe, Harding, Hidalgo, Lea, Lincoln, Los Alamos, Luna, McKinley, Mora, Quay, Rio Arriba, San Miguel, Sierra, Socorro, and Torrance.



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 supports parents to help reunify families when possible and strengthens the parents' ability to care for their children. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) received a \$7.7 million federal grant in 2018 to administer the NMFAP, which works with families in Bernalillo, Sandoval, Valencia, Cibola, McKinley, and San Juan counties.

In FY23, NMFAP:

- Served 299 parents, including 83 fathers, and 490 children.
- Contracted with seven licensed master's social workers, 15 respondent attorneys, two parent peer mentors, one clinical social work consultant, one resource attorney, three independent reviewers for NMFAP cases, and with the National Center for State Courts to lead an independent evaluation of the program.
- Facilitated 10 virtual trainings to improve legal advocacy and practice through the NMFAP ECHO, a knowledge-sharing platform that includes the statewide child welfare community.
- Conducted additional outreach and training for practitioners around the state to improve collaboration and practice in site counties.

INITIAL FINDINGS: Parent and stakeholder interviews have yielded positive responses about the NMFAP and the support it provides to parents. Four-fifths of parents receiving NMFAP services indicated that the frequency of their contact with the interdisciplinary team was sufficient. Additionally, NMFAP parents reported meeting with attorneys more often than non-NMFAP parents, and indicated that they received more support related to court hearings.



My lawyer and advocacy worker prepare me. That has been the saving grace to this whole process.

- Parent served by NMFAP.

Activities Supported by NMFAP (as reported by parents receiving services)

	n=30
Helping to communicate with CYFD worker	97% (29)
Explaining and helping to understand court proceedings	93% (28)
Helping to access services I need	93% (28)
Helping to have input into my case plan	90% (27)
Attending meetings with CYFD	87% (26)
Ensuring visitation with the child	70% (21)
Transporting to assessments and/or services	63% (19)
Helping to advocate for relative placement	63% (19)
Helping to identify relatives who are potential supports	63% (19)
Helping to access visitation with my child	53% (16)
*Other – expressed as emotional support activities	17% (5)

Sunsetting NMFAP:

In October 2022, the NMFAP entered its final year of operations under the federal grant. Staff, with input from contract practitioners and stakeholders, developed a strategy to wind down the program. This included considerations for parents to provide them with focused support during the remaining time and to prepare them for a full transition to community-based services. NMFAP and other AOC staff supported the new Office of Family Representation and Advocacy (OFRA) and coordinated transition efforts as the new agency will take over interdisciplinary legal representation for parents and children when NMFAP concludes. A transition packet will be provided to OFRA and the child welfare community in FY24. The packet will compile NMFAP materials including a practice guide, training materials, forms, information sheets, lessons learned, and data/evaluation outcomes.



Family Representation Commission

The Family Representation Commission (FRC), established by the New Mexico Supreme Court in 2020, concluded its work following the launch of the Oversight Commission for the Office of Family Representation and Advocacy. The FRC was chaired by Sixth Judicial District Judge Jennifer DeLaney.

FRC recommendations to the Legislature led to the creation of the Office of Family Representation and Advocacy. FRC provided the developing agency with guidance to support its formation as an independent state agency, and took necessary steps to assure that the transition process was able to occur without a disruption in services of appointed counsel. The new, independent office ultimately removed judicial oversight of court appointed counsel in abuse and neglect cases and other foster care-related cases.

Human Resources Division

The Human Resources Division (HRD) of the Administrative Office of the Courts provides services to about 2,000 judicial officers and employees in a wide range of areas, including payroll and benefits administration.

IN FY23, HRD:

- Combined and converted leave types such as annual and sick into a new category - Paid Time Off (PTO). The new leave accrual system for judicial employees allows leave balances to carry over at the end of the calendar year and establishes compensation for PTO buyback.
- Managed the judiciary's Workforce Investment Plan, moving employees through the ranges based on time in the job classification. HRD successfully implemented a 2% salary increase in addition to a 4% salary adjustment approved by the legislature.
- Provided statewide services to all judicial entities, including position recruitment and reclassification; pay for performance programs; salary adjustments and compensation initiatives; employee relations and investigations into claims of harassment, discrimination and retaliation; and personnel rule interpretation and guidance.

The Fifth Judicial District is Hiring!

1 Full-Time, Classified, Judicial Specialist 2 position in Roswell
1 Full-Time, Classified, Judicial Specialist 2 in Carlsbad
1 Full-Time, At-will, Classified, Bailiff in Carlsbad

Experience the Difference



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Lynette Paulman-Rodriguez (third from left) retired after serving as AOC Human Resources Director for 12 years.

Pictured l-r: Justice Michael E. Vigil, Chief Justice C. Shannon Bacon, Lynette Paulman-Rodriguez, Justice Julie J. Vargas, Justice Briana H. Zamora, and AOC Director Artie Pepin.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

- Provided a 40-hour supervisory training to 56 managers, supervisors and employees to increase professional proficiency in supervisory techniques and knowledge of critical employment laws.
- Provided onboarding and new employee orientation monthly to approximately 206 judiciary employees through a hybrid platform.
- Recruited for approximately 772 job opportunities judiciary-wide.
- HRD will continue to partner with human resource professionals throughout the judicial branch of government on workforce and training needs to improve the operational effectiveness of the judiciary.

Judicial Information Division

The Judicial Information Division (JID) is the technology arm of the judicial branch of government and is directed by the chief technology officer, who reports to the director of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). JID provides cybersecurity, information technology support for all state courts, and information technology policy and direction.

IN FY23, JID:

- Successfully upgraded the Odyssey case management system to Navigator, with an improved user interface and modern look. The Odyssey team delivered 39 training sessions for 2,737 judges and staff across the state, prepared targeted training materials, and ensured everyone was ready for the new version.
- Planned and executed the first phase of a new emergency alert and communication system – RAVE – for the AOC and the Supreme Court. Future expansion to additional judicial entities is planned. The system notifies employees through text or email of weather alerts, court closures, technology outages, and safety alerts.
- Developed and implemented the Docket Direct application, which allows participating courts to display docket information for their judicial entity in the courthouse.
- Launched new teams and processes to better support excellence in



service delivery, including the JID Service Desk, project management, and data requests. This investment allows JID to review and revamp internal processes and improve our customer service, project delivery, and reporting efforts.

- Resolved a total of 35,507 service desk tickets.
- JID worked on a major technology upgrade for the Supreme Court building, and ensured technology was in place, tested, and operational when several new courthouses opened across the state.
- The AOC received an excellence award for Supreme Court and Court of Appeals data submitted as part of the Court Statistics Project of the National Center for State Courts. The collaborative effort included employees from JID, the Supreme Court, and Court of Appeals, and was led by Senior Data Analyst Joe Vigil, who gathered and submitted a significant amount of data.



Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission

The Supreme Court established the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission (JPEC) in 1997 to improve the performance of judges and provide credible information to voters about judges standing for retention. Staff of the Court Services Division of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) supports JPEC.

The nonpartisan commission is composed of 15 members – seven lawyers and eight non-lawyers – appointed to staggered terms by the Supreme Court. JPEC posts evaluations of judges on its website, – www.nmjpec.org. The commission also disseminates information through newspaper articles, social media, and advertising.

IN FY23, JPEC:

- Provided evaluations of one Supreme Court justice, one Court of Appeals judge, and seven Metropolitan Court judges standing for retention. JPEC's messages achieved nearly 2.8 million impressions via social and digital media, while an estimated 500,000 people were reached by radio and newspaper advertising. More than 50,000 people visited JPEC's website.
- Organized a first-of-its kind strategic planning retreat for commissioners. National experts provided implicit bias training and education on best practices. One result was an improved district and metro judge survey for attorneys, judges, jurors, court staff, and resource staff.
- Implemented legislation that staggered terms of judges by completing the first phase of 2023 district judge evaluations with 100 percent participation. The second phase of evaluations is underway.

- Developed a database to track the status of all Supreme Court justices, Court of Appeals judges, district court judges, and metropolitan court judges. The database indicates when individuals were appointed to the bench, ran in a partisan election, are scheduled for an interim JPEC evaluation, and when they face retention under the staggered term legislation.
- Planned marketing and communications research to determine public awareness and perceptions of JPEC, evaluate the effectiveness of JPEC's branding and communications, and explore how JPEC can motivate more voters to participate in judicial retention elections. The research will partly focus on traditionally underserved populations, including Native American, Hispanic, and young voters.



AOC Court Services Division Director Mateo Page (standing at center) and AOC Business Specialist Ryan Deller (sitting) distributed information about the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission at the State Bar of New Mexico's annual meeting in August 2022.

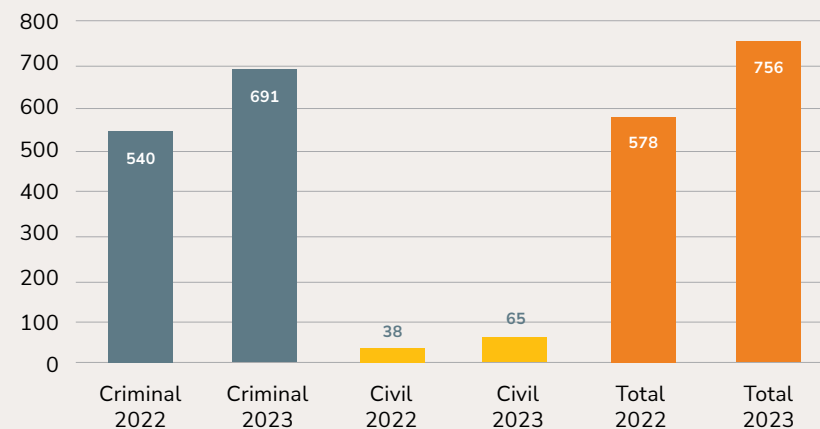
Jury Program

The Jury Program of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC Jury) supports the statewide jury management system and its related services. The program explores procedures, processes, and technology to improve the overall jury service experience for jurors and court staff.

IN FY23, AOC JURY:

- Focused on maintaining the Clearview jury management system implemented in FY22, and encouraging courts to be more efficient and cost effective in conducting jury trials.
- Tailored Clearview's baseline reports to better meet the needs of courts and AOC data management.
- Rolled out a multilingual juror portal, which allows Spanish-speaking users to read and fill out juror qualification questionnaires in Spanish. The portal promotes equal access to the judicial system. Other languages will be added in the future.
- Facilitated installation of the Clara Connect kiosk in the Doña Ana County Magistrate Court. It is the first court in the state to allow prospective jurors to use a kiosk in either English or Spanish to access the online juror qualification portal from a courthouse to complete their juror qualification questionnaires.
- Piloted the use of Spanish language summonses in the Third Judicial District alongside the English language version.
- Assisted courts as they conducted 756 jury trials in FY23: 691 in criminal cases and 65 in civil cases.
- Oversaw a remote voir dire pilot project to allow jurors to appear virtually for the jury selection process. Five judges in two courts are piloting the virtual jury selection initiative.

Statewide Increase in Jury Trials from FY22



Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative

The Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) began as a national reform project and New Mexico joined in 2003. Bernalillo County became a JDAI Model Site and Network Learning Lab in 2005, one of only four local sites nationwide.

The Supreme Court, the Children, Youth and Families Department, New Mexico Counties, and the Public Education Department formed a collaborative Statewide Leadership Team to expand JDAI system improvements. Led by Supreme Court Justice Julie J. Vargas, the Leadership Team has promoted changes to policies, practices, and programs to reduce reliance on secure confinement, improve public safety, reduce racial disparities and bias, save taxpayer dollars, and stimulate overall juvenile justice reforms. The team established a larger JDAI Coordinating Council.

IN FY23, THE STATEWIDE LEADERSHIP TEAM:

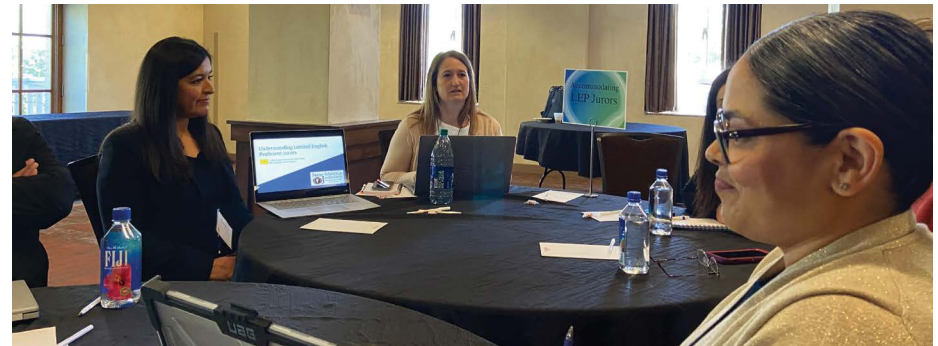
- Held a retreat with the Coordinating Council to begin transforming juvenile justice in New Mexico. Participants discussed new ideas and information, proposed principles to guide the work ahead, participated in team building and planning, and clarified roles of the Leadership Team and the Coordinating Council.

Language Access Services

Language Access Services (LAS) coordinates and funds court interpreting and other communication services to ensure equal access to the state courts for people with Limited English Proficiency (LEP), and deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

IN FY23, LANGUAGE ACCESS SERVICES:

- Focused on recruiting qualified individuals for the Justice System Interpreter Certificate Program, which helps candidates prepare for certification exams.
 - ♦ Offered tuition scholarships to qualified students.
 - ♦ Presented information about interpreting to students at Tierra



LAS Statewide Program Manager Freda Valdez (lower right) and former LAS Regional Coordinator Eileen Spoonhoward (left) present about LEP jurors at the Council of Language Access Coordinators national conference in May 2023.



LAS Statewide Program Manager Freda Valdez speaks at the national conference of the Council of Language Access Coordinators in Santa Fe in May 2023.

Encantada Charter High School in Santa Fe, and recruited teachers to participate in the interpreter certification program.

- ♦ LAS staff participated as judges in Tierra Encantada's annual Spanish Spelling Bee and senior projects. Graduates were invited to consider interpreting as a career.
- ♦ Presented opportunities within LAS at Moriarty's Middle School Career Day.

- The New Mexico judiciary, LAS, and the National Center for State Courts hosted the Eighth Annual Conference of the Council of Language Access Coordinators in Santa Fe. Hundreds of language access coordinators and program managers from all over the nation shared their experiences and collaborated on ways to better provide language access nationwide. This was the first in-person conference since the COVID pandemic. The LAS team presented on LEP jurors and improving the oral examination performance of candidates for interpreter certification.
- Collaborated with the Administrative Office of the Courts Jury Program to make jury questionnaires and summonses accessible to Spanish speakers. LAS also helped implement a kiosk in the Third Judicial District Court featuring a virtual assistant to help non-English speakers find their way around the courthouse. Self-represented litigants can access forms in a bilingual format at the kiosk.
- Provided training about LAS at training sessions for court managers and municipal judges.
- Added newly trained mediators as referrals grew and continued to recruit additional mediators. MCMP staff serve as mediation coaches at the University of New Mexico School of Law and help to mentor new mediators, who are paired with experienced, well-seasoned mediators to foster use of best practices.
- Contracted with a mediation trainer and coach to provide in-depth instruction on best practices and developing skills, and to mentor the growing pool of mediators. Staff and volunteers benefit from integrating educational opportunities and new skills that foster confidence and expand capabilities.
- Offered language interpretation in online mediation sessions using the Zoom video conferencing platform. In FY23, 10% of cases required an interpreter and that is expected to grow in the future. Most requests have been for a Spanish interpreter, but there also were requests for Diné and Arabic interpreters. Providing mediation to parties in the language they speak increases access to justice.



Magistrate Court Mediation Program

The Magistrate Court Mediation Program (MCMP) continued to expand in FY23 by accepting additional cases to mediate, growing the pro-bono mediator pool, and increasing training opportunities. Case referrals increased by 20% from FY22, with 60 additional referrals received. The increase in referrals can be partially attributed to a marketing campaign in which MCMP staff visited magistrate courts around the state to meet judges and court employees.



Magistrate Court Mediation Manager Josh Pando at his desk.

- Worked with the Judicial Information Division to create an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) web application. The ADR app serves as a one-stop shop for scheduling, case information, mediator availability, and documentation upload. The app vastly increased the program's capacity to accept more referrals, lessened the administrative load on staff, and provided an online portal for mediators.

Office of the Statewide ADA Title II Coordinator

Created in 2021, the Office of the Statewide Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title II Coordinator provides support and training to judges and court staff, and oversees development and implementation of judicial policies pursuant to Title II of the ADA. The office works to ensure full and equal access to the courts, their programs and activities, and focuses on providing access to current assistive technology.

IN FY23, THE OFFICE:

- Expanded a scribing program in all districts to assist self-represented litigants in filling out court forms as needed because of a disability, limited English proficiency, low literacy, or limited computer resources.
 - Created a “statement of need” form that attests a service is needed due to disability or other qualifying factors.
- Created ADA Title II plans to be re-evaluated and renewed annually, and established ADA Title II coordinators in each judicial district and the appellate courts.
- Provided virtual and in-person training for judges and staff on ADA Title II related topics and the scribing program expansion.
- Tracked the progression of ADA Title II compliance throughout the judiciary with a newly-created survey.
- Produced ADA Title II bench cards and service animal information and FAQ cards for security teams and court staff statewide.
- Added a resource for American Sign Language (ASL) on-demand video remote interpreting for out-of-courtroom contacts with visitors to courthouses who need ASL interpretation.
- Wrote support person guidelines and a confidentiality agreement to use when a support person is requested to appear as an accommodation.



The innovative scribing program is part of the judiciary’s ongoing efforts to make courts more inclusive and barrier-free to all people.

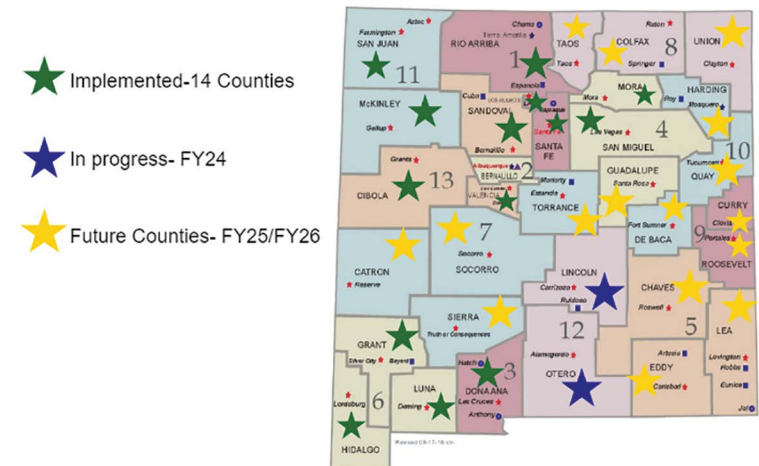
- Administrative Office of the Courts Director Artie Pepin

AOC Pretrial Justice Program

New Mexico has become a national leader in pretrial justice, and is highlighted at national events and in publications because of its legal framework and implementation of evidence-based practices and programs to maximize public safety and court appearance. With the assistance of the National Institute of Corrections (NIC), the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Pretrial Justice Program has expanded pretrial services programs to six judicial districts covering 14 counties. New Mexico is the first state to use implementation science developed by the NIC.

Planning is underway to launch pretrial programs in two additional counties in FY24, and complete statewide implementation in FY25 and FY26.

Adopting legal and evidence-based practices requires local stakeholder agreement and commitment to the process. The AOC Pretrial Justice Program provides guidance and support to facilitate local implementation. Training courses have been developed for new pretrial staff. The course materials cover the state’s pretrial legal framework and pretrial supervision based on a defendant’s assessed risks.





The AOC Background Investigation and Public Safety Assessment Unit.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- AOC Pretrial Outcomes for supervised defendants with a case closed from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023:
 - ♦ Appearance Rate (appearing at all court hearings): 74%
 - ♦ Public Safety Rate (no new charges while on pretrial supervision): 81%
 - ♦ New Violent Crime Activity Rate (no new violent crime charges while on pretrial supervision): 95%
 - ♦ Defendants on pretrial supervision: 6,006 reported to a AOC pretrial program site during FY23.
- The AOC Pretrial Justice Program is working with the Institute for Social Research at the University of New Mexico to revalidate the Public Safety Assessment in Bernalillo County and conduct the first validation study of the PSA in New Mexico outside of Bernalillo County.

The AOC Electronic Monitoring and Supervision Unit (EMS Unit) provides after-hours monitoring of defendants required to wear a GPS location tracking device as a condition of release in several judicial districts and the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court. The unit plans to expand its services in FY24.

In FY23 the EMS Unit:

- Received and investigated 123,386 alerts.

- Requested 108 bench warrants for conditions of release violations.

The AOC Background Investigation and Public Safety Assessment Unit completes a criminal history check of defendants and a Public Safety Assessment to measure an individual's likelihood of appearing for future court hearings and remaining arrest free if released pretrial. In FY23, the unit:

- Expanded its services to Santa Fe, Rio Arriba, Los Alamos, San Miguel and Mora counties and now serves a total of 14 counties.
- Completed 15,665 PSAs and background reports.

Pretrial program managers across the state form the New Mexico Pretrial Executives Network (PEN). The team meets monthly to discuss pretrial justice topics and efforts for standardization across programs. The team supports new program managers and assesses ideas for program and system improvements. In FY23, the PEN worked with a panel of national experts at a retreat-style event in Santa Fe.

Reproduced by AOC from the National Institute of Corrections

Goals of Pretrial: The 3 M's



Maximize
Court
Appearance



Maximize
Public
Safety



Maximize
Public
Safety

NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT.

- The AOC Pretrial Justice Program and Pretrial Executives Network led a workshop during the 2023 National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies Conference, which hosted a Welcome New Mexico session.
- The AOC program staff is assisting NIC in a series of publications and national webinars.



Safe Exchange and Supervised Visitation Program

The Safe Exchange and 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 to protect children and remove them from the middle of parental disputes.

New Mexico has 13 SESV providers serving 22 counties in 10 judicial districts: Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, and Santa Fe counties (First Judicial District), Bernalillo (Second), Doña Ana (Third), 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), and Cibola, Sandoval, and Valencia (Thirteenth).

FY23 CONFERENCES TO BROADEN CONNECTIONS AND EXPAND TOOL-BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES:

- All New Mexico providers virtually attended the International Supervised Visitation Network annual conference.
- Six SESV program staff members attended the International Supervised Visitation Network annual conference, expanding representation of New Mexico SESV to an international platform.

FY23 SESV Year End Performance Data

District	YE Total
First JD	1,156
Second JD	2,975
Third JD	904
Fifth JD	2,221
Sixth JD	684
Eighth JD	184
Ninth JD	172
Eleventh JD	285
Twelfth JD	250
Thirteenth JD	2,350
Total Visits & Exchanges	11,181
Avg. Per Month	932

FY23 SESV Year End Performance Data

Families Served Each Month	Children Served	Adults Served
	839	1,150
Services Provided This Year	Supervised Visits	Safe Exchanges
	7,519	3,662
Hours of Service Invested in the Safety of New Mexico Families	Total Service Hours	
	15,044	



Supreme Court Law Library

Supreme Court Law Library

The Supreme Court Law Library began as New Mexico's Territorial Library in 1851, and was formally established by the legislature in 1915 as the Supreme Court Law Library. It is the only public law library in New Mexico. Core objectives include allowing access to more than 270,000 items and maintaining a knowledgeable staff who provide patrons with research assistance and reference services.

PRESENTATIONS, PUBLICATIONS, AWARDS AND OUTREACH:

- Published and distributed a monthly newsletter highlighting special collections, new materials, topical book displays, and services.
- Provided tours for individuals and organizations, including elementary and middle school students from the Wild Friends, a civics education program at the University of New Mexico School of Law.
- The state law librarian published an article, "Access to Justice and Civil Legal Services in New Mexico," in the *Bar Bulletin*, and presented on "Legal and Legislative Resources for New Mexico Residents" at the New Mexico Library Association's 2022 Annual Conference.
- Maintained an active social media presence on X, formerly known as Twitter.
- The library was nominated for the State Bar of New Mexico's 2023 Outstanding Legal Organization or Program Award.

NEW ADDITIONS AND PROJECTS:

- Completed an inventory and documentation of a historical collection of original case pleadings from a landmark U.S. Supreme Court case to which New Mexico was a party.
- Accepted a donated copy of the Treaty of 1868 from the Supreme Court of the Navajo Nation.
- Created a new "Print Periodicals" section, where patrons can find publications ranging from the Santa Fe New Mexican to the New Mexico Law Review.

- Designated the first floor alcove as a new "General Interest Area" with nonfiction and fiction books and a child/youth section, creating a family-friendly place to use the library.

REFERENCE, RESEARCH AND CIRCULATION SERVICES:

- Requests for reference assistance grew, and there was a 30% increase in newly issued library cards. The number of new titles cataloged increased by 21%.
- The library had 1,795 walk-in patrons. Of those visitors, 544 used the library's books, 480 used the work tables and alcoves, and 240 used the public computers.
- Prepared a special report on changes to New Mexico election law by the 2022 legislature.
- Researched case materials to create a lesson plan for the Supreme Court's Rule of Law Program for a third year.



Law Librarians Cassandra Wenzel (left) and Rebecca Potance talk with students who toured the Supreme Court Law Library.

FY23 ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

- 19,425 website views.
- 3,883 reference interactions.
- 3,475 bibliographic records updated.
- 3,285 new items/volumes added.
- 1,951 federal government documents received and added.
- 1,149 circulation transactions.
- 996 titles cataloged.
- 901 prisoner letter responses.
- 160+ staff hours spent updating the collection.
- 56 new cardholders registered.
- 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. Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court Judge Renee Torres and Judge Tami Lambert of the Santa Ana Tribal Court serve as co-chairs. 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.

Other consortium members are: Judge Randolph Collins, Acoma Pueblo; Judge Peggy Bird, Nambe and Jemez Pueblos; Judge Donald Gallegos, Taos Pueblo; Judge Mekko Miller, San Ildefonso Pueblo; Judge William Johnson, Acoma and Laguna Pueblos; Second Judicial District Judges Catherine Begaye and William Parnall; First Judicial District Judge Jason Lidyard; Bernalillo Metropolitan Court Judge Frank Sedillo; and Thirteenth Judicial District Judge Amanda Villalobos. Justice Briana H. Zamora serves as the state Supreme Court liaison to the consortium.

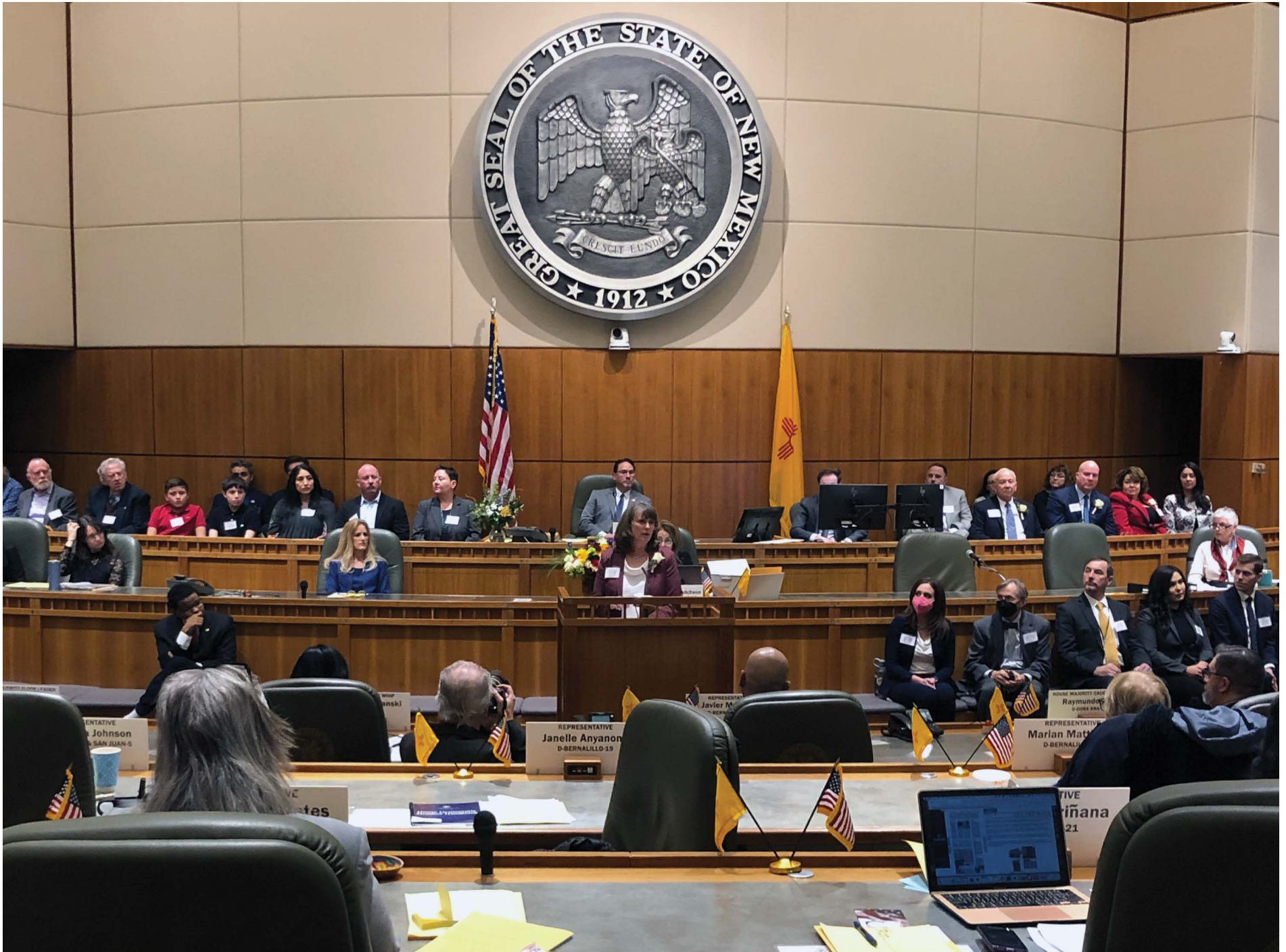
PROGRESS AND GOALS.

- The consortium worked on goals that were established during a 2022 strategic planning retreat. The overarching goal is to create rules and forms accessible within shared authority and interest areas of state and tribal courts, and to provide training on these matters to judges and court staff.



Tribal and state judges and staff attended training by AOC Statewide Behavioral Health Manager Scott J. Patterson-Alatorre (standing) about a trauma-informed approach that recognizes and responds to the effects of trauma on individuals, families, and organizations.

- The consortium focused on Healing to Wellness Court collaborations between state and tribal courts, using the example of existing programs to encourage the adoption of similar collaborations throughout the state. Judges Torres and Lambert presented on this topic at the 2023 Judicial Conclave.
- TSJC is preparing to work with a law student intern who will assist judges in furthering the consortium's mission, including the development of a memorandum of understanding template for formalizing collaborations and a database of available programs in the state.
- Consortium members met quarterly and at monthly lunchtime teleconferences.





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