

New Mexico Judiciary



Annual Report
2006

Annual Message

2006 has been a full and productive year for the New Mexico Judiciary. The dedicated judges and staff throughout the state continue to persevere in an effort to better serve the public, both by improving existing programs and developing innovative mechanisms to meet emerging challenges. With the support of the Legislature and the Executive, and our exceptional court staff, these endeavors have been successful.

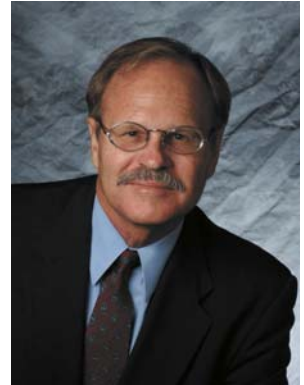
The court programs and new technologies have equipped judges with powerful tools to fairly and expeditiously resolve civil and criminal cases. However, it is the judges themselves who give life and meaning to our judicial system. My term as Chief Justice has afforded me a valuable opportunity to focus upon the work of our judges, and the message they communicate to the public about the mission of the Judiciary. Maintaining a strong and independent Judiciary requires that judges earn the public trust as knowledgeable, professional arbiters of the law, and as model citizens. Our judges work hard to earn that public trust. In recognition of that effort, for the second consecutive year the Judiciary has received a significant number of new judgeships around the state. In addition to the eight new judgeships named in July, 2005, seven more new judgeships were created in 2006. We thank both the Legislature and the Governor for their assistance so that we can better serve the public.

Two institutions play a prominent role in ensuring that our judges are vigilant in fulfilling their responsibilities. The Judicial Standards Commission, created nearly forty years ago, exists to investigate possible wrongdoing by judges. The Commission is an independent organization that consists primarily of non-attorney citizens. In recent years, the Commission has been extremely active in pursuing investigations and recommending discipline to the Supreme Court. In this way, the Commission is invaluable in preserving the public trust.

The Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission also plays a key role in ensuring that our judges are effective and knowledgeable. After performing an independent evaluation of judges standing for retention, JPEC communicates its recommendation regarding retention to the public. In addition, JPEC works with judges in an educational role to help judges meet performance goals. JPEC has only been active for nine years, but has already made a significant contribution to our Judiciary.

I highlight these organizations because recent events in our state, our country, and the world have served as potent reminders that independent courts governed by knowledgeable, impartial judges are critical to the cause of liberty. An independent Judiciary is fundamental to ensuring the rule of law to governing our society. An independent Judiciary helps guarantee that all citizens enjoy equal justice under the law. But an independent Judiciary also means an accountable Judiciary, and these agencies - the Judicial Standards Commission and JPEC - help make us accountable to the public and ensure the public trust. Whatever the challenges over the past year or two may have been, I am confident the Judiciary is stronger - and more accountable - for it.

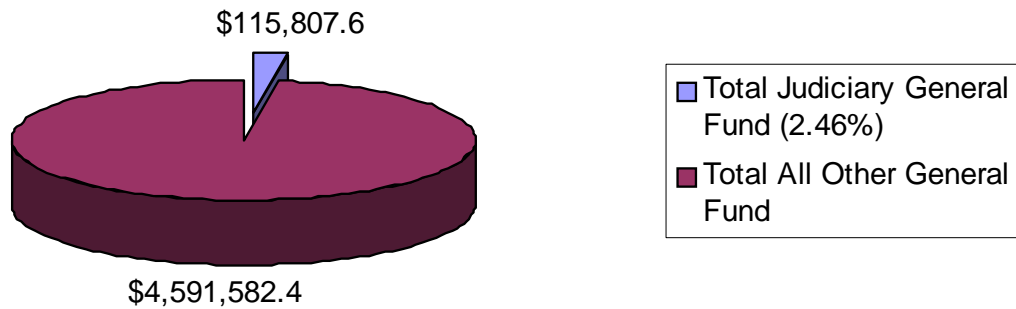
Our success in sharing this message with all New Mexicans lies with our dedicated and professional staff throughout the state. Court staff is consistently improving our service to the public. The growth of drug courts, mediation services, and the video arraignment program are a direct result of our hardworking staff. The success of these programs, and many others, engenders both an interest and an understanding in the work of the Judiciary. You have my deepest appreciation for your commitment and loyalty. I look forward to the challenges of the coming year, and anticipate continued growth and innovation under the leadership of Chief Justice Chávez.



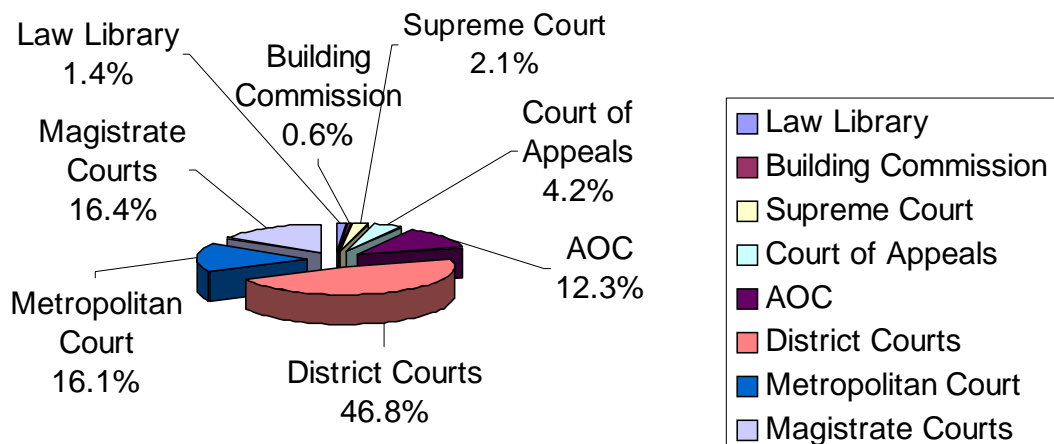
Richard C. Bosson
Chief Justice

The Budget of the New Mexico Judiciary

**2006 Fiscal Year General Fund Appropriation
Distribution (in thousands)**



**2006 Fiscal Year Judicial Unit General Fund
Appropriation Distribution Percentage**



Special Programs

Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission

The Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission (JPEC) evaluates judges standing for retention who have served on the bench for at least two years. A majority of the JPEC members are citizens who are neither judges nor lawyers. Judges are evaluated on a number of attributes and behaviors, all of which fall into the categories of integrity, legal knowledge and decision-making abilities, communication skills and preparation, attentiveness and ability to maintain control over court proceedings.

During FY 06 the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission (JPEC) worked toward finalizing recommendations to voters (retain, do not retain, or no opinion) for one Supreme Court justice, three Court of Appeals judges and 13 Metropolitan Court judges.

JPEC also shared the results of interim evaluations with four appellate judges. Interim evaluations are geared toward self-improvement for judges and are not shared with the public.

Children's Court Mediation

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), in partnership with the Children Youth and Families Department (CYFD), has offered mediation in abuse and neglect cases since March 2000. The Children's Court Mediation Program has grown to include fifteen counties in the Second, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eleventh, and Thirteenth judicial districts. Mediation occurs at all stages of an abuse and neglect case from investigation to reunification or termination of parental rights.

The primary purpose of the program is to assist in meeting the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) goals of permanency, child safety and child well being. By providing a non-adversarial approach, the Children's Court Mediation Program helps CYFD and the courts work together with families facing long-term issues such as substance abuse, domestic violence and mental illness to reach permanency solutions for their children.

During the 2006 legislative session, the AOC secured additional state funds as well as an increase in funding from CYFD for mediation services. The increased funding allows the program to contract for an independent evaluation, provide training for mediators and professionals, and expand into three additional judicial districts – the Fourth, Eighth and Twelfth judicial districts.

Access and Supervised Visitation Program

Since 2001, the AOC has received general funds for the support of access and supervised visitation programs in twelve counties in seven judicial districts. The programs provide families a safe place for parent/child visitations or exchanges of children between parents in cases of child abuse/neglect, separation, divorce, substance abuse, mental illness or family violence. Other services to parents include improving parenting skills, learning appropriate play behavior and help in developing positive relationships with their children.

The AOC partnered with the New Mexico CASA Network to plan for the creation of a service network for access and visitation providers that will give providers technical support, quality assurance, standardized data collection and training.

Court Improvement Project

The Court Improvement Project (CIP) is an initiative to improve judicial proceedings related to child abuse and neglect, foster care, and adoption. Since 1995, the activities of the CIP have been directed by a Supreme Court-appointed Task Force and accomplished by its working committees. Participants in the CIP include the Children, Youth, and Families Department and numerous other agencies and organizations. The CIP works to improve the permanency, safety, and well-being of children and youth in state custody.

During FY 06, CIP planned and co-sponsored the annual Children's Law Institute. This statewide conference provided new information and skills for judges, attorneys, social workers, juvenile probation/parole officers, Citizens Review Board members, CASA volunteers, foster parents, service providers and others working with children and families who are involved in the child abuse/neglect and juvenile justice systems. Attendance at the annual event continues to grow, with approximately 500 participating in the January 2006 Children's Law Institute, Preserving Connections.

CIP assisted in the 2006 revision of the New Mexico Child Welfare Handbook, a publication made available to judges, attorneys, and others in the child welfare system. CIP worked with the Corinne Wolfe Children's Law Center and other groups to plan and present training on new Children's Code amendments implemented in 2005.

CIP continues to produce booklets on a number of topics. New additions published in FY 2006 were *"Preserving Connections - Helping Children and Youth Develop and Maintain Connections"* and *"Transition to Adulthood - A Guide for Those Who Work with Youth in the Foster Care System."*

After the Legislature in 2004 authorized CIP's recommendation of a Youth Attorney model to help foster care youths age 14 and older navigate the court system, CIP provided training on the role of the Youth Attorney as part of its statewide training on the 2005 Children's Code amendments. CIP drafted, and the New Mexico Supreme Court approved, new performance standards for Youth Attorneys. CIP successfully field tested an evaluation system for court-appointed attorneys using feedback from superiors, subordinates, peers, and clients. CIP also established a pilot compensation model for court-appointed attorneys in one judicial district, and facilitated the selection of New Mexico as a pilot state for the certification of attorneys and judges through the National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC). Through the NACC process, New Mexico now has twenty-five certified attorneys and the only certified judge in the nation.

Tribal-State Judicial Consortium

Growing out of the Court Improvement Project, the Tribal-State Judicial Consortium was established in 1998 to facilitate communication between the State and Tribal judicial systems, as well as improve awareness and develop information about the judicial and legal systems in place in the state and in the various tribes and pueblos.

The Consortium in April, 2006 co-sponsored the annual meeting of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts in Albuquerque. The conference, entitled *Healing Our Past: Braiding Justice Across Cultures*, was attended by more than 110 state and tribal judges, attorneys and other interested parties, representing 36 states and the District of Columbia. Presentations helped conference participants recognize that regardless of race or ethnicity, we share the goal of fair and impartial treatment of all in our nation's courts.

Other Consortium activities during FY 06 focused on the issues of full faith and credit and comity among state and tribal courts. The group has formed a subcommittee for the purpose of developing a civil rule relating to the recognition of tribal court orders by state courts. The issue can potentially impact the receipt of services which may be critical for the well-being of New Mexico's children and families. The subcommittee's efforts involve members of the Judiciary, the Executive Branch, Native Americans, and representatives from the University of New Mexico School of Law.

Court Interpreter Program

For the first time in over fifteen years, the hourly rate paid to court interpreters was increased. Additional funding from the 2006 Legislature increased the hourly rate for certified court interpreters from \$30 to \$40 an hour. Eight persons passed both portions of the court interpreter certification exam and became certified interpreters in the past year. Another 50 prospective interpreters attended an orientation workshop, and 35 have taken the first part of the certification exam in FY 06.

Jury Initiatives

The 2006 Legislature amended the law regarding felons and jury service. Felons may now serve as jurors when all elements of their sentence have been completed, including completion of probation or parole. In order to implement this legislative change, the Juror Qualification form was revised to gather the needed information.

Court Reporter Initiatives

In December, the Ad Hoc Committee on Creating the Stenographic Record presented its report and recommendations to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has begun implementation of these recommendations. All death penalty and first degree murder trials must be stenographically reported by a court reporter; audio recording is no longer an acceptable means of recording these trials.

Access to Justice

The Access to Justice Commission, created by the New Mexico Supreme Court, is focused on making the courts more accessible to low income persons who have civil legal needs such as divorce, child support, domestic violence, landlord/tenant, and other non-criminal legal matters.

During FY 06 the Commission held public hearings throughout the state and heard from the public, social service agencies, court personnel, lawyers, and legal service providers about the barriers to access that many New Mexicans face when they have a legal problem.

From these hearings and other research, the Commission prepared and submitted a report to the Supreme Court. The report estimates that for every person who obtains assistance with their legal problem, two other people are not served because of lack of funding.

The Supreme Court adopted this report and its recommendations that include a Ten Step Plan to improve access to justice. A pilot program to standardize the procedure for waiving the filing fee in a civil lawsuit

brought by a low income person is ongoing in several courts.

Also in FY 06, the State Justice Institute awarded the Administrative Office of the Courts a three-year grant totaling \$120,000 to develop and improve pro bono services provided by attorneys throughout the state. This grant will be used in conjunction with a contract from the Civil Legal Services Commission to assist the local judicial districts with the formation of local Access to Justice Committees and district pro bono plans.

New Mexico Supreme Court:

- Embraced the concept of establishing the Client Protection Commission and Fund to protect clients who were financially harmed by dishonest and unscrupulous attorneys.
- Adopted mandatory disclosure of malpractice insurance by all New Mexico attorneys beginning in 2006.
- Adopted a new court rule on pro hac vice in January 2005 and since that time, over \$68,000 has been raised from out-of-state attorneys seeking to appear in New Mexico state courts. Beginning in 2006, the fund has been distributed annually to support civil legal services for the poor.

Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court:

Jury Division:

- Changed its juror orientation time, resulting in an increase in its juror appearance rate.
- Changed from a jury panel system to a jury pool system to summon jurors.
- Developed a jury page on the court's website from which jurors can check their status. The page also contains a frequently asked questions section, a juror orientation video and a juror feedback section.
- Designed a juror brochure which includes a map to the courthouse and an overview of jury service.
- Hosted groups of children from local schools who tour the jury division and view the jury orientation video.

Public Outreach Office:

- Hosted school tours, mock trials and career days. Judges regularly meet and talk with students about court operations.
- Judges performed approximately 50 weddings on Valentine's Day. Staff decorated a courtroom for the day.
- Hosted 100 children of court employees on "Take your Child to Work Day."

Compliance Division:

- Collaborated with local law enforcement to conduct Operation Warrant Enforcement with focus on probation violations and failure to pay warrants.
- Redesigned criminal summons on three-color paper. The new summons contains improved information of court processes.

Educational Services Division:

- Supervised instructors and referrals for DWI and Driver Improvement Schools; Aggressive Driving School; Alternative Sentencing Program and Educational Network (ASPEN); Occupant Protection Education Program; MADD Victims' Impact Panel; Responsible Pet Owners' School; Motorcycle Safety School; and Hunter Education School.

Mediation Division:

- Celebrated its 20th year anniversary on July 1, 2006.
- Recruited professionally trained mediators and maintained over 120 mediators in its volunteer pool.

Background Investigation Division:

- Performed 7,000 misdemeanor reviews and 8,000 felony investigations.
- Initiated a pilot program providing judges with expanded background and criminal information on misdemeanor domestic violence and DWI defendants at arraignment.

Therapeutic Courts

Drug Courts

The New Mexico Supreme Court approved the Drug Court Advisory Committee's "Five-Year Plan for Growth of New Mexico's Drug Court Programs" on January 18, 2006. The plan aims to implement a drug court in every county in the state over the next five fiscal years, while providing a reasonably stable and predictable level of funding requests to the Legislature each year.

The Five-Year Plan was approved just prior to the 2006 legislative session and it met with immediate success. The 2006 Legislature replaced lapsing federal funds for eight drug court programs, institutionalizing them with recurring state funds, and provided funding to start two new adult drug courts in counties that were lacking a drug court program of any kind. Drug courts exist in 18 of the state's 33 counties, leaving 15 counties still without a drug court.

Chief Justice Richard Bosson, Senator H. Diane Snyder and many other members of the Judiciary attended a press conference at the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court during which the Chief Justice proclaimed May as "New Mexico Drug Court Month, and Judge Richard Knowles made a formal presentation of the Judiciary's Five-Year Plan. The press conference was followed by a graduation ceremony of Metropolitan Court's DWI Drug Court.

Drug Courts graduated another 620 participants in FY 06 and posted the following outcome measures:

- Recidivism of graduates averaged 4.4 percent one year after graduation, and 15.8 percent two years after graduation.
- National recidivism averages, based on 95 of the country's largest drug courts, are 16.7 percent one year after graduation, and 27.5 percent two years after graduation, for the same post-graduation time periods.
- Cost per client per day averaged \$24.11 per day, compared with a daily rate of \$73.97 for incarceration.
- Retention of program participants averaged 87.4 percent.

Approximately 200 drug court professionals from around the state attended the Eighth Annual New Mexico Association of Drug Court Professionals (NMADCP) conference – the largest NMADCP conference to date. The Conference featured national speakers addressing co-occurring disorders, methamphetamine treatment, prescription drug abuse and cultural competency in drug court programs.

First Judicial District Court:

- Implemented an Early Intervention Program in Rio Arriba County. The program is designed to help adolescents who are allegedly involved in substance abuse before they are formally charged in court.
- Implemented the Girls' Circle Program in conjunction with the Santa Fe Mountain Center in Santa Fe County. The program is designed to reach girls participating in a drug court program, as well as girls serving regular probation who can benefit from substance abuse counseling. The program empowers girls and gives them skills for success in all aspects of their life, including interpersonal skills.

Second Judicial District Court:

- Implemented the Fast Track Drug Court Program designed for juveniles between the ages of 14 and 17 who have received three to four referrals in the juvenile justice system and who are on a six-month or one-year consent decree. The program focuses on therapy, with less structured probation supervision.

Third Judicial District Court:

- Received funding to replace lapsing Federal funds to continue its juvenile drug court program in Anthony, New Mexico. The district also received a grant from CYFD to implement a gender specific program geared to the needs of female juvenile offenders. The program plans to explore an equine therapy treatment model for participants.

Twelfth Judicial District Court:

- Continues to work toward establishing an adult drug court.

Thirteenth Judicial District Court:

- Implemented two new drug courts in Cibola and Sandoval counties.

Mental Health Courts

The **First Judicial District Court** mental health court commenced on October 7, 2005. The program has grown to 15 active participants. The mental health court currently receives no state funding and operates as a collaborative effort with various agencies in the Santa Fe community.

The **Second Judicial District Court** changed the name of its mental health court to the Judicial Supervision Program (JSP). The program is modeled after drug court programs and defendants volunteer to participate in the program. A court psychologist was

hired in November of 2005 to provide evaluations, consultations and crisis intervention.

The **Second Judicial District Court** continues to provide Truancy Court, a community collaborative design to prevent truancy. The truancy court spearheaded new interventions such as school-court attendance partnership programs.

The **Third Judicial District Court** revamped and developed a new program track for co-occurring disordered participants in its Family Reunification Court Program. The Legislature provided funding to convert three program employees from term positions to permanent positions. The program provided services to 32 participants. Six participants successfully completed the program and were reunited with their children.

The **Fifth Judicial District Court** provides parenting workshops (PACT) for separating parents. The workshop helps parents understand the impact that parental conflict has on the entire family. The workshop also assists parents with parenting plans.

The **Eighth Judicial District Court** implemented a family reunification program for its district.

Teen Court

The **Fifth Judicial District Court's** Teen Court was recognized by National Youth Court as Model Program for Youth. The Teen Court also received Hobbs Fire Department's Abigail Thomlinson Memorial Award for dedicated service to children of Lea County.

The **Sixth Judicial District Court** continued providing services to youths in Grant Country through Teen Court.

Juvenile Justice

The **Sixth Judicial District Court** received an appropriation to continue its Juvenile Justice Continuum

to provide intervention, prevention and positive development to young people in the district. The Sixth Judicial District sponsored "Kids Day In Court" for children involved in the CYFD adoption process. Children had the opportunity to tour the courtroom and speak with a judge.

The Chief Judge of the **Twelfth Judicial District Court** serves as Chair of the Lincoln County Juvenile Justice Board. The Board administers various programs for juveniles within the county. One such program targets the growing population of delinquent or at-risk females up to and including age 18. A restorative justice program has been implemented. A community monitoring program and a citation program results in a recidivism rate of less than 10 percent.

The **Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court** Domestic Violence Early Intervention Program provided focused pre-adjudication supervision services for domestic violence defendants not eligible for or referred to the program. The Metropolitan Court also added an additional judge to preside over Homeless Court, thereby increasing the frequency of sessions to monthly.

Judges' Weighted Caseload Study

The New Mexico Sentencing Commission received general appropriation funds to conduct a workload study to analyze and make recommendations regarding equitable statewide resource needs of the public defender department, offices of the district attorneys and the state courts. For the courts, the study will determine the need for judgeships in the district, metropolitan and magistrate courts. The study will identify and measure the work performance by district, metropolitan and magistrate court judges, including quasi-judicial officers. The study will be completed in April 2007.

Judicial Branch Strategic Goals

Goal 1: Improve Case Flow Management to provide timely and fair proceedings

New Mexico Court of Appeals:

- Continued to provide some self-represented litigants with the assistance of a pro bono attorney. In addition, the Court of Appeals provided mediation in some CYFD cases.

First Judicial District Court:

- The Domestic Relations Hearing Office continued to function, although services were reduced slightly due to the loss of Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) funding.
- The Domestic Violence Division participated in a pilot project to test a data management system for domestic violence cases. The system automatically enters orders of protection into a central database to allow law enforcement officers to identify those who violate orders of protection. North Central Community Based Services presented a plaque to the Domestic Violence Division in appreciation of the Division's services to the people of Rio Arriba County.
- The Family Court Services Division provided mediation services to parents in developing parenting plans. The Division also provided priority consultants who make written interim recommendations to the court and the parents on parenting issues after consulting with each parent. Advisory consultants provide recommendations for parents and the courts after interviewing parents, children, professionals and other contacts. Additionally, the Division instituted a quarterly forum for mental health professionals who receive court referrals for counseling with divorced and separated families to share ideas about methods that positively impact high conflict families.
- The Child Support Hearing Office provided Spanish-speaking staff members to assist parties who do not speak English. The office also provides information to self-represented litigants.

Second Judicial District Court:

- Established an express window to assist customers and attorneys exiting a courtroom or the Domestic Violence Division who need immediate assistance in filing pleadings or new cases.

- The Children's Court Division hosted delegations from around the country as part of a model detention reform site selected by the Annie E. Casey Foundation to learn about system reform efforts for juvenile offenders.

Third Judicial District Court:

- Began the restructuring of its Self-Represented Litigant Division. The Division worked to increase volunteer attorney participation in the Self-Represented Litigant Clinic, resulting in increased hours of operation in the clinic.

Fourth Judicial District Court:

- Evaluated and refined its internal case management procedures to improve clearance rates, efficiency and accuracy.

Sixth Judicial District Court:

- Contracted with three attorneys to provide information to self-represented litigants.

Seventh Judicial District Court:

- Provided forms and information to self-represented litigants.
- Provided a clinic for self-represented litigants in Torrance County.

Tenth Judicial District Court:

- Provides forms and information to self-represented litigants.
- Replaced outdated furniture and equipment with modern technology and enhanced the sound systems in its courtrooms.

Twelfth Judicial District Court:

- Offers alternative dispute resolution through mediation, arbitration and settlement facilitation programs.

Thirteenth Judicial District Court:

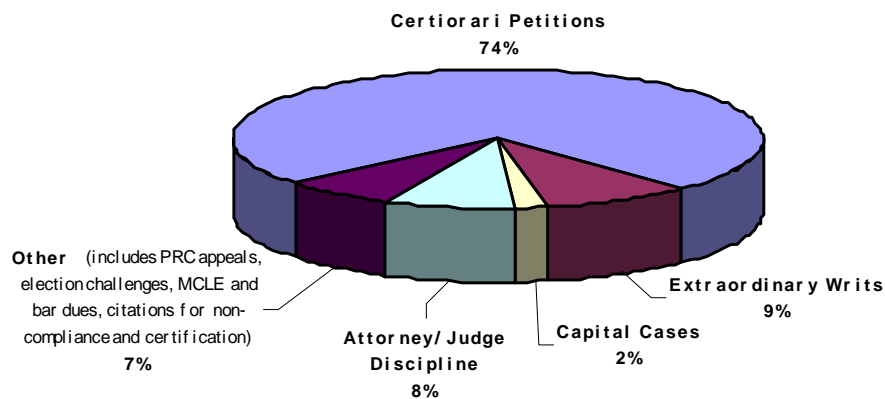
- Expanded clinics and dockets for self-represented litigants. The clinics are now conducted in all three counties in the district twice per month. Family court judges are now setting specialized dockets for self-represented litigants.
- Expanded civil mediation and includes mediation as a routine part of any scheduling order.

Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court:

- Revamped the officer scheduling system to ensure police officers are available for hearings.
 - Reorganized the file maintenance system.
 - Continued its customer service windows to more efficiently process cases and receipt fines and fees.
 - Courtroom Support provided courtroom coverage for 18 judges as well as back-up coverage on weekend and holiday arraignments.
 - Implemented digital remote recording for DWI, domestic violence and certain civil cases.
- Assisted in the transition of the newly created Docketing Review Section which double checks the docketing of every criminal case to ensure the accuracy of the case file.
 - The Compliance Division assumed responsibility for civil and criminal case closings, reviewed each case for completion of sentence and accuracy of docketing and retention times and collaborated on the design of a web-based application to monitor compliance with court mandated programs.

Supreme Court New Filings - FY 2006

Please note that filings do not represent the entire workload of the Supreme Court



Goal 2: Provide training to enhance the skills of judges and court staff

The Rozier E. Sanchez Judicial Education Center of New Mexico (JEC) accomplished the following activities during FY 2006:

- Produced or significantly supported 35 educational programs, including annual or regional conferences for every group of judges and clerks, as well as domestic violence commissioners, court supervisors and designated water law judges. Priority topics, particularly DWI and domestic violence, were incorporated into both the annual conferences and specialized seminars.
- Continued to support mediation programs in magistrate courts by sponsoring training for community volunteer mediators.
- Updated and distributed its eight benchbooks as necessary.
- Continued to add numerous resources to its website, <http://jec.unm.edu/>.
- Supported Judiciary attendance at national programs, with 56 judges and court staff attending courses at the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada and elsewhere.
- Continued its partnership with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the National Association of State Judicial Educators to maintain and add resources to the National Online Resource Library for the Judiciary on Impaired Driving.
- Continued to support the Navajo interpreter certification program at the University of Arizona National Center for Interpretation Testing, Research and Policy.
- Conducted an in-depth evaluation of its educational offerings for magistrate court judges and staff to improve its services.
- Surveyed judges and court staff after each conference, and at the end of each web course and virtual trial on its website, to determine not only the level of satisfaction with the program but also additional training needs and suggestions.
- Provided six regional cross-court seminars on domestic violence.
- Offered its eight-week domestic violence web course with expert online facilitators.
- Hosted three statewide video conferences on DWI law and procedure and two statewide video

conferences on mediation techniques for magistrate court mediators.

- Met with the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission to learn about JPEC-identified training needs, which were then incorporated into JEC's conferences and programs to the extent possible.
- Provided training for new municipal and magistrate judges on web-based legal research.

New Mexico Court of Appeals:

- Five members of the court attended the National Association of Appellate Court Attorneys educational seminar in Richmond Virginia. One member attended the Council of Appellate Staff Attorneys seminar in Dallas.
- Court of Appeals staff conducted an in-house CLE which was attended by judges and law clerks.

Third Judicial District Court:

- Began development of a plan to provide training for court staff, judges and security officers. The plan provides for new employee orientation, personnel rules, security matters, internal policies and procedures, telephone etiquette and proper use of e-mail and the Internet. The court also provides a monthly calendar of training opportunities to all staff and judges.
- Updated and implemented new policies and procedures for the safety and security of staff and the public. The court collaborates with law enforcement agencies to ensure the safety of court personnel and the public. The court is working with the county in the planning and development stages for new courthouse facilities.

Fifth Judicial District Court:

- The chief judge of the district attended the master's program at the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada. Five employees in the Chaves County clerk's office completed the JEC's Judicial Studies course.
- Four employees have completed the six core classes toward Court Management diplomas from the National Center for State Courts' Institute for Court Management.
- Drafted a new employee training handbook and designed a bi-monthly orientation program for new employees.

Goal 3: Provide reasonable and affordable access to justice in safe and adequate facilities.

Supreme Court Law Library:

- Website hits increased by 23.9 percent.

New Mexico Court of Appeals:

- Received \$1.2 million for the planning, design and construction of a Court of Appeals Annex, which will be located on the North Campus of the University of New Mexico (UNM) next to the School of Law. This annex will provide space for eight Court of Appeals judges and various court staff, as well as space for storage and imaging of closed case files, and storage generally.
- Continued to seek an additional \$14.6 million in FY 08 to cover costs of construction and occupancy of the building.

Security

Sixth and Seventh Judicial District Courts:

- Received appropriations from the Legislature to purchase security equipment.

Eighth Judicial District Court:

- Continued to work with Taos and Colfax counties to plan for new court facilities. The District installed security systems in Taos and Colfax counties.

Ninth Judicial District Court:

- Began plans to convert space into a courtroom and chambers for its new judge.

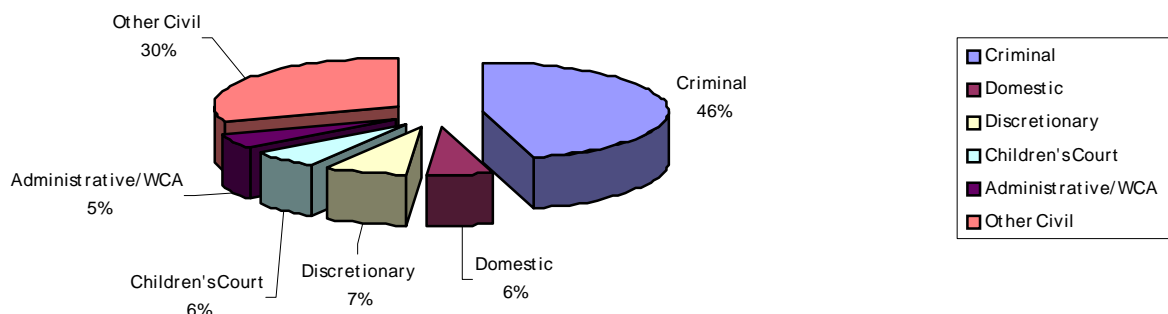
Twelfth Judicial District Court:

- Provided equipment for hearing impaired court users in every courtroom.

Thirteenth Judicial District Court:

- Moved into the Sandoval County Courthouse in Bernalillo and installed "Courtroom 21" technology in each courtroom.

Court of Appeals - New Filings - FY 06



Goal 4: Obtain adequate funding and resources for court operations

The Legislature created seven new judgeships during the last legislative session: one judge in the Third Judicial District; two judges in the Fifth Judicial District; one judge in the Ninth Judicial District; one judge in the Eleventh Judicial District; one judge in the Thirteenth Judicial District; and one judge in Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court.

New Mexico Supreme Court:

- Created its Attorney Division and hired a staff attorney to assist the Court in establishing the structure of the workload for the new division. In addition to assuming full responsibility for drafting rules and staffing meetings of the Court's various rules committees and boards – a task performed by the New Mexico Compilation Commission until FY 06 – the division assists the Court with its disciplinary cases and discretionary jurisdiction dockets.

Supreme Court Law Library:

- In conjunction with the UNM Law Library and the New Mexico State Library, initiated a legal reference training program for public librarians. Librarians from the two law libraries offered full-day training seminars around the state to public librarians. One of the elements of the training was the introduction

of the Supreme Court Law library's website as a one-stop portal for free legal research sites on the Internet.

- Installed twelve ranges of compact shelving to allow continued growth in the library's print collection.

Third Judicial District Court:

- Received an appropriation for eight new employees.

Fourth Judicial District Court:

- Began construction on the new courthouse facility. The facility is scheduled for completion in December, 2006.

AOC Financial Services Division:

- Accounts Receivable - Increased the percentage of timely submission of fines and fees remittance payments in the magistrate courts from 95.8% in FY 05 to 97.2% in FY 06. In addition, this section reconciled more than \$15 million in collections of fines and fees for FY 06 from the magistrate courts.
- Committed three staff members as financial representatives of the Judiciary to participate as part of the statewide PeopleSoft software implementation team. In addition, the Judiciary was represented on the statewide SHARE steering committee by the Chief Financial Officer of the AOC.

Goal 5: Obtain and use technology to collect, process and share information needed to process cases and manage resources

The AOC Judicial Information Division (JID):

- Completed Phase III of the Video Arraignment project. The project supports 29 counties, 25 of which have the capacity for cross county arraignments and video conferencing.
- Implemented court user acceptance testing of My Court, a decision support, calendaring, docket management, and court history program for judges and clerks; and Forms and Reports, an application that provides all common forms and reports to court staff through web browser interface.
- Fully implemented Case Lookup II, a complete browser-based court history application with separate versions for the public and court staff and judges.
- Continued operation of the Water Rights Imaging System, which is used by court staff to digitally store

all documents filed in the complex Pecos Water Rights adjudication.

- Improved statewide response to calls for technical assistance from judges and clerks.
- Reduced the backlog of pending help desk calls to a level that is 90 percent less than it was two years ago.
- Continued implementation of statewide digital court recording for district courts and developed a standing committee to govern digital audio recording standards and statewide digital audio training.
- Developed statistical information for inclusion in the first statewide DWI report, which detailed DWI case initiations and dispositions.
- Continued to support the New Mexico Justice Information Sharing Council (JISC), a multi-agency consortium of New Mexico justice practitioners,

while transferring its daily operations to the New Mexico Sentencing Commission. JID staff presented at national conference and meetings on JISC and its major deliverable, the New Mexico Consolidated Query, a multi-agency criminal history application, which is now available to more than one thousand authorized justice users.

- Provided statewide training, both at customer sites and at JID's Santa Fe training facility, on all IT applications provided by the AOC to the courts.
- Partnered with district courts on piloting Electronic Document Management systems for the purpose of laying the groundwork for digital court document systems and electronic court document filing.
- Implemented data quality reports to report on data entry errors and allow for correction of errors by all magistrate clerks.
- Conducted work related to acquisition of a new statewide case management application, including development of a proof-of-concept application and issuance of a "Request For Information" to all vendors of court case management software. In addition, JID completed a case management needs assessment and documentation of case management application business requirements.
- Three JID managers earned Project Management Institute certification.

First Judicial District Court:

- Transitioned from audio recording to digital recording of judicial proceedings, thereby reducing the space needed to store audiotapes and reducing the amount of time court personnel spend processing audiotapes.

Second Judicial District Court:

- Completed an inventory of files and docket books to identify records that can be archived.
- The Domestic Violence Division developed procedures and implemented a GPS tracking program to fit repeat domestic violence offenders with a tracking device that alerts victims of possible violations.
- The Fiscal Services Division implemented electronic transmittal of jury vouchers to the Department of Finance and Administration.
- The Information Technology Division developed the request for information and request for proposal that led to the selection of a vendor for the Second Judicial District's electronic document management needs.

- Created a new module to produce notices of hearing in the Criminal Division.
- Developed a case inventory system to efficiently track case files.
- Deployed the Children's Court case file tracking system.
- Installed 320 new computers for judges and staff.
- Implemented a wireless link to the Juvenile Justice Center to improve FACTS response times and provide a redundant communication link.

Fourth Judicial District Court:

- Purchased new microfilm and digital imaging equipment.

Fifth Judicial District Court:

- Installed video arraignment system in Chaves, Eddy and Lea Counties. The Legislature also appropriated funding for digital recording systems in all three counties of the district.

Seventh Judicial District Court:

- Implemented the statewide jury management software to streamline the jury selection process. The district purchased and installed digital recording equipment.

Eighth Judicial District Court:

- Acquired and installed digital recording equipment.

Twelfth Judicial District Court:

- Installed video conferencing equipment.

Thirteenth Judicial District Court:

- Began implementing wireless courthouses for judges and staff.
- Continued to work toward implement an electronic document imaging system.
- Developed a website featuring a jury verdict database.
- Installed a voice over internet protocol (VOIP) phone system for all court locations.

The Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court:

- Redesigned its website.
- Implemented an automated officer check-in system.