



NEW MEXICO JUDICIARY
2007 ANNUAL REPORT

In Memoriam

The distinguished jurist, Justice and former Chief Justice Pamela B. Minzner of the New Mexico Supreme Court, passed away on August 31, 2007, after a valiant battle with cancer. Justice Minzner graduated from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio (1965) and the Harvard Law School (1968). She practiced law in Boston with Bingham, Dana & Gould and in Albuquerque with Cotter, Hernandez, Atkinson, Campbell & Kelsey. She has been a member of the faculty of the University of New Mexico School of Law (1973-84); a judge on the New Mexico Court of Appeals (1984-1994), having been appointed by Governor Toney Anaya; and Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals (1993-1994). In November 1994, Governor Bruce King appointed her to the New Mexico Supreme Court, and in the 2002 general election she was elected to an eight-year term. In January 1999, she became the first woman elected by her colleagues to the position of Chief Justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court. She served in that position until January 2001 and continued to serve as Senior Justice until her death. Justice Minzner is survived by her husband, Richard, and sons, Carl and Max.

Among her many accomplishments during her term as Chief Justice, the Commission on Professionalism was established in May 2000, and she served as co-chair. During the recent State Bar 2007 Annual Meeting in Ruidoso, Justice Minzner was honored by receiving the Professionalism Award, which is the highest award given by the State Bar of New Mexico to the attorney or judge who exemplifies the epitome of professionalism. Current Chief Justice Edward L. Chávez comments that "Justice Minzner enjoyed unconditional respect and admiration from the legal community because she was hard-working, articulate, and an excellent writer. Yet her best qualities were her human qualities. With an ever-present gentle smile, she treated everyone with dignity, respect and genuine thoughtfulness. She will be dearly missed."



Senior Justice Pamela B. Minzner



Table of Contents

Message from the Chief Justice	1
Message from the Court Administrator	2
Budget of the New Mexico Judiciary	3
Special Programs	4
New Mexico Supreme Court	9
New Mexico Court of Appeals	11
Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court	13
Problem-Solving Courts	16
2007 Highlights	21
Judicial Branch Strategic Goals	27

Message from the Chief Justice

On behalf of the New Mexico Supreme Court, it is my pleasure to present the New Mexico Judiciary's 2007 Annual Report. This compendium of the judiciary's accomplishments is a testament to the tireless and professional commitment of the judges, employees and volunteers who work diligently to administer justice efficiently and fairly in New Mexico. On behalf of the Supreme Court, I want to thank all of our judges and staff for their loyalty and dedication to our system of justice. I also want to thank the district attorneys, public defenders, Attorney General's Office and civil legal services providers for their unyielding commitment to public service.

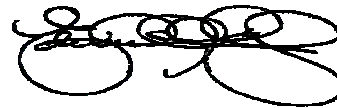
Without question, our achievements have resulted from a concerted effort to improve the administration of justice. Yet, these accomplishments would not have been attainable without the cooperation and assistance of our sister branches of government, the executive and legislative branches. We serve, in increasing numbers, older customers, a more racially, ethnically and culturally diverse population, and a growing population of self-represented litigants who exact greater time demands from our courts. The support last year from our sister branches for a statewide case management system will help us make our justice system more efficient by allowing us to respond more effectively to the differing needs of our ever-increasingly diverse customers.

As a judiciary, we also have a community responsibility to make certain that public funds are being spent responsibly and effectively. Measuring performance and demonstrating accountability are duties of public service. The case management system will be instrumental in helping us develop comprehensive, meaningful and relevant measures of performance. I am also hopeful that, during the 2008 legislative session, the judicial branch will move toward electronic filing, ideally permitting the courts to have statewide electronic filing at or near the same time our case management system is fully implemented.

As we strive to assure access to our courts, judges, employees and the public at large also have a right to enter our courthouses feeling secure about their personal safety and the security of their property. We are grateful for the hard work of our Security Committee, which is helping the judiciary with emergency preparedness and continuity of operations plans. In addition, the Department of Public Safety has been key in developing a training curriculum for security personnel, judges and court employees, designed to minimize if not eliminate risks of injury to those who use our courtrooms.

I look forward to working with the judiciary over the course of the next year as we develop a long-term strategic plan for the third branch of government. Our plan should include attention to competing with the private sector to attract and retain a highly qualified and talented workforce. Together we can and will assure justice for all.

In closing, I want to thank Barbara Gay for her contributions to this annual report, especially its design.



Edward L. Chávez, Chief Justice



Chief Justice Edward L. Chávez

Message from the Court Administrator



Director Arthur W. Pepin

This year brought challenges and accomplishments to the Judiciary. After a full year on the job I can confirm that the AOC Director is involved in exciting, demanding work. One of the best aspects of this work is interacting with the outstanding people in the Judiciary. In my involvement with challenges large and small, I have seen an amazing level of dedication, knowledge, and effort applied by judicial employees throughout the state. In my involvement with people working in the other branches of state government and those outside of government who come into contact with the judicial system, I have seen that the high degree of professionalism and the exceptional quality of work exhibited throughout the Judiciary are respected outside of the courts as well. I take this opportunity to say “thank you” to all those working in the courts each day to provide a fair, efficient and effective judicial system to the people of New Mexico.

One sad event marks any consideration of 2007. Many voices have expressed the ways we will continue to miss Senior Justice Pamela Minzner. Along with a host of others, I appreciate her professional and personal accomplishments. I am very grateful I had the opportunity to work more closely with Justice Minzner after I became Director. It is fitting that her seat on the Supreme Court is now filled by Justice Charles Daniels, who brings a sterling reputation in the legal community and professional acumen certain to contribute to the work of the Court.

The change in the composition of the Supreme Court will certainly have an impact on the Judiciary, as will another transition that will be felt in every court at every level. Tyler Technologies is under contract to replace the existing case management system with its Odyssey case management system. Many people throughout the Judiciary have worked hard to lay the groundwork necessary for this effort to succeed. While it is certain that patience and persistence will be required to make this transition, this new technology provides a giant leap forward for the courts. I appreciate the substantial investment of time and energy already made by judges and judicial employees and look forward to seeing this new technology at work in a number of courts in 2008.

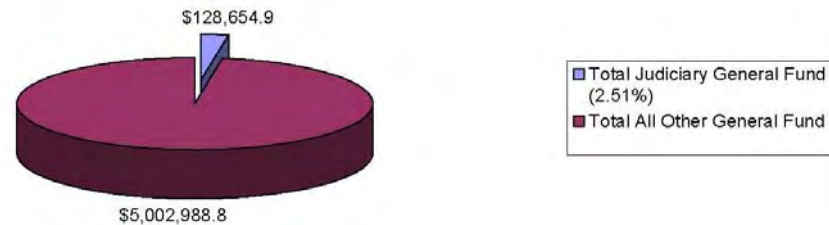
The pages of this Annual Report highlight only some of the exciting activities underway in the courts. I hope readers will get some sense of the great work being done in courts every day by the dedicated, skilled judges and employees of the New Mexico judicial system. Few people have the opportunity to observe the great amount of effort contributed by judges and court staff behind the scenes to communicate among the courts and with other branches of government, coordinate actions and streamline the delivery of court services. I have appreciated the chance to see these efforts in the many committees and working groups that support the in-court operations of the Judiciary.

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

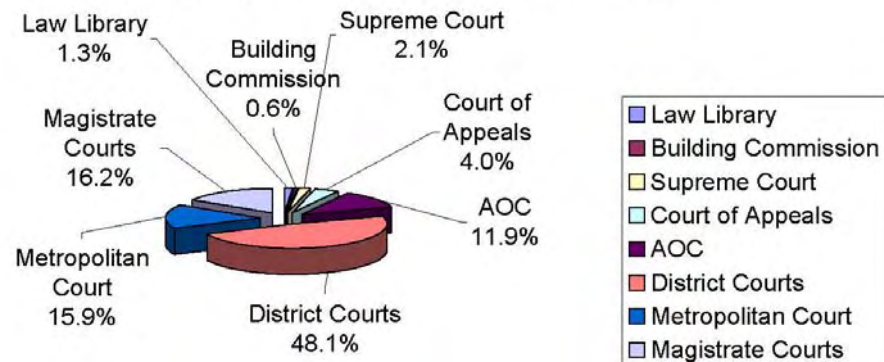
Arthur W. Pepin, Director

Budget of the New Mexico Judiciary

2007 Fiscal Year General Fund Appropriation Distribution
(in thousands)



2007 Fiscal Year Judicial Unit General Fund
Appropriation Distribution Percentage



Special Programs

Judicial Performance Evaluation Program

The Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission (JPEC) released its recommendations (Retain or Do Not Retain) to the voters on one Supreme Court justice, three Court of Appeals judges and 12 Metropolitan Court judges September 15, 2006.

JPEC shared the results of interim evaluations directly with four appellate judges. The primary objective of the interim evaluation is self-improvement; thus the Commission does not share the results of interim evaluations with the public.

Additional funding of \$252,100 from the 2007 Legislature will allow the Commission to cover the costs of the program from year to year, including court observations and follow-up with judges, as necessary. The Commission is working hard to complete as many as 110 evaluations of appellate, district and metropolitan court judges over the next year.

JPEC evaluates judges standing for retention who have served on the bench for at least two years. Judges running in first-time partisan elections are not evaluated by JPEC.

Commission members are nominated by the Governor, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Speaker of the House, Senate Minority Leader, House Minority Leader and President of the State Bar. A majority of the members are citizens who are neither judges nor lawyers. Judges are evaluated on a number of attributes and behaviors, including integrity, legal knowledge and decision-making abilities, communication skills and preparation, attentiveness and ability to maintain control over court proceedings.

Court Interpreter Program

Additional funding from the 2007 Legislature increased the hourly rate for certified court interpreters from \$40 to \$46 an hour. Six persons passed the court interpreter certification exam and became Spanish-certified interpreters. Another 89 prospective interpreters attended an orientation workshop.

Children's Court Mediation Program

In March 2000, the New Mexico Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) began working with the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) to mediate child abuse and neglect cases. The Children's Court Mediation Program currently provides mediation services in 23 counties in nine judicial districts (2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 11th, 12th and 13th). The 1st Judicial District has maintained the program in-house and serves Rio Arriba, Santa Fe and Los Alamos Counties. Cases are mediated at all stages, from investigation to reunification or termination of parental rights, including open adoption referrals. Referrals have steadily increased each year from 115 during the first full year of the program to 516 cases in FY 07. Over 2,200 cases have been mediated through the program since 2000.

A resource for families, CYFD staff and the courts, the Children's Court Mediation Program assists in meeting the Adoption and Safe Families Act goals of permanency, child safety and child well-being. Using a non-adversarial approach, the mediation program helps CYFD and the courts work with families facing long-term issues such as substance abuse, domestic violence, poverty and mental illness.

Annual program evaluation indicates that mediation conserves judicial and CYFD resources by reducing time spent in post-mediation court hearings, and improves the quality of and compliance with treatment plans. Mediation in abuse and neglect cases facilitates enhanced communication and problem-solving by clarifying issues, exploring options and providing opportunities for collaboration.

The FY 07 budget allowed the program to contract with an independent evaluator, increase training for mediators and professionals and expand to the 4th (San Miguel, Guadalupe and Mora Counties), 8th (Taos, Colfax and Union Counties) and 12th (Otero and Lincoln Counties) Judicial Districts. The program broadened the use of mediation in child abuse and neglect cases, including mediating post-adoption contact agreements, and CYFD collaborated to develop new mediator qualifications and an increased compensation rate for FY 08 that more accurately reflect nationally recognized standards and remuneration for child dependency mediation programs.

The 2007 legislative session yielded another increase in both recurring state funds and its CYFD grant for FY 08. The mediation program will receive \$369,400, including state general funds of \$209,400 and \$160,000 from CYFD federal Title IV-B & E funds, for mediation services. Some local district courts and CYFD offices contribute supplemental funding through direct funds or in-kind service.

The Children's Court Mediation Program looks forward to its continued partnership with CYFD and the courts in FY 08 as it refines the open adoption mediation process, evaluates the statewide program with a comparative study and completes

the expansion of the program to the 3rd, 5th (Eddy County), 9th and 10th Judicial Districts.

Jury

The 2007 Legislature passed the minimum wage bill, increasing juror pay to \$6.50 per hour on January 1, 2008 and to \$7.50 per hour on January 1, 2009. The AOC was appropriated \$94,100 in capital outlay funds to purchase assistive listening devices for the courts statewide. In addition, New Mexico is unique in providing for full jury participation by non-English speaking citizens.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

During FY 07, there were more than 4,000 children in foster care in New Mexico. Of those children, 2,791 were served by 797 Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) volunteers. Local CASA programs train volunteers to advocate in court for the best interests of abused and neglected children. CASA volunteers, appointed directly by judges, are involved in one-to-one personal relationships with children in foster care, their families, teachers, therapists, social workers and attorneys. The volunteers report to the judge on the most appropriate placement and services for the children.

CASA programs were appropriated \$139,974 in additional general funding by the 2007 Legislature, which brought all 16 programs to their appropriate funding levels and partially funded an overall structural increase to those funding levels.

The New Mexico CASA network continues to focus on strengthening local programs' abilities to recruit, train, supervise and retain motivated, high-quality volunteers.

Access and Supervised Visitation Program

The AOC received additional funds of \$385,200 from the 2007 Legislature to support access and supervised visitation programs in 16 counties (Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, Los Alamos, Bernalillo, Dona Ana, Chaves, Eddy, Lea, Grant, Luna, Hidalgo, Curry, Roosevelt, Sandoval, Valencia and Cibola) in seven Judicial Districts (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th, 9th and 13th).

These programs serve the local courts that routinely write the local access and visitation program services into their court orders, stipulating the level of supervision required. Benefits of access and visitation programs include continuity of the non-custodial parent/child relationship, prevention of further violence, improved child well-being and limits on the revolving door nature of cases that clog the courts with requests for changes in court orders and visitations.

Access and supervised visitation programs assist parents, including those without lawyers, in obtaining counseling or hire other professionals. It is the only source of assistance they receive to address their problems of access and visitation.

On January 5, 2007, the AOC adopted Supervised Visitation Standards that set minimum requirements for operation of the supervised visitation programs, including definitions, administration, program operations, safety and training.

From July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007, the program:

- Provided 3,973 supervised visits;
- Provided 2,825 safe exchanges; and
- Provided a total of 6,686 service hours for exchanges and visits to 473 different family groups.

Access to Justice

The Access to Justice Commission created by the New Mexico Supreme Court makes the courts more accessible to low-income persons with civil legal needs in areas such as family law, domestic violence, housing, consumer, employment, government benefits and other non-criminal legal matters.

During FY 07, the Commission presented the Supreme Court with the *State Plan for Providing Civil Legal Aid to Low Income New Mexicans*. The Court adopted the plan and directed the Commission to implement the recommendations. Among the significant findings of the Supreme Court is that access to justice is a core function of government that should be supported by both the judicial branch and the organized bar.

The Supreme Court continued its support of the Ten Step Plan to improve access to justice. Local pro bono committees were established in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 6th, 11th and 13th Judicial Districts and are in various stages of developing and implementing pro bono plans. In the next phase of the Ten Step Plan, the 4th, 5th, 9th and 12th Judicial Districts will identify potential committee members from their pool of judges, representatives of local bar organizations, local attorneys, court staff and legal service providers. These committees will utilize best practices and lessons learned from existing committees. Pro bono committees will next be developed in the 7th and 10th Judicial Districts, and the Commission has developed a pro bono DVD designed to motivate attorneys to provide volunteer civil services to low-income families.

The Commission also presented the Supreme Court with the *Report of the Self Represented Working Group: Access to New*

Mexico Courts Must Be Meaningful Access. The Supreme Court accepted the report and authorized the Commission to consider guidelines that would assist the courts throughout the state in determining what minimal services should be provided for self represented litigants, including the use of self-help centers in the courts; to assist the proposed Commission staff in developing training for court personnel, the judiciary, and the bar about assisting self represented litigants; to work on developing user friendly forms and technological means of accessing such forms, including use by people with limited English proficiency; and to monitor and support appropriate pilot projects on limited representation.

At the urging of the Commission, the Supreme Court adopted a uniform procedure for waiving the filing fee in a civil lawsuit brought by a low-income person. Rule changes regarding advice court personnel may give an unrepresented litigant and the "Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts" program (IOLTA) are being considered.

The New Mexico Tribal-State Judicial Consortium

Created initially as a committee to increase information and awareness about State and Tribal Courts, the Tribal-State Judicial Consortium was officially recognized by the Supreme Court of New Mexico as one of its advisory boards in November 2006. This step has helped provide more visibility for the Consortium by continuing to build relationships and foster communication between State and Tribal Courts through the development of basic information about each court, its laws, customs and values. Such recognition also facilitated the attendance of Tribal Court Judges who, because

of budget cuts, had been unable to participate in Consortium activities because of the cost of travel to meetings. Tribal Judges are now reimbursed for their mileage to attend the Consortium's quarterly meetings.

In October 2006, the Consortium held a strategic planning session, identifying goals such as increasing coordination with other agencies and organizations, improving access to services and resources for Native American children and families residing in New Mexico, producing educational materials and continuing to work on rules or other processes to enhance full faith, credit and comity.

The major activity during FY 07 consisted of providing scholarships for Tribal Judges to attend the annual Judicial Conclave. Fourteen Tribal Judges attended the three-day conference, working, learning and taking meals with their state-level colleagues. Tribal Judges were introduced by Justice Patricio M. Serna at a luncheon in their honor. In evaluating their experience at the event, scholarship recipients found the Conclave to be useful in their role as judges on Tribal Courts, and suggested topics for the 2008 Conclave focusing on jurisdictional matters to help coordinate efforts and resolve common problems.

The Consortium also began work on an initiative that would extend full faith and credit to orders of protection in cases of domestic violence and would create a recognizable first page for use by State and Tribal Courts on protection orders.

State Stream Adjudications

Three active state stream adjudications continue: the Lower Rio Grande, presided over by District Judge Jerald Valentine;



The Rio Grande: A river whose waters are vital to its dry basin.

the Pecos, spanning from Carlsbad to Las Vegas, presided over by Judge *Pro Tempore* William Bonem; and the San Juan stream adjudication, presided over by Judge *Pro Tempore* Rozier Sanchez. In the Lower Rio Grande, substantial progress has been made in joining 15,000 - plus water rights claimants to the case. In the Pecos, adjudication activity has focused on the Carlsbad Irrigation District, the Pecos Valley Conservancy District and in the Las Vegas area. In the San Juan, adjudication activity has focused on the water rights within the La Plata section of the larger San Juan Basin.

In an effort to improve the practices that govern stream adjudications and thereby positively impact their progress, the AOC has been working to develop new adjudication procedures. Such new procedures would be applicable only to new stream adjudications, and therefore would not affect existing adjudications in the Lower Rio Grande, the Pecos, or the San Juan. The effort to identify new procedures has involved independent research by the AOC of the procedures employed by other western, prior appropriation states, and regular meetings with staff from the Office of the State Engineer and other state agencies. This joint series of meetings and research will continue through 2008.

New Mexico Supreme Court

The Supreme Court reviews an average of 630 cases per year. Within the Court's discretionary jurisdiction (those cases the Court does not have to review automatically), petitions for writ of certiorari, certification requests, interlocutory appeal applications and petitions for writ of habeas corpus are submitted to the full Court. These discretionary cases account for an average of 485 cases per year. Extraordinary petitions for writs of mandamus, prohibition, superintending control and error are submitted to a rotating panel of three associate justices. As necessary, submission to the full Court may occur upon direction of the panel. These extraordinary writ cases account for an average of 73 cases per year. Cases within the Court's mandatory jurisdiction (cases automatically reviewed by the Court) are submitted to the full Court. These mandatory jurisdiction cases account for an average of 126 cases per year. Each justice, therefore, reviews and votes on approximately 611 cases per year.

Of the average 630 cases per year, 117 of the cases are disposed of by a written opinion, decision, dispositional order or order quashing a writ of certiorari (dismissed without comment). The Court publishes an average of 57 majority opinions per year, 15 decisions per year, six dispositional orders per year, and quashes certiorari 39 times per year. The Supreme Court's clearance rate for FY 07 was 98.5%, which represents the cases disposed of as a percentage of cases filed.

Petitions for extension of the six-month rule and other miscellaneous motions are rotated on a monthly basis among the associate justices for a ruling. On average, the Court decides 2,970 rule extension motions each year. In addition,



Supreme Court Hall of Chief Justices, second floor .



Supreme Court Hall of Chief Justices, second floor

the Court decides an average of 30 motions for rehearing or motions for reconsideration (24 filed in FY 06 and 35 filed in FY 07) per year.

The Court supervises 28 committees, boards, commissions and task forces. The process for the promulgation of new rules of procedure and amendment of existing rules begins with proposals submitted to the Court by individual rules committees and boards. The committees make recommendations after reviewing proposed rule amendments submitted by judges or attorneys. Proposed amendments and new rules are published for comment in the New Mexico Bar Bulletin, after which comments are summarized by the respective committee or board.

A package containing the proposed amendments, new rules, comments and committee summary is submitted to the Court for review and final action. In calendar year 2006, 68 proposed amendments and new rules were processed; in calendar year 2007, 149 proposed amendments and new rules have been processed. The addition of staff attorneys has helped the Court move forward in adopting rules that are essential to a just, speedy and inexpensive system of justice.

The Legislature approved an FTE staff attorney position for the Court, bringing the total number of staff attorneys to three and bringing the Court closer to its goal of full staffing of five staff attorneys and one paralegal to be on par with the other Courts of Last Resort. The Legislature also approved first-time funding for the Court to convert taped criminal proceedings into written transcripts.

Supreme Court Building Commission

In July 2007, the Supreme Court Building Commission's Security Division began operating an x-ray scanner for all packages carried into the Supreme Court Building. The Commission is partnering with the U.S. District Court in Albuquerque to receive a walk-through metal detector that the federal court replaced with newer equipment. Delivery is expected in January 2008.



L to R: Security Officers , Theodore Alamillo, Ralph Vigil and Robert Lucero.

New Mexico Court of Appeals
Opinions Filed, by Judge
FY 07 (July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007)

The members of the Court are listed in order of seniority, except for the Chief Judge, who is listed first by Court practice. The Court places cases on two calendars - general and summary. In FY 07, the Court filed 312 general calendar opinions and 428 summary calendar opinions, totaling 740 opinions. This does not reflect the other work performed by Court of Appeals Judges, which includes writing separate opinions, work performed as a participating judge, considering petitions for writs of certiorari in appeals from administrative agencies, considering applications for interlocutory appeal, transfer orders, and dismissal orders.

General Calendar Cases	Formal	Memorandum	Total
Chief Judge Jonathan Sutin	24	12	36
Judge A. Joseph Alarid	12	15	27
Judge Lynn Pickard	27	19	46
Judge James Wechsler	23	10	33
Judge Michael Bustamante	19	15	34
Judge Cynthia Fry	17	19	36
Judge Celia Foy Castillo	20	9	29
Judge Ira Robinson	11	9	20
Judge Roderick Kennedy	13	12	25
Judge Michael Vigil	13	12	25
Total for Court	179	132	311

Each fiscal year approximately 55% to 57% of the Court's caseload is decided on the summary calendar, in cases where the facts are not in dispute and the issues raised can be decided based on existing law. Judges rotate as calendaring judge, and the calendaring judge authors opinions decided on the summary calendar. Judges do not receive new general calendar cases when serving as calendaring judge; as a result, calendaring judges may have fewer general calendar opinion filings than judges who have not calendared during the year.

FY 07 Calendaring Judges

Judge Castillo	July, August 2006
Judge Kennedy	October, November 2006
Judge Alarid	September, December 2006; January, April 2007
Judge Vigil	February, March 2007
Judge Wechsler	May, June 2007

Caseload: The New Mexico Court of Appeals is the intermediate court between district courts and certain administrative agencies and the New Mexico Supreme Court. Most of the cases coming to the Court are those in which the persons appealing have a right to appeal, and the Court must entertain those appeals. The Court has discretionary review of certain administrative proceedings. The Court resolves cases by published opinions, unpublished opinions and court orders. The number of cases varies from year to year, between 800 to 1000 cases. In FY 07 there were 976 new cases filed, consisting of criminal cases, discretionary appeals, domestic cases, administrative and worker's compensation

cases, children's court cases and other civil cases. The Court disposed of 757 cases by opinions, 15 by transfer and 188 by an order of dismissal, totaling 960 dispositions. Measured against the 976 new cases, the Court attained a 98.6% disposition or clearance rate, exceeding the targeted performance measure of 95%.

Albuquerque Annex: In the 2008 Legislative session, the Court will seek a capital appropriation to complete construction of an annex in Albuquerque to supplement the main office space in Santa Fe. The plan is to break ground in 2008. The Court of Appeals Building Commission established by the Legislature oversees the project, along with a Court of Appeals building committee. The building will be constructed on property of the University of New Mexico (UNM), situated next to the UNM School of Law (next to the existing annex). The new annex will replace the crowded and otherwise inadequate existing facility. The Court and the Building Commission have decided to name the annex after Senior Justice Pamela B. Minzner in recognition of her work at the UNM Law School and in honor of her first judicial appointment to and service on the Court of Appeals.

Civic Commitment: An important initiative in which the Court has been involved in the past on an intermittent basis has recently become the focus of regular Court practice. The Court partners with high schools throughout the state, bringing the Court into the high schools for the hearing of oral argument in actual cases, just as though they were held in the courtroom. The Court partners with local attorneys, who familiarize themselves with the cases to be argued and

who attend various classes, including civics classes, teaching the students about the court system in general and the Court of Appeals and the specific cases to be argued in particular. The oral argument is then heard in the schools' auditoriums, after which the judges answer the students' questions. The Court is dedicated to improving the educational experience of students in New Mexico and to improving the civic participation of New Mexico's residents.



Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court

Background Investigations Division

- Performed over 10,000 misdemeanor interviews and more than 5,000 investigations with presentations for felony first appearances.
- Processed more than 4,000 releases of defendants on their own recognizance.
- Placed over 1,700 holds on defendants in custody.
- Ran more than 25,000 NCIC criminal history reports.

Case Initiation / File Maintenance Division

- Initiated several case processing improvements, including utilization of mobile computing to track case files, a new scan program that matches potential additional bench warrants with defendants and other web-based programs.
- Continued to provide judges with background information on misdemeanor domestic violence and DWI defendants at arraignment.

Compliance Division

- Initiated service with a new vendor for collection of delinquent fines and fees.
- Reviewed approximately 179,000 case files during the year for compliance, corrections, closing and/or imaging.
- Coordinated three Operation Warrant Enforcement efforts with the Albuquerque Police Department and Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office.

Community Outreach Office

- In addition to handling public, press and other

inquiries, the outreach office provided tours for schools and other public groups; arranged mock trials for other groups; coordinated volunteers throughout the Court; planned and implemented a variety of special programs, such as investitures, valentine weddings and juror recognition.

- Coordinated the design of the Court's Internet and intranet websites.

Courtroom Support Division

- Developed a new comprehensive training program for staff, including all written materials, a month-long training component, both in and out of the courtroom, and a docketing skills training simulator.
- Completed a courtroom review for safety hazards and related issues and took appropriate measures to alleviate potential hazards.

Customer Service Division

- On average, handled 900 customers presenting in person at the customer counters.
- Received over 1,000 calls a day through the Court's call system.
- Implemented a new web-based defendant/case check-in system that more efficiently initiates case processing in Traffic Court arraignments.

Educational Services Division

- Increased the number of agencies for which defendants provide community services to 185. This includes agencies in 29 of the 33 counties in New Mexico; almost 7,600 defendants were referred to



Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court.

these agencies and completed more than 151,000 hours of community services with a value of over \$770,000.

- Oversaw and monitored the provision of services to the educational schools and programs utilized as alternatives by the Court's judges, e.g., DWI, Driver Improvement, Motor Vehicle Safety Restraints, Responsible Pet

Owners and Motorcycle Safety schools.

- More than 18,500 defendants were referred to educational programs

Facilities Management Division

- Successfully coordinated the completion of a new courtroom and chambers to accommodate the expansion of judicial divisions.

Finance Division

- Successfully transitioned to the new SHARE program.

Human Resources Division

- Ensured that all employees were paid accurately with the implementation of the new SHARE program.
- Completed sexual and other harassment and discrimination training of all employees.
- Provided training for all supervisory and management staff on the Family Medical Leave and the Americans with Disabilities Acts.

Information Technology Division

- Worked with almost every division throughout the Court to design new programs or improve and update existing systems, e.g., the training simulator in Courtroom Support.
- Completed a major upgrade of systems for interfacing with the Motor Vehicle Division, which improved performance and reliability.

Interpreters

- Staff court interpreters provided services for almost 12,000 cases in FY 07. Additionally, contract interpreters provided services for Spanish-speaking and other language cases not covered by staff.

Jury Management

- Coordinated jurors to serve on a record number of actual jury trials during the year. For example, one week in March there were 11 jury trials and one day in June there were seven jury trials.

Mediation Division

- Resolved 596 cases, primarily civil, of the 837 mediations conducted during the year - a resolution rate of 71%.
- Developed the Metropolitan Court Mediator Handbook to improve mediators' knowledge and effectiveness.
- Recruited and maintained more than 120 professionally trained volunteer mediators.

Probation Supervision Division

- Provided pre-adjudication and probation supervision services for approximately 3,000 defendants and offenders each month.
- Initiated the pilot program for "True First" DWI Offenders, providing supervision for those determined to be at high risk to re-offend, funded by a grant through the Traffic Safety Bureau.
- Continued monitoring Ignition Interlock compliance on all DWI offenders and defendants ordered as a condition of release.
- Special programs of the Court – DWI/Drug Court, the Domestic Violence Early Intervention and Repeat Offender Programs, Homeless Court and the Mental Health Court – were reorganized into a component of the Division.
- Expanded and improved services for defendants with mental health and co-occurring disorders through The Mental Health Enhancement Project funded by a grant through the U.S. Department of Justice.
- In-house screening converted to a web-based system

and performed more than 4,000 screens of DWI defendants.

Self-Help Center

- Formerly known as the pro se office, the Self-Help Center assisted more than 4,500 individuals during the course of the year, over 2,600 in person and almost 2,000 via telephone. A little more than 10% of those contacts were performed in Spanish.
- The Center also provided a wide array of literature and materials for those seeking information on civil and legal cases at the Metropolitan Court where they are self-represented.



Problem-Solving Courts

Drug Courts in FY 07

- 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, just prior to the 2006 legislative session. The plan aims to implement a drug court in every county in the state over the five-year period of FY 07 through FY 11, while providing a reasonably stable and predictable level of funding requests to the Legislature each legislative session. The plan has met with considerable success in its first two years.
 - The 2006 Legislature replaced lapsing federal funds at eight drug court programs, institutionalizing them with recurring state funds and provided funding to start two new adult drug courts in counties lacking a drug court program of any kind.
 - The 2007 Legislature provided funding for three more adult drug courts, again in counties lacking a drug court program of any kind, while also funding expansion and planning of several more programs.
 - In FY 09, there will be 34 active drug courts in 21 of the state's 33 counties, leaving 12 counties without a drug court.
 - The judiciary has recognized the significant problem of drug court program participants with co-occurring disorders such as severe depression,

schizophrenia or bipolar disorder. Many such participants abuse drugs to self-medicate for mental illnesses and require additional treatment beyond that provided for their substance abuse. Five programs began training in 2007 to develop co-occurring disorder tracks within their existing programs, based on the successful model already in place at Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court.

- The state's drug courts graduated 662 participants in FY07 and continued to post excellent outcome measures:
 - Recidivism of graduates averaged 3.1% one year after graduation, and 11.9% two years after graduation.
 - ♦ National averages, based on 95 of the country's largest drug courts, are 16.7% and 27.5%, respectively, for the same post-graduation time periods.
 - Cost-per-client-per-day averaged \$25.27, a substantial savings over the daily cost of incarceration of \$81.35.
 - Retention of program participants (an important measure, as studies show the longer the substance abuse treatment the better the outcomes) averaged an excellent 84.3%.
- Approximately 220 drug court professionals from around the state attended the Tenth Annual New Mexico Association of Drug Court Professionals

(NMADCP) Conference, held in Albuquerque on November 5-6, 2007. It was the largest NMADCP conference to date, and featured presentations on the *Relationship between the Court and Treatment Provider and Neurobiology of Addiction*, along with workshops on Co-Occurring Disorders, Gender Specific Treatment, Program Evaluations, Grade Court and Substance Abuse Programs for Adult and Juvenile Drug Courts.

1st Judicial District

- 2007 marks the 10th anniversary for the 1st Judicial District Adult Drug Court program, which first began operations in January 1997 with 10 clients. Since then, the program has expanded to its current population of 45 participants and works with felony level offenders in Los Alamos, Rio Arriba and Santa Fe Counties. Over the last 10 years, the program has witnessed many changes, the most notable of which being the implementation of vocational/educational component that allows participants to pursue higher education or vocational training. Over the last 10 years, the Adult Drug Court program has graduated a total of 189 participants, with the vast majority going on to become hardworking, productive citizens in our communities.
- In 2007 the **Juvenile Drug Court** implemented an Early Intervention Program in Santa Fe County, which serves adolescents referred by the Juvenile Probation and Parole Office who are not on probation, but appear to have substance abuse issues. This initiative

is an effort to address their substance abuse issues and help them avoid entering the court system. The Juvenile Drug Court has also partnered with the Santa Fe Public Schools in establishing a task force regarding substance abuse prevention programs.

- The **Rio Arriba County Juvenile Drug Court** has successfully established a community service-based program that is working in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity, where the juveniles assist in the construction of homes for low-income county residents.

4th Judicial District

- Judge Freddie J. Romero, Chaves County, began a new **Juvenile Drug Court** in conjunction with the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department.

6th Judicial District

- The number of participants in the **Juvenile Drug Court** has remained consistent in FY 07, with nine participants graduating from the program compared to four graduates in FY 06.
- This year the drug court program team members also participated in the New Mexico Association of Drug Court Professionals conference.



Governor Bill Richardson addresses a packed courtroom at the 2nd Judicial District Court, commending the court on the 10-year anniversary of its successful Adult Drug Court program, while program presiding Judge Richard Knowles, Chief Judge William Lang, Chief Justice Edward L. Chávez and others look on.



Judge Knowles and fellow program Judge Pat Murdoch congratulate one of the program's graduating participants.

7th Judicial District

- The 7th Judicial District Court received funding to implement an **Adult Drug Court** in Socorro and Torrance counties. Sierra County's Adult Drug Court program has been in operation since January 2006.

11th Judicial District

- Pre-trial staff and **Adult Drug Court** staff assisted successful implementation of the Methamphetamine Treatment facility in Farmington.
- The **Adult Drug Court** conducted its 200th graduation since inception, with a recidivism rate of only 12% in FY 07.
- A drug-free baby was born to a **Juvenile Drug Court** participant.
- Graduated **Juvenile Drug Court** clients.

Mental Health Courts in FY 07

1st Judicial District

- The 1st Judicial District Mental Health Court is entering its third year of existence. Since inception, the program has grown rapidly from a pilot project designed to treat five felony level offenders to its current population of 15. The Treatment Court has screened a total of 77 individuals, with 45 of those referrals being accepted into the program. By the end of December 2007, eleven participants had graduated from the program. The Treatment Court has had a

positive impact within the 1st Judicial District, providing judges, probation officers, public defenders and district attorneys with a viable alternative when treating individuals with co-occurring disorders.

2nd Judicial District

- In addressing growing caseloads, the 2nd Judicial District Court has taken a multifaceted family-supportive approach through the Judicial Supervision Program (a.k.a. Mental Health Court) designed to meet the needs of defendants with mental health disorders. The Court provided education and early intervention to juvenile girls involved in abuse and violence through the Program for Empowerment of Girls; implemented the Parent Project and Sexually Abusive Youth Treatment Programs to educate and support families dealing with youthful offenders; increased the pool of Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteers by 33%; addressed the correlation between illiteracy and delinquent behavior in youths through the Tom Cooper Literacy Program; and provided an Internet alcohol education program for juveniles. For those families already embroiled in criminal matters, the Court has significantly improved both the quality and speed of administering justice through the Early Plea Program and expansion of the Fast Track Drug Program's Pretrial Services Division, Judicial Supervision Program and Jail Diversion staff in assisting the Metropolitan Detention Center in determining eligibility to the Community Custody Program.

11th Judicial District

- The 11th Judicial District created a Mental Health/Treatment Court in San Juan County.

Teen Court

5th Judicial District

- The 5th Judicial District Teen Court serves participants in Chaves and Lea Counties.

6th Judicial District

- The 6th Judicial District Teen Court Program is presented at the Grant County Courtroom twice a month. Youth participate when they receive citations, either from Juvenile Probation and Parole (JPPO) referrals and/or citations from law enforcement offices. Individuals who receive referrals and/or citations are judged by their peers, all teenage volunteers who serve as attorneys, jurors or bailiffs. The judge is either a magistrate judge or a local attorney. Part of the judgment may include service to the Teen Court.

Juvenile Justice

The **6th Judicial District** received appropriated money totaling \$333,800, \$120,000 of this amount from Senate Bill 415, to fund the Juvenile Justice Continuum Services Program (JJCS). The money was distributed to the counties comprising the 6th Judicial District: Luna County and Grant County each received 42.5% and Hidalgo County received 15%.

JJCS is supervised by a board of directors that includes District Judge Gary M. Jeffreys, District Judge J.C. Robinson, Chief JPPO Officer Gary Staley and six key members representing the three counties. The program's Drug Program Manager, Rachel Pelz, administers this program.

The Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government recognizes state, county and local government programs with their Annual Innovations in American Government Award. On behalf of the 6th Judicial District Court, Luna County applied for the award as one of approximately 1,000 applicants nationwide. The 6th Judicial District Court Juvenile Justice Continuum of Services and Graduated Sanctions, sustained by the New Mexico Legislature, was one of seven award winners. The application sponsor, Luna County, sent Judge Jeffreys, Chief JPPO Staley, County Manager Scott Vincent and Chief of Police Michael Carrillo to Cambridge, Massachusetts to present the program in May 2007.

JJCS assists youth in the community through intervention, prevention and positive youth development through proactive comprehensive after-school programs, bicycle recycle programs, Teen Outreach and other programs. The programs' dramatic results continue to garner respect both statewide and nationally.

• **Juvenile Justice Continuum of Services and Graduated Sanctions Luna County, N.M.**

The Juvenile Justice Continuum of Services and Graduated Sanctions is comprised of an integrated service network of juvenile programs, ... recording a 70-percent decline in delinquent offenses since its inception.



Press Release

Nation's Most Innovative Government Initiatives Compete for \$100,000 Award

Eighteen unique and effective government programs were announced today as finalists for the 2007 Innovations in American Government Awards by the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

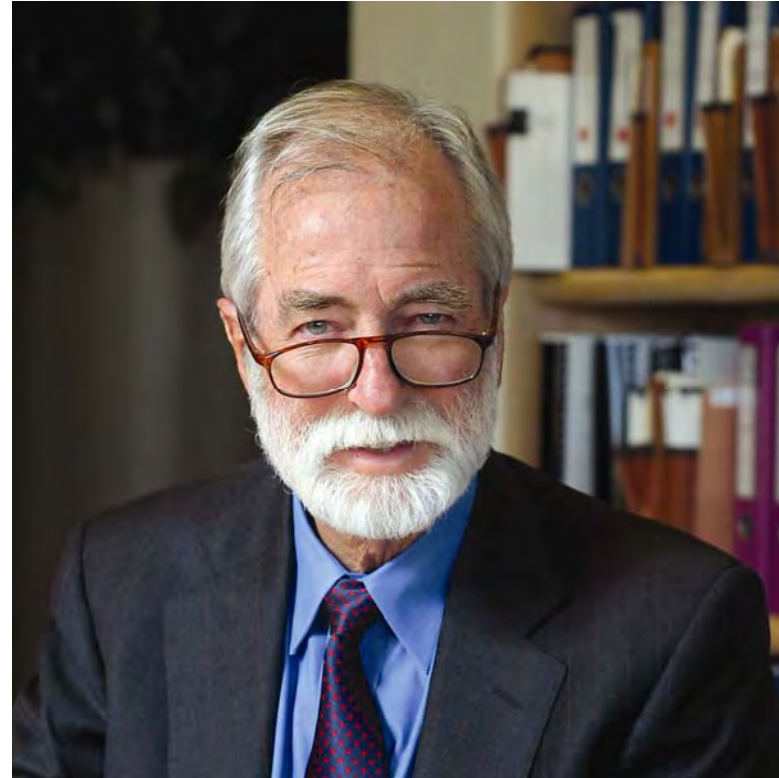
Date Released: 05/06/2007

2007 Highlights

Charles W. Daniels was sworn in as Justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court on Monday, November 5, 2007, in a private ceremony at the Supreme Court, with a public ceremony and reception held at the Eldorado Hotel in Santa Fe on November 9th.

Justice Daniels was appointed by Governor Bill Richardson to fill the vacancy created by the death on August 31, 2007 of Senior Justice Pamela B. Minzner. Prior to his appointment on the high court, Justice Daniels was in private practice for over 30 years at the Freedman, Boyd, Daniels, Hollander, Goldberg & Ives law firm and has served as a professor at the UNM School of Law. Justice Daniels received his law degree from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 1969 and a Masters degree in Trial Advocacy from the Georgetown University School of Law in 1971.

He and his wife, Albuquerque lawyer Randi McGinn, have been married for 19 years and have four children, Jeanette Gurley, Cheryl Ramirez, Seana Miracle and Heather McGinn, and six grandchildren, Lauren, Olivia and Emma Ramirez, Axiao Daniels and David and Jacob Gurley.



Justice Charles W. Daniels

District Courts

1st Judicial District

- The **Family Court Services Division** provides services for Family Court to facilitate the timely resolution of custody/visitation issues. All Domestic Matters (DM) cases are followed from the filing of the case until a parenting plan or agreement on custody/visitation has been filed. Services include an information session to help parents gain an understanding of the needs of children whose parents live in separate households, mediation to assist parents in developing their own parenting plan, and consultation to make recommendations on parenting issues when parents are unable to reach an agreement. Referral to the program occurs at the time the petition is filed; the information session is held four to six weeks later; mediation occurs one to four weeks later; and priority consultation occurs two to four weeks after mediation.
- The **Domestic Relations Hearing Office** held 2,750 hearings in 2006. There were 1,795 domestic violence hearings, 653 domestic relations hearings, 290 juvenile matters and 12 mental health commitments. Through October 2007, the Domestic Relations Hearing Office has exceeded last year's number of hearings by 5%. The Office provided training to all law enforcement agencies in the 1st Judicial District and represented the Court on several local and statewide committees.
- The 1st Judicial District Court created the **Court Constituent Services Division (CCSD)**, consisting of two separate programs that provide services to the public:

settlement facilitation in civil, domestic violence and probate cases and assistance to pro se litigants.

2nd Judicial District

- The **Family Court** has pursued a preventive and educational approach to families in crisis by providing mediation and mediation skills training for child custody disputes and unrepresented litigants in domestic relations cases through the services of the Court Clinic and the new Court Alternatives Court mediation program. The Child Support Division has continued to expedite the establishment of parentage and child support through its Parentage Referral Project by setting early hearings and ordering immediate temporary support for children. For those families involved in domestic violence, the Court has become an on-site partner with the new Family Advocacy Center, which provides global services for victims of domestic violence. The Court now provides education to reduce the destructive behaviors of both victims and batterers through the Female, Anger, Intervention, Recovery Program (FAIR), with early results showing a 95% success rate in recidivism.

The Court's Domestic Violence Division has partnered with the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department through a grant to improve inputting of orders of protection by law enforcement to protect victims. The Division has implemented a pilot project with the Judiciary's Judicial Information Division to use electronic transmission of order of protection forms directly to law enforcement agencies to improve response. The Self-Help Center has

served an average of 400 unrepresented litigants per month, and, through coordination with the Access to Justice Commission, has been instrumental in standardizing user-friendly self-help forms.

- The **Information Technology Department** has written, converted and executed technology improvements that have reduced the need for outside vendor services. The Court Interpreter Division has serviced the 40% increase in interpreting needs by adding a dedicated half-time Spanish language interpreter to the existing pool. This has reduced the use of contract interpreters and their attendant costs to the Court. The Court Reporters Division has improved on delivery of real-time reporting. The Fiscal Division received excellent ratings in the FY 07 auditing report and has consistently exceeded performance measures related to timeliness of juror payments. The Division also implemented the SHARE program for all financial, purchasing and human resource data, as directed by New Mexico's executive branch. The Purchasing Division, for the fifth year in a row, has received excellent ratings in the fixed asset audit.

4th Judicial District

- Judges and staff of the 4th Judicial District Court moved into their newly-constructed 23,000 square foot judicial facility in June 2007, just in time to accommodate the new judgeship created by the Legislature in 2007. The new building is equipped with state-of-the-art courtroom technology, surveillance and security equipment.

6th Judicial District

- The Court contracts with two special masters to assist in its day-to-day operations, one in the Grant County Courthouse and the other in the Luna County Courthouse. Even though these contractors have designated counties, they constantly travel to assist other judges in the district. Judges assign cases to the special masters, which relieves caseload pressure and contributes to the smoothness and efficiency of the hearings handled throughout this district. During FY 07, one special master was involved in the Judicial Judges Users Group, a committee that oversees international policies and procedures for the judicial system.
- This is the fourth year the 6th Judicial District Court has utilized contract attorneys as pro se litigant officers to assist individuals who enter the judicial system pro se.

11th Judicial District

- The Grade Court Program has graduated 545 students since inception in 1997. In FY 07, the program celebrated its 150th graduate from the GED program and its 200th graduate from the Farmington Municipal School District.
- The District began using video conferences for meetings among courts in Aztec, Farmington and Gallup.
- All new employees attended a driver safety course.
- 287 child custody cases were referred to mediation, 95 of which were successfully resolved.
- The Pre-Trial Services Program coordinated difficult long-term supervision cases in Colorado and Albuquerque;

improved protocols by eliminating unnecessary paperwork; and developed checks and balances to keep bench warrant purges current and accurate.

- The District opened a third, fully functional courthouse to meet ongoing space needs and house additional judges, with a seamless transition for litigants, jurors, attorneys and staff.

Magistrate Courts

The Magistrate Court Division, in partnership with the Judicial Education Center, greatly expanded training for new magistrate judges. All judges who had been on the bench two years or less were required to take two full weeks of intensive training, in addition to the week-long annual magistrate conference. Experimental testing demonstrated strengths and weaknesses in the training program and identified areas to be addressed in future training.

The Division continues to improve magistrate facilities. Construction is complete in Española and has begun in Las Cruces. Major remodeling efforts are underway in Gallup and Bernalillo. Santa Fe, Aztec and Farmington received high density filing systems. The Division installed integrated security systems (including proximity access, CCTV, remotely controlled magnetic locks, perimeter security and integration of fire and panic alarms) in Truth or Consequences, Aztec and Los Lunas. Less extensive modifications resulted in increased security and efficiency at a number of courts.

Las Cruces Magistrate Court

The RFP for new construction was issued at the end of FY 06 and the FY 07 procurement process was conducted in strict

compliance with the New Mexico Procurement Code. The Evaluation Committee's final recommendation was presented to Chief Justice Richard C. Bosson on November 13, 2006, and notice of award letters were sent that afternoon. The contract was awarded to DBA Partners, LLC; the architect is Ted E. Shelton, Jr. of ASA Architects Studio; and the general contractor is Wooten Construction. The new court will be located at South Main and Calle de Alegria, and will initially house six courtrooms with the ability to expand to a total of 12. It will include state-of-the-art security technology, design and high density filing systems. The design meets the needs of both magistrate and metropolitan courts.



Groundbreaking, Las Cruces Magistrate Court -From left to right: Rep. Mary Helen Garcia, Justice Richard C. Bosson, Sen. Mary Kay Papen, Judge Kent Wingenroth, Judge Joseph Guillory, Rep. Joseph Cervantes, Judge Olivia Garcia, Judge Richard Silva, Judge Richard Robles, Judge Oscar Fietze, Rep. Andy Nuñez, Rep. Joni Gutierrez, Karen Janes, AOC, Chief Justice Edward L. Chávez, Jeff Varela, AOC, Arthur W. Pepin, AOC.

Gallup Magistrate Court

The McKinley County Board of Commissioners awarded the contract for Phase I of a major retrofit and expansion of the McKinley County Magistrate Court in Gallup on November 27, 2007. Phase I includes, but is not limited to, a retrofit of the central clerks area, public service counter, expansion of the lobby, construction of a central filing room and installation of a high density filing system.



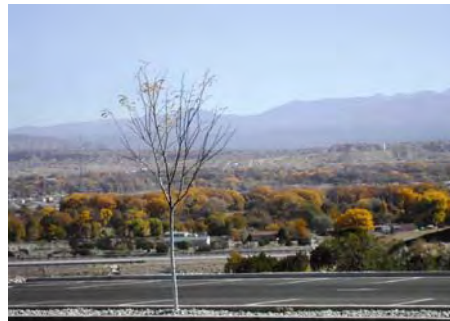
Gallup Magistrate Court staff

Española Magistrate Court

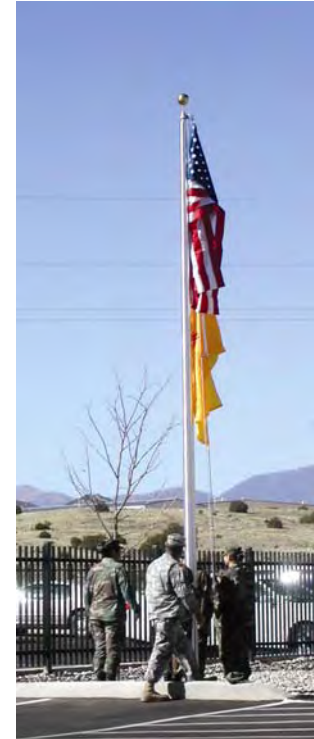
Groundbreaking for the new facility took place on November 2, 2006 and construction was largely complete by the end of FY 07. Relocation occurred on October 1-2, 2007. The new facility includes state-of-the-art security technology and design, enhanced voice/data cabling and high density filing systems.



Front entry, Española Magistrate Court



View from Española Magistrate Court



Color Guard at grand opening.

Other Magistrate Courts

- High density filing systems were installed in the Santa Fe, Aztec and Los Lunas courts.
- Integrated security systems (including proximity access, CCTV, remotely controlled magnetic locks, perimeter security, and integration of fire and panic alarms) were installed in the Truth or Consequences, Aztec and Los Lunas courts.

-
- Electronic speakers were installed at service counter windows in the Socorro, Ruidoso, Los Lunas, Farmington and Santa Fe courts.
 - Modifications, including the items listed below, were accomplished in many courts:
 - Structural modifications to increase security and storage;
 - Installation of security glass at public service counters;
 - Installation of flag poles;
 - Major interior retrofits to provide space for a centrally located civil division; and
 - Voice/data cabling to improve efficiency.

Restructuring of long distance telephone service in magistrate courts reduced costs from 23¢ per minute, formerly charged by AT&T, to 2.5¢ per minute from Qwest.

Judicial information Division (JID)

In October 2007, after a thorough, competitive selection and procurement process, the New Mexico Supreme Court selected Tyler Technologies, Inc., as the case management vendor for New Mexico courts, including all appellate, district and magistrate courts and the Bernalillo Metropolitan Court. The contract for Tyler's Odyssey application was formally executed on October 24, 2007.

This important selection process involved extensive staff research on existing commercial case management offerings, issuance of a Request for Information (RFI) to all court case management vendors, team reviews of the eleven vendor RFI

responses, team visits to vendor sites and court jurisdictions around the country to observe applications in action and the release of a comprehensive court case management Request for Proposals (RFP). All New Mexico state courts provided feedback during the selection process and most courts sent staff to participate in the finalist demonstrations, which were held in Albuquerque at the end of July 2007.

The finalist demonstrations involved setting aside a week for the two finalist vendors to demonstrate their case management applications to more than 150 judges, court staff and court experts, using detailed demonstration scripts developed by JID staff. A comprehensive scoring instrument was used by evaluation team members to rate each finalist in fifteen major categories.

Once scores were totaled, the vendor with the highest score was recommended by the Evaluation Team, a subcommittee of JIFFY, to the New Mexico Supreme Court. The Supreme Court then approved the recommendation and contract negotiations with Tyler began in earnest.

AOC staff members are now working with Tyler staff to define the product tailoring that needs to be completed for the case management product to meet the requirements of individual courts. Once tailoring is complete, the application will be installed in two pilot courts, and if those installations are successful, eight court pilots will follow. Once the pilot phase is complete, a schedule for full conversion of all New Mexico State Courts will be published in 2008.

Judicial Branch Strategic Goals

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

2nd Judicial District Court (SJDC)

- SJDC has kicked off its long-range goal of a paperless courthouse through an electronic document management system (EDMS). Employees in the Civil Clerks Division, Archives & Records and Special Services have been trained on the EDMS project the Information Technology Division has been deploying and enhancing. This program will significantly improve access to court documents and processing time in the Civil, Criminal, Children's and Domestic Relations Clerks' Divisions that combined, filed and processed over 36,000 new cases this year.
- The Criminal Division implemented a pilot Judgment and Sentencing Project where the final Sentencing closing document will be simultaneously prepared, filed and distributed to the District Attorneys' offices and Department of Corrections at sentencing, which significantly improves processing time.

3rd Judicial District Court

- The Court relocated the Pro Se Clinic, making the process for self-represented litigants run more efficiently and expeditiously. and increased the number of attorneys in the clinic, allowing the Court to schedule additional clinic days for self-represented litigants.

- The installation and implementation of a new file management system has improved the processing of documentation and file location.
- Relocating the domestic relations division next to the criminal and civil divisions has enabled centralized filings.

6th Judicial District Court

- The Court continues to uphold the standards present in the New Mexico Judiciary Strategic Plan. During FY 07, the 6th Judicial District was authorized an additional judgeship for FY 08 together with support staff for the position, which will improve case flow management in order to provide fair and unbiased proceedings that are timely and sufficient.
- The Court continues to examine fines and fees assessed within the agency. The district produces internal monthly reports for judicial staff to review and, if necessary, correct. These reports include money management; performance measurements in docketing, vouchering and jury payments; and in docketing errors and due dates. This insures that the agency is timely and accurate with information both in the courtroom and for public review.

7th Judicial District Court

- The Court continues to provides forms and information to self-represented litigants.

- The Court continues to provides mediation services in domestic relations cases and neglect and abuse cases in all four divisions.

10th Judicial District Court

- The Court continues to monitor cases and make necessary changes to ensure cases are processed in a timely manner and implements changes in statutory process as needed.
- Court staff are proficient users of the case management program, relying on the system for information about cases status and due dates; track calendar events within the program, enabling provision of information to litigants quickly and efficiently; keep cases within the rule date; and close cases for failure to pursue according to the rule date.
- The courtroom was remodeled to improve public access; visual aids were installed to help during trials and to provide adequate seating and visual aids to jurors.

12th Judicial District Court

- The Court offers alternate dispute resolution through mediation, arbitration and settlement facilitation programs.

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

New Mexico Supreme Court Law Library

- The Library assists the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals staff attorneys in the annual training of appellate

judicial clerks. In FY 07, this training included an introduction to the research databases provided by the Library, as well as a lecture on statutory construction and legislative history research given by the State Law Librarian.

- In FY 07, the State Law Librarian also presented several continuing legal education seminars on legal research, including a presentation at the annual Appellate Practice Institute, which was attended by many of the appellate staff attorneys who work for the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals.

2nd Judicial District Court

- The Supervisor and staff of the Pretrial Services Division of SJDC provided training and technical assistance to the 11th Judicial District Court to help that court create a Mental Health Court.
- All Domestic Violence Special Commissioners have presented at the state-wide Domestic Violence Special Commissioners Annual Training.
- The program manager, a probation officer, a therapist and the staff of the Children's Court variously attended the Drug Court Coordinators National Judicial College, the National Association of Drug Court Professionals Conference and the New Mexico Association of Drug Court Professionals Conference.

3rd Judicial District Court

- A training orientation plan has been developed for new

employees, as well as ongoing training for court staff and judges on a monthly basis.

- The two Children's Court judges attended the Judicial College training held in Reno, Nevada.
- The Criminal Division judges attended the State Drug Court Conference held in Albuquerque.
- Court staff attended and will continue to attend annual and regional conferences held by the Judicial Education Center. Other training conferences are made available to court staff when requested.

6th Judicial District Court

- The Court participates in and provides training to enhance the skills of judges and court staff. The judges participate annually by attending the Judicial Conclave and other seminars. District Judge Gary M. Jeffreys attended meetings of the Children's Court Rules Committee and the Chief Judges Council and the Drug Court Advisory Committee. District Judge H.R. Quintero attended the New Mexico District Judges Association Board of Directors meetings as Vice President. Through its support staff, which includes a law clerk and a staff attorney, the district's judges are kept informed when rules change or statutory modification is implemented.
- The judicial staff receives trainings such as JEC Supervisor Seminars, Jury Management Training, National Seminar Trainings and the Annual Clerk's Conference and regularly attend other trainings and meetings.

7th Judicial District Court

- Court staff attended the annual district conference held in Albuquerque.
- The Sierra County Adult Drug Court Judge attended the Ninth Annual Louisiana Drug Court Conference in New Orleans, and the Sierra County Adult Drug Court team attended the 13th Annual National Association of Drug Court Professionals conference held in Washington, D.C.

10th Judicial District Court

- The Court has always been active in training of its staff and Judge, who continue to attend any and all informational training available. We attend all conferences available for the clerk's and the conclave is attended yearly by the judge. This District helped in the regional training planning and continues to support comments and objectives of such training.
- The District has maintained its awareness of the importance of adequate facilities for its employees and the public, taking on projects to upgrade the facilities and maintain safe and secure surroundings each year. Outdated furniture and equipment have been replaced with modern useful technology. Sound systems for the elderly and hard of hearing have been enhanced. The District continues to strive for security measures to ensure the safety of staff, attorneys and the public.

12th Judicial District Court

- The Court developed a training plan for new employee orientation to include personnel rules, security matters,

internal policies and procedures, and developed a plan to provide quarterly training opportunities for all staff.

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

New Mexico Supreme Court Law Library

- The Library continues to be a primary access point for self-represented litigants looking for information about the law and legal process. Its reference questions increased by 9.24% from FY 06 to FY 07.
- The State Law Librarian and several other librarians are active in the Access to Justice Commission's projects that help self-represented litigants and claimants who need assistance from volunteer attorneys.

2nd Judicial District Court

- SJDC completed an on-site security evaluation that resulted in renovation and enhancement of the security screening system for litigants and the public entering the building. This system implemented an Information Booth that significantly reduced the number of litigants and members of the public entering the building by directing them to the proper location outside the courthouse for the services they were seeking.
- The Court Alternatives Division, which provides Alternative Dispute Resolution Services and training, implemented a new Family Court Mediation and mediation skills training program for low-income litigants involved in domestic relations disputes.

- SJDC has become an on-site partner with the new Family Advocacy Center, which provides global no-cost services for victims of domestic violence.
- The Self-Help Center, in conjunction with the Access to Justice Commission, has been instrumental in coordinating and standardizing statewide user-friendly courthouse forms for those unable to afford attorneys.

3rd Judicial District Court

- In collaboration with the county, the Court received funding an assessment to determine the need for a new courthouse or expansion and is currently working with the architects and consultants on providing statistical and pertinent information for this project.
- A court security camera system will be installed throughout the courthouse and the outside perimeter, including the parking lot, funding for which was obtained through the Legislature and in collaboration with the Doña Ana County Sheriff's Department.
- In conjunction with the court security camera system, the Court will install a new public address system to ensure communication channels adequately reach all parts of the courthouse during an evacuation to ensure the safety of the public and court employees.

6th Judicial District Court

- The Court has made great strides in providing reasonable and affordable access to justice in safe and adequate facilities. The agency's continued support and

participation in the service contracts previously mentioned, as well as AOC contract services, reflects this agency's commitment to the population it serves and to the New Mexico Judicial System. State-of-the-art security equipment was installed in the Luna County Courthouse during FY 07. With the help and cooperation of the county governments, increased security has been provided throughout the District. The planning, fund acquisition and other groundwork for the construction of a new judicial complex in Luna County and renovations for the Grant County Courthouse were either initiated or continued during FY 07 and should come to fruition in late FY 08 to early FY 09.

7th Judicial District Court

- The Court collaborates with local law enforcement agencies to ensure the safety of the public, judges and court staff.

10th Judicial District Court

- The Court continues to implement and review current judicial standards, and continues to review, maintain and process information through file sharing, e-mailing and File Transfer Protocols (FTP's) to make appropriate information more easily available to the public.

12th Judicial District Court

- The Court is working with the county to convert space into a courtroom, judges' chambers and jury room and to develop a security system for all court users in both counties.

Goal 4: Obtain adequate funding and resources for court operations

New Mexico Supreme Court Law Library

- In FY 07, the Library was able to replace all its computers. This move will ensure quality access to legal information by allowing patrons to use faster and more reliable computers. Moreover, the standardization allows the library information technology staff to spend significantly less time maintaining the equipment.
- The Library also purchased a Congressional Hearings database from Lexis-Nexis in FY 07. This database allows the Library to discard nearly 1,000 linear feet of Congressional Hearings from the 1940s to the 1980s, which are printed on acidic paper and are rapidly degrading. The extra shelf space and increased access to users makes switching to a digital format a wise choice.

2nd Judicial District Court

- The Court Interpreter Division has serviced the 40% increase in interpreting needs by adding a dedicated half-time Spanish language interpreter to the existing pool, which has significantly reduced the use of contract interpreters and their attendant costs to the Court.
- The Court's Domestic Violence Division has partnered on a grant with the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department to improve inputting of orders of protection, which will reduce lag in law enforcement and improve protection of victims.

3rd Judicial District Court

- The Court continues to seek funding to meet its needs. The Court Administrator actively represents the Court on the Unified Budget Committee.
- The Court continues to collect Adult Drug Court fees from participants.

6th Judicial District Court

- The Court continues its efforts to obtain adequate funding and resources for court operations and strictly adheres to the guidelines and rules established by the judiciary in assessing its personnel and funding needs. The agency is frugal in managing its finances, always looking for ways to keep expenditures within the limits and constraints of its budget while providing the best service to its constituency and offering professional training and educational opportunities to its employees to maintain their professional training and education at the highest level possible.

7th Judicial District Court

- The Court received an appropriation during the 2007 legislative session to expand the Adult Drug Court program into Socorro and Torrance Counties and produced microfilm equipment for Sierra, Socorro and Torrance Counties.

10th Judicial District Court

- The Court is always conservative in its annual budget request to the Legislature, continuing to stay within the guidelines of the Budget Committee recommendation.

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

New Mexico Supreme Court Law Library

- In FY 07, the Library purchased an overhead digitization system, enabling the Library to support the Judiciary by digitizing bound material without damage. This purchase is most useful for digitizing the rare library materials, including the early Spanish and Mexican law held in the Library's archive. Digitized versions of the material will allow researchers to use it potentially on the Internet, without causing additional wear to the original item.

2nd Judicial District Court

- The SJDC Information Technology Division developed and deployed a Case File Barcode Tracking System for the Juvenile Justice Center (Children's Court).
- The SJDC Information Technology Division HelpDesk responded to and resolved over 2000 calls for technology assistance within the Court.
- The SJDC Children's Court installed an intercom system between the courtrooms and the prisoner holding area to enhance communication and safety in transport.

3rd Judicial District Court

- The Court obtained funding to transition from audio recording to digital recording of judicial proceedings, reducing the space required and minimizing the time required by court staff.

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- The judiciary implemented and the Court complied with electronic transmission of jury payments for jurors serving the judiciary.

6th Judicial District Court

- In its continued efforts to maintain efficiency in budgetary management, the Court strives to maintain the highest level of technological capabilities, utilizing the services made available through JID. The District's contract services ensure it keeps informed and current with the latest innovations in hardware and software that have been tried and proven in the judicial system, and enjoys an excellent working relationship with the JID Technical Services Division and its personnel.

12th Judicial District Court

- The Court revised its website to provide more information for jurors and the general public.

AOC Judicial Information Division (JID)

New software applications

- Acquired a new statewide case management application through a comprehensive, competitive procurement process. The evaluation and scoring of finalist vendors involved more than 150 court stakeholders. This important acquisition will greatly improve the ability of all New Mexico courts to process, track and manage all types of court cases.
- Developed and implemented MyCourt, an in-house, browser-based judicial decision support, calendaring,

docket management and court history program for judges and clerks in five pilot courts throughout the state.

- Developed and implemented Forms and Reports, an in-house, browser-based application that provides all common forms and reports to court staff.
- Developed and implemented Case Lookup III, a browser-based court history application with separate versions for the public and court staff and judges. This newest iteration of the Case Lookup application includes tabs for areas of particular interest, such as DWI.
- Developed and implemented a new Protective Order application in the 2nd Judicial District.
- Customized and implemented an open source help desk application that will replace the existing help desk application, which is nearing the end of its usable life cycle.
- Continued to operate and expand the Water Rights Imaging System, which is used by court staff to digitally store all documents filed in the complex Pecos Water Rights adjudication.

Customer Service and Training

- Provided statewide training, both at customer sites and at JID's Santa Fe training facility, on all IT applications provided to the Judiciary by the AOC's Judicial Information Division.
- Continued to improve help desk response times on help desk calls from judges and clerks.

- Provided statewide training, both at court sites and at JID's Santa Fe training facility, for all IT applications provided by the AOC's Judicial Information Division.
- Conducted a statewide training program for all users of the ACS Juror application

Video Arraignment

- Expanded the Judiciary's video arraignment network to include the New Mexico Department of Corrections and the New Mexico Department of Public Safety's Crime Laboratory. This expansion has allowed for evidence testimony, medical testimony, cross-county court interpreting and judicial distance learning, via video.
- Continued to support 95 video sites, including 61 courts, 28 detention centers and six administrative offices, in 29 counties.
- Implemented enhanced video meeting functionality and scheduled and monitored 198 judicial video meetings during calendar year 2006, for multiple sites and users, which saved significant travel dollars for the Judiciary.

Other Projects, Services and Deliverables

- Continued to implement statewide digital court recording for district courts and developed a standing committee to govern digital audio recording standards and statewide digital audio training.
- Developed the second annual DWI report, a comprehensive statistical analysis of DWI case initiations and dispositions for calendar year 2006.

- Continued to support the New Mexico Justice Information Sharing Council (JISC), a multi-agency consortium of New Mexico justice practitioners, and continued to represent the Council at national conferences and meetings. In addition, the Judiciary provided daily uploads for criminal court dispositions and related data to the New Mexico Consolidated Query, a multi-agency criminal history application, which is now available to more than two thousand authorized criminal justice decision-makers in New Mexico.
- Continued to partner with district courts to pilot and implement electronic document management systems for the purpose of laying the groundwork for digital court document systems and electronic court document filing.
- Implemented chief clerk performance reports for use by the AOC Magistrate Division in measuring data quality management in all magistrate courts and provided multiple training sessions on the new reports at this year's Magistrate Conference.
- Implemented data quality reports that are used by court staff who maintain abuse and neglect case files to ensure that appropriate standards are followed when entering abuse and neglect case into the Judiciary's case management system.
- Implemented a juror payment interface from the statewide Affiliated Computer Services (ACS) juror application to upload daily juror payment files to the state's SHARE PeopleSoft application. This process was previously performed manually.



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