



**NEW MEXICO**  
ANNUAL REPORT

**JUDICIARY**  
2009

**Cover: A few of New Mexico's older county courthouses.**

**Top, left to right:**

One of the WPA projects of the 30s, the Art Deco-style Roosevelt County Courthouse in Portales was built in 1939 with the designs of William M. Bickel.

The Luna County Courthouse in Deming was built in 1910 and was designed by W. E. Corwin. Deming's annual duck race takes place across the street in the city park.

Built in 1909, the Union County Courthouse in Clayton is New Mexico's oldest county courthouse in continuous use. It was designed by the architectural firm of D. P. Kaufman & Son.

**Middle, left to right:**

The Grant County Courthouse in Silver City was erected in 1930 with the designs of architect George Williamson.

The Chaves County Beaux-Arts-style courthouse in Roswell was completed in 1912, the year New Mexico became a state. It is just down the street from the International UFO Museum and the green dome is visible throughout the city.

The Mission-style Eddy County courthouse in Carlsbad was erected in 1891 and its appearance was altered to its current style in 1939. It has one of New Mexico's best town squares.

**Bottom, left to right:**

The Hidalgo County Courthouse in Lordsburg was built in 1926-1927 with Classical Revival elements. The firm of Thorman and Frazer designed it.

The Guadalupe County Courthouse in Santa Rosa was built in 1909 with Romanesque Revival elements. In 1946 an addition was added to the building's left.

The 1917 Rio Arriba County Courthouse in Tierra Amarilla hosted a shoot-out in the 1970s that resulted over a land rights quarrel.

## Table of Contents

Message from the Chief Justice	1
Message from the Court Administrator	3
Budget of the Judiciary	5
Special Programs	6
New Mexico Supreme Court	19
New Mexico Court of Appeals	21
Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court	22
Problem-Solving Courts	29
2008 Highlights	39
NM Judicial District Map	52

# A Message from the Chief Justice

We are pleased to present the 2009 Annual Report of the New Mexico Judiciary. The information contained in this report proves the strong work ethic of the judicial branch workforce and its commitment to exploring means to make our justice system more efficient.



Chief Justice Edward L. Chávez

This year we coordinated efforts with legislative members on the Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee for them to visit our courthouses throughout the state. By all accounts, it has been a tremendous learning experience for both the legislative and judicial branches. I have listened to legislators who visited our courts compliment our staff and express a true understanding of the challenges we face as a justice system. We as a judiciary have also grown in our respect for the difficult work undertaken by those in our sister branches of government as they work diligently to meet the challenges of a struggling economy.

As we predicted, the struggling economy has resulted in an increase in court work. Our overall caseload has increased more than 7% statewide, with some courts facing increased workloads of up to 12.5%. While criminal case filings have increased, the increase in civil cases has been greater, particularly in debt collection cases, loan foreclosures, breach of contract cases and domestic relations matters, including domestic violence. These are all cases in which one would naturally expect an increase due to the pressures of our struggling economy.

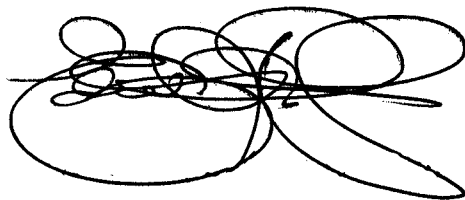
We could not be more proud of our employees as they work even harder to meet the increased demands. Judicial branch employees have an unyielding desire to be effective, to use their time and their energy for the greater good of access to justice. They have refused to shrink from their responsibility to serve the public despite seemingly unmanageable increased demands. In an effort to do more with less, the managers in our courts have been innovative with their management skills, including redesigning operations and cross-training employees. In some cases, we have had to close court clerk offices to the public to allow staff the time to catch up with backlogs. While this practice cannot continue indefinitely, the practice has been essential to make certain that judges have the files they need to decide the merits of disputes. Without question, technological advances become even more important if we are going to efficiently serve the people of New Mexico. We have begun an electronic filing pilot project in the Thirteenth Judicial District and electronic citations in Roswell, New Mexico. Our statewide case management system

is being rolled out and will also serve to improve the efficiency of our operations.

The Judiciary continues to work hard, but the stubborn truth is that even if we filled every authorized FTE, we would remain understaffed. If the Judiciary were fully staffed, we would only be staffed to meet our 2006 case demand. The number of judges we currently have would not have been adequate to meet the case demand in 2001, much less the demand in 2009, which has grown by about 75,000 cases per year since 2001. Managing the caseload in 2009 has also become more time consuming because of an increase in complex litigation and a growing population of self-represented litigants.

Yet, numbers are inadequate to paint the picture of the importance of our justice system. The people and businesses of New Mexico would be and should be offended if we thought of them only as numbers. Instead, each case requires sensitivity to the needs of the litigants. After all, the cases involve the protection of rights, the prevention of oppression, the custody of someone's children, the disposition of someone's property, or the deprivation of someone's freedom.

Although the Judiciary has grown since 2001, the growth has simply not kept up with the public demands for access to our justice system. Recent independent judge and staff studies support our need for more judges and staff. I realize that some have said that the studies reflect the "ideal world". I disagree. Not all countries have a culture of obedience to the rule of law nor do other countries have the great promises of our United States and New Mexico Constitutions. These independent studies reflect an ideal America. The people and businesses of New Mexico expect and deserve a judicial system that is adequately funded to provide them with efficient and economical access to justice. We look forward to working with our sister branches of government as we strive to better serve the people of New Mexico and fulfill our shared mission to establish justice.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Edward L. Chávez, Chief Justice

# A Message from the Court Administrator

The New Mexico Judiciary had a very interesting year in 2009. The courts have been challenged to deliver services despite a wave of three successive reductions in general fund appropriations this year. Although no Judiciary employees were furloughed in 2009, many courts have



Director Arthur W. Pepin

reduced the hours they can be open to the public in an effort to keep up with increasing case filings even as vacancies go unfilled. Purchases have been reduced to the very minimum needed to keep operations going, while travel and training are reduced or eliminated. We have curtailed services that should be provided to the public and we have reduced important activities, including restricted enrollments in many of our successful problem-solving courts.

I applaud each and every employee throughout the Judiciary for the extraordinary dedication and energy devoted to all phases of court activities despite shrinking resources. The response by judicial employees to the great challenges presented by this fiscal crisis has clearly demonstrated the true mettle of judicial employees.

As the economy fell into recession and New Mexico faced declining revenues, the Judiciary sought legislation in the 2009 regular session to blunt the impacts on courts and the public. Several magistrate facilities were eliminated and consolidated into other courts, while fees were increased for court automation and to fund the jury system. The Judiciary faces tough budget challenges as the legislature prepares to arrive in January to appropriate funds for the fiscal year that begins in July. We will continue discussions with legislators and the Governor's office to try to minimize additional budget reductions to courts that are struggling to provide essential public services.



Deputy Director  
Patrick T. Simpson

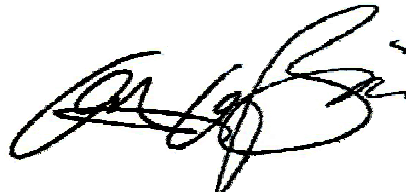
This year saw some significant success amidst the budget gloom. The newest, largest magistrate facility opened in Las Cruces in August, a welcome change for citizens and court employees who had long suffered with a small, out-of-date building.

With collaboration among courts, the AOC, three state universities, and several state agencies that included the New Mexico Department of Corrections and the Children, Youth and Families Department, the New

Mexico Center For Language Access began operations in October 2009. Persons wishing to become certified interpreters can enroll in an intensive on-line academic program, including a significant internship, to prepare for certification. In addition, employees in the courts and government agencies who use language skills to facilitate communications with clients and customers outside of certified interpreter settings can enroll in an on-line program for bilingual communications. Court employees who earn the bilingual communication certifications are eligible for a pay increase as a result. The Center and its on-line programs appear to be unique in the nation.

Progress continued toward a new Odyssey case management system. Odyssey went “live” in our first district and magistrate pilot courts. Pilot courts will continue to go live through next summer and statewide implementation will be fully underway thereafter.

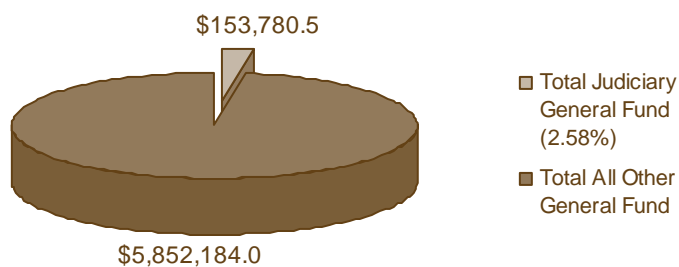
This Annual Report highlights some of the exciting activities underway in the courts. I hope readers get a sense of the great work being done in courts every day by the dedicated, skilled judges and employees of the New Mexico judicial system.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arthur W. Pepin', with a stylized, cursive script.

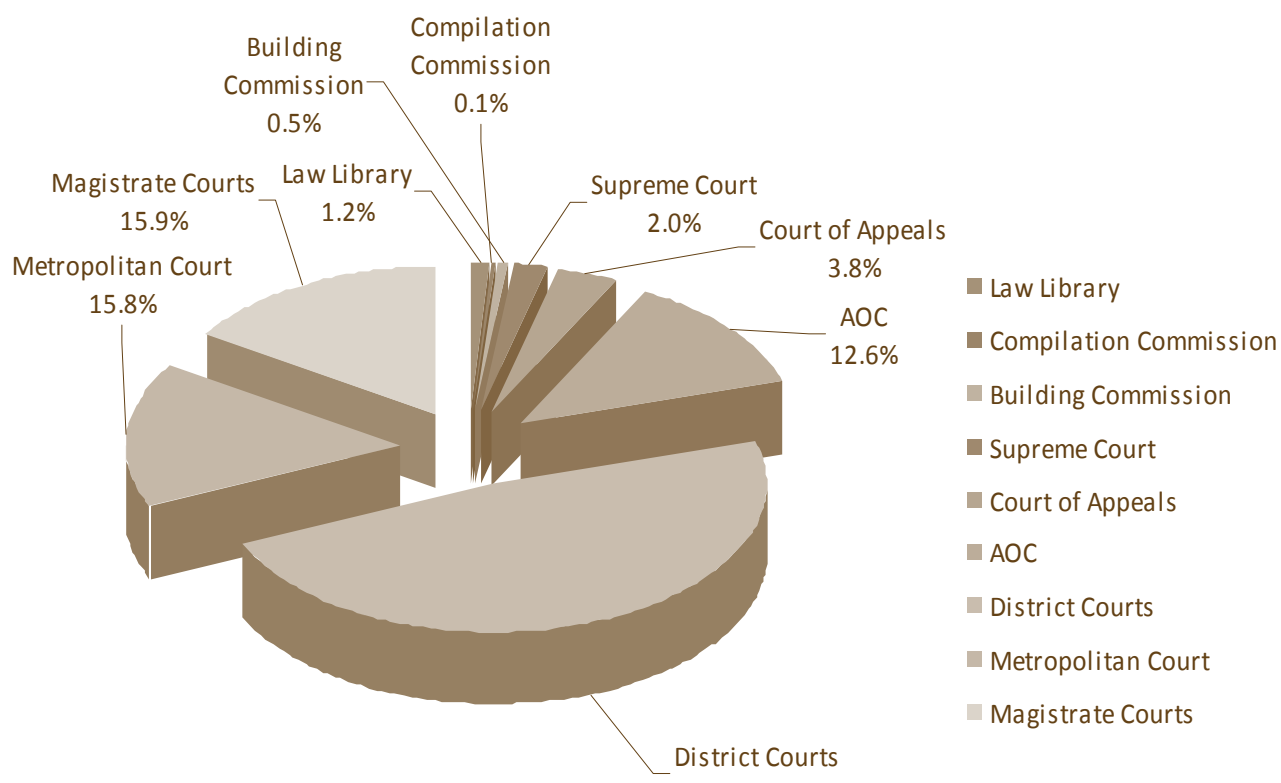
Arthur W. Pepin, Director

# Budget of the New Mexico Judiciary

**2009 Fiscal Year Recurring General Fund  
Appropriation Distribution (in thousands)**



**2009 Fiscal Year Recurring General  
Fund Appropriation Distribution  
by Court Type**





# Special Programs

## Judicial Performance Evaluation Program

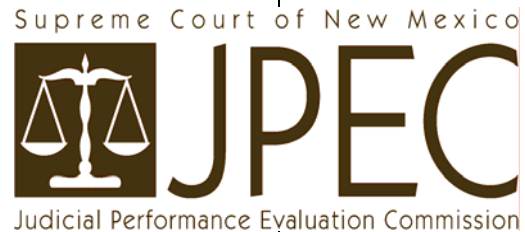
The charge of New Mexico's Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission (JPEC) is not only to help improve the overall quality of judges in the state, but also to inform voters as they decide whether or not to retain sitting judges come election time. In FY 09, JPEC studied JPEC's awareness levels and perceived value and performance among New Mexico's registered voters (a random sample) in the November 2008 General Election. The effort is clearly worth it in the eyes of voters as the vast majority (85%) of those surveyed believe the goal of improving the performance of each judge is important. In addition, an overwhelming number of voters (86%) feel the Commission's second mission, to give voters information regarding judges who are up for retention, is also important. Since its inception, the Commission has continually looked for ways to strengthen the system by which it evaluates New Mexico's trial and appellate judges. The Commission continues to work on accomplishing its second mission, distributing its findings and recommendations to the voters. In the eyes of voters, this mission is equally important as the self-improvement component. The results of this study show there is an opportunity for JPEC to improve in terms of educating and informing voters about the Commission and the recommendations that are being provided.

In an ongoing effort to improve the JPE program, the JPEC obtained responses from judges, court staff and attorneys to measure satisfaction levels with the program and to obtain feedback about the program's effectiveness and perceived value. We conducted this study through an on-line survey and focus groups. The results will help the JPEC in making changes to the program in FY 2010 when the Commission gears up for the evaluations of seven appellate court judges and eighteen Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court Judges.

## 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. Its primary work is to improve the permanency, safety, and well-being of children and youth in state custody. Since 1995, the activities of the CIP have been directed by a Supreme Court appointed Task Force and accomplished by its working committees. The New Mexico Supreme Court recently declared the Court Improvement Project a formal commission and advisory body to the court. This move recognizes the importance of the work of CIP and its stakeholders. Members of the Commission include Children's Court Judges, the Children Youth and Families Department (CYFD) and numerous other agencies and organizations

During the past year the CIP undertook several important training initiatives. The 16th Annual Children's Law Institute took place on January 9-11, 2009 with over 1,000 people in attendance, the conference was the largest statewide gathering focused on child welfare issues. The CLI attracts elected officials, CYFD workers and management, youth, Judges, attorneys, advocates, Juvenile Justice workers, and other stakeholders from around the state.





The CIP is now in its fourth year of receiving grants from the federal Children's Bureau for the training of judges and attorneys in the area of child abuse and neglect and the cross-training of legal and child welfare professionals. The AOC enters into memoranda of understanding with the Corinne Wolfe Children's Law Center (CLC) at the UNM Institute of Public Law to conduct training under these grants; the CLC is an invaluable training and resource center that works in close cooperation with the AOC and the courts in implementing the CIP training initiative.

Abuse and neglect proceedings are complex and challenging cases with a profound effect on children and families. The CIP training initiative makes a core curriculum of training available to every judge and attorney who practices in this area. Core training was offered live in November 2008 and April 2009, and the April 2009 program was videotaped so that a training packet can be provided to every judge who takes the Children's Court bench and every attorney who begins representing the state, parents or children in these cases. In FY 2009, the CIP training initiative also included regional cross-training programs on educational advocacy for children and youth in foster care. Held in Las Cruces, Carlsbad, Gallup, Santa Fe and Albuquerque in the fall of 2008, these programs provided training to judges, attorneys, social workers, court-appointed special advocates, and educators on the child's educational needs and the services available. By the end of FY 2009, plans were underway for cross-training programs in each of the thirteen judicial districts on expediting permanency for children and youth in the state's care.

In addition to its training activities the CIP also worked to assist courts in gathering more accurate data to help improve court processes and expedite permanency for children. Working with the CIP, The Judicial Information Division created an application on MyCourt that allows Judges to access outcome measures data related to hearings in child abuse and neglect cases. The data is updated every twenty-four hours so that Judges are able to see the changes reflected almost immediately. Additionally, a Judge's Note Application was also developed to request and store new information, such as parties present in the courtroom; provide information about the case retrieved in advance from the case file; provide reminders to judges regarding actions that could be taken at the hearing; and provide an area for the judge to record case-specific notes. Three districts pilot tested the Application and full roll out of the Application is planned for 2009.

Finally, CIP participated in the federally mandated Child and Family Services Review (CSFR), and New Mexico's Program Improvement Plan was approved. CFSR findings suggest areas where courts could be more involved, achieving better outcomes for children, mostly around permanency. Ongoing activities under this initiative are designed to address: timeliness of court hearings, timeliness of reunifications, reunification cases that meet the federal timeliness criterion with attention to extenuating circumstances, timeliness of adoptions and expediting termination of parental rights proceedings, adoption of older youth, placement stability and the court's role, and the court's role in concurrent planning.

## **Jury Services**

### **Master Juror Database**

Personal Income Tax (PIT) Filer addresses, listing tax filers by County, considered the most reliable, are now the default addresses for the Master Juror Database when there is an address discrepancy. Juror source data is also drawn from motor vehicle records and voter registration.

Per action of the 2009 State Legislature, the Master Juror Database, is now updated twice yearly with data from these three sources.

### **Age 75 and above Permanent Exemption from Jury Service**

Effective June 19, 2009, individuals who are seventy-five years of age or older and who file an affidavit requesting an exemption from jury service with a local court shall be permanently exempted from jury service, per the enactment of Senate Bill 112, which amended Section 38-5-2 (B) NMSA 1978, to add this provision. (Data for the 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr FY10 regarding how many exercised this right will be available by 10/10.)



### **Jury Management**

Following a series of statewide jury management workshops held in the fall of 2008, state courts have implemented or are testing the following strategies to contain costs, while improving the experience of jury service for New Mexico citizens.

- **Reduction in Separate Orientation Days:** Several state courts have moved away from separate orientation days and are orienting jurors on the same day that juries are chosen. This saves the jurors' time and the taxpayers' money.
- **Consideration of Plea Cut-Off Policies:** The Committee for the Improvement of Jury Service in New Mexico is recommending the establishment of plea cut-off policies, which would require, except in certain circumstances, a defendant to accept a plea two or three days before a trial or be forced to plea to the full charge. This would reduce the number of jurors and interpreters called in for trials that do not proceed. Saving our jurors' time and taxpayers' money.
- **Standardized Juror Summons:** In order to ensure consistent messages to all the state's jurors and maximum postage savings, AOC with the courts have developed a standardized summons format and a coordinated summoning schedule, which reduce the cost of mailing inserts and will allow AOC to take advantage of available postage discounts.
- **Efforts to Reduce Undeliverable Summonses:** The Judicial Information and Court Services Division of AOC are working together to ensure that address corrections, permanent disqualifications, and deaths are integrated with the master juror database download to courts. Along with enhanced address updates through the use of NCOA (National Change of Address) service, AOC will be tracking the reduction in undeliverable and out-of-state summonses.

## **Court Interpreter Services**

### **Court Interpreter Certification**

New Mexico held four mandatory court interpreter orientations in calendar year 2009. These one day orientations were conducted entirely in English with a total of 154 candidates representing 11 languages attending. Three optional two-day Skills Building Workshops were also offered, again English, and attracted 59 participants representing six languages. A new element was added to the training and certification process this year. All candidates who attend skills building or pass the written examination are invited to join a Mentored Learning Team. Learning Teams group candidates by location and skill level and are mentored by Certified Court Interpreters. Learning Teams meet for a minimum of 4 hours per month face-to-face with the mentor and also work together at other times. On-line resources and discussions are another source of support between the in-person meetings. There are currently two Learning Teams meeting in the Albuquerque area, one for Spanish interpreter candidates and one for candidates in languages other than Spanish (specifically, at this time, Russian, Vietnamese, and Thai).

In addition to switching to a language neutral approach for orientations and skills building and offering the oral examinations in all languages, New Mexico Court Interpreter Services have added the following elements to our program:

- Written English Language Screening Examination
- Continuing Education Requirement
- An option for interpreters in languages not tested by the Consortium
- Mentored Learning Teams (described above).
- Bi-Monthly Interpreters' Newsletter, *Partners*

As of September 25, eight newly certified Spanish court interpreters have joined the ranks of New Mexico certified court interpreters.

### **New Mexico Justice System Interpreter Resource Partnership**

The New Mexico Administrative Office of the Courts, Court Interpreter Services, with support from the State Justice Institute, created the New Mexico Justice System Interpreter Resource Partnership, which held its first quarterly meeting in November, 2008.

Partners include: NM Children, Youth & Families Department, NM State Police, NM Public Defenders, NM Administrative Office of the District Attorney, NM Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, NM Corrections Department, NM Translators & Interpreters Association, the University of New Mexico – Los Alamos (UNM-LA), Central New Mexico Community College, and Doña Ana Community College, among others. The Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts and Supreme Court Justice, Patricio Serna also serve on the Partnership.

Following a successful year, which resulted in the creation of the New Mexico Center for Language Access (NMCLA, see below) the State Justice Institute announced on September 23, 2009, that the New Mexico Administrative Office of the Courts, will receive a second year of funding for the New Mexico Justice System Interpreter Resource Partnership (the Partnership).

The primary objective of the Partnership is to ensure that individuals with limited English proficiency who become involved with the New Mexico justice system have access to culturally and linguistically appropriate services, by strengthening the comprehensive interpreter resource partnership, supporting the New Mexico Center for Language Access (NMCLA), and increasing understanding of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Executive Order 13166.

In the Partnership's second year efforts will focus on:

- Supporting NMCLA and serving in an Advisory Council role with the program.
- Developing and delivering training for all levels of justice system agency personnel and the judiciary. Curricula will target agency's specific needs, and will focus on the roles, responsibilities and professional ethics of qualified/certified interpreters with a goal of increasing the agency's use of such interpreters and qualified bilingual employees to ensure language access and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and its requirements of all federally funded programs.
- Creating and maintaining an Interpreter Registry of Justice System interpreters (qualified through NMCLA) for use across Partner agencies and by other publicly-funded services.

The Partnership will also sponsor a two-day training for justice system partners and other public agencies on language access compliance related to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. The Department of Justice has recently reiterated its commitment to ensuring "the consistent and effective implementation of Title VI and other civil rights laws applicable to recipients of federal financial assistance" by strengthening enforcement efforts. Attorney, Bruce Adelson, formerly with the Department of Justice, will conduct the training for New Mexico agencies.

For more information about the Partnership or to schedule training for your Court, please contact Carl Dickens, Project Coordinator, 505-660-4213 or [aocced@nmcourts.gov](mailto:aocced@nmcourts.gov)

#### New Mexico Center for Language Access

The most significant effort of the NM Justice System Interpreter Resource Partnership, the Higher Education Project, is the partnership's primary effort to address language access across the justice system and other public agencies by training bi-lingual individuals already working in justice system and public service agencies and those who would like to leverage their language abilities into a career in the justice or health care fields.

With leadership from UNM-LA and the support of the Administrative Office of the Courts, the higher education partners and the NM Judiciary created the New Mexico Center for Language Access (NMCLA), a four-track workforce development certificate program that will prepare bi-lingual staff to work more effectively as bilingual communicators or as interpreters in the justice and health care systems and for the Court Interpreter Certification Exam. NMCLA is unique as a collaborative

effort led by the judiciary to address language access needs across the state.

The fact that the courses will be offered on-line, making the program accessible throughout New Mexico's diverse rural communities, also sets the program apart from other programs available in the United States. Equally unique and responsive is the multi-lingual nature of the program and its ability to train bilingual communicators in both spoken and signed languages.

NMCLA, administered by the University of New Mexico – Los Alamos, began accepting applications in July 2009. Additional information and application procedures can be found at <http://nmcenterforlanguageaccess.unm.edu/>

#### Interpreters' Conference

On Friday and Saturday, October 23rd-24<sup>th</sup>, court interpreters from across the state came together in Albuquerque at New Mexico's second Court Interpreters Conference, one of the few conferences in the country to address court interpreting in both signed and spoken languages.

Keynote speakers Holly Mikkelsen, "Interpreters' Edge" and ACEBO founder, and Isabel Frammer, Past Chair of the National Association of Judicial Interpreters and Translators," headlined the agenda. The pre-conference activities on Friday, for both certified and non-certified interpreters, begin with a three-hour workshop on *Note-Taking and Consecutive Interpreting* with Holly Mikkelsen. The Friday keynote address: "*The Changing Face of Our Profession*," delivered by Ms. Mikkelsen, provided a brief history of the court interpreting profession in the U.S. and beyond, followed by an analysis of current trends and projections for the future.

Isabel Frammer, past Chair of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters & Translators, offered the Saturday keynote: "*Language Access Across the Justice System*," looking at the dilemmas of providing language access across the justice system, the challenges faced in advocating for the profession and how, through various cases and advocacy, the profession continues to evolve.

In the spirit of the conference title, *Building Our Profession...Together*, other presentations included:

- **Cultural Competency and the Justice System Interpreter** An interactive session, with Michael Kagan, Federally Certified Court Interpreter, and Dr. Deborah Altschul, University of New Mexico.
- **Keeping the Cool: Mediation Resolution and Maintenance of Certifications in the Signed Language Interpreting Field** Presenter, Dr. Phyllis Perrin Wilcox, University of New Mexico, is an internationally known consultant, researcher, and teacher.
- **Development of the Navajo Court Interpreter Certification Program** Esther Yazzie-Lewis, Federally Certified Navajo Interpreter at the US Court In Albuquerque, helped found and teaches at the University of Arizona. Armando Valles, Assistant Director, and John Bichsel, both with

the University of Arizona, National Center for Interpretation will co-present.

### **Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)**

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers, appointed directly by the district court judges in abuse and neglect cases, are involved with children in foster care, their families, teachers, therapists, social workers and attorneys. The volunteers make reports to the judges on the most appropriate placement and services for children. In FY 09, 4,233 children were in the custody of the Children, Youth and Families Department. Three thousand twenty-nine (3,029) of those children were assigned to CASA programs and were served by 866 CASA volunteers. Fifteen (15) CASA programs continue to operate in twenty-one communities across New Mexico. The number of children assigned to CASA programs increased 1.1 percent in FY09 as compared with FY08. Over the same period, the number of cases assigned to CASA programs increased .6 percent over the same period. In FY 09, the average number of children assigned to a CASA volunteer was 2.66.

The New Mexico CASA Network partnered with the New Mexico Child Abuse and Neglect Citizen Review Board to hold *Remember Me 2009: Foster Children in New Mexico* at the State Capitol during this 2009 Legislative Session. This event was designed to educate New Mexico legislators on the breadth and scope of the needs of New Mexico's foster children and their families.

### **Access and Supervised Visitation Program**

The Access and Supervised Visitation Program provides children and parents with a safe, nurturing environment for supervised visitation and exchange between custodial and noncustodial parents in cases of separation, divorce, custody disputes, and domestic violence. Services allow families in crisis to practice healthy interactions, and are designed around the needs and well being of the child. They allow children to maintain their relationship with noncustodial parents without being in the middle of parental conflicts.

New appropriations permitted two programs to deliver services for the first time in the Eleventh Judicial District, assisting families in McKinley and San Juan Counties. A total of twelve contractors provided Access and Supervised Visitation services in Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 in eight judicial districts. In addition to the two counties in the Eleventh District, counties with services include Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, Los Alamos, Bernalillo, Doña Ana, Chaves, Eddy, Lea, Grant, Luna, Hidalgo, Curry, Roosevelt, Sandoval, Valencia, and Cibola, for cases referred by judges and judicial officers in the First, Second, Third, Fifth, Sixth, Ninth and Thirteenth Judicial Districts.

Enacted by the New Mexico Legislature in 2009, Senate Bill 299 changed the program's name to Safe Exchange and Supervised Visitation and made other technical clarifications to State law governing the program. The bill took effect on June 19, 2009.



*Giving a  
voice,  
hope and  
a future  
to abused  
and  
neglected  
children.*





***Working with families facing long-term issues such as substance abuse, domestic violence, poverty and mental illness to reach permanency solutions for their children.***

Highlights in program performance for FY 2009 include:

- 11,183 visit and exchange services were provided to 2,128 clients, an increase of almost 25% in clients needing services from FY 2008
  - A total of 850 children and 1,278 adults received services during the year, an increase of 16% in children served and 30% in adults
  - An average of 511 visits and 421 exchanges were provided to 177 clients each month

It is important to note that the rising number of clients receiving services may indicate that the current recession is creating a negative impact on family relationships. Data show, however, that services were available and provided, successfully addressing the courts' concerns about the needs of the family.

### **Children's Court Mediation Program**

The New Mexico Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) has partnered with the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) to mediate child abuse and neglect cases since 2000. The Children's Court Mediation Program provides mediation services in all judicial districts, having completed its final expansion to the Tenth Judicial District in FY 09. The program also works closely with and provides support for the First Judicial District's in-house program.

Cases are mediated at all stages of an abuse and neglect case from investigation to reunification or termination of parental rights, including open adoption referrals. Referrals continue to increase each year. Approximately 693 cases were referred to the program in FY 2009, a 15% increase from the previous year. More than 3,500 cases have been mediated through the program since its inception.

The 2009 Evaluation Report included a longitudinal look at the mediation program from 2004-2009. Findings confirm that the participants are consistently very satisfied with the program, believe mediation conserves judicial and CYFD resources, and the process enhances communication and problem solving by clarifying issues, exploring options, and providing opportunities for collaboration.

The program operated with a flat budget of \$369,400 from both state recurring funds (\$209,400) and the CYFD federal grant (\$160,000) during FY 2009. The budget allowed the program to complete the final expansion to the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, contract with an independent evaluator, conduct a formal assessment of mediators and develop an appropriate mentoring program and provide ongoing training for mediators and professionals. The program also began creating a website and planning for a web-based case management system.

### **Court Appointed Attorney Fees Fund**

The New Mexico legislature appropriated just over \$4.7 million dollars to the Court Appointed Attorney Fees Fund (CAAFF) in FY 09. Over 90% of the fund is used to provide statutorily mandated legal services to children, youth, and parents in child



abuse and neglect cases. The remainder of the CAAFF is allocated for legal services in mental health and guardianship cases. There are currently over 125 contracted attorneys who are appointed to provide legal services in child abuse and neglect cases. “Non-contract” attorneys are also appointed, and paid from the CAAFF, when the local contract attorneys have a conflict or when there are an insufficient number of contract attorneys available to represent the parties in a case.

Efforts are currently underway to conduct a statewide assessment of the CAAFF. The AOC has hired a staff attorney to work with each district court to gather data regarding contracting and billing processes, attorney performance and evaluation measures, and the need for additional contract attorneys. Assessment data is also being collected directly from contract attorneys by way of an on-line web-based attorney log. The on-line attorney log was an initiative of the New Mexico Court Improvement Project’s Quality of Advocacy Committee sub-committee and is currently maintained by the Judicial Information Division. The on-line log allows attorneys to track time, mileage expenses, and client contact per case; and then print a monthly report that is submitted with their billing invoices. The on-line attorney log is an important step in collecting consistent statewide data from contract attorneys in abuse and neglect cases.

### **Access to Justice**

The Access to Justice Commission created by the New Mexico Supreme Court develops methods to provide access to the courts for low-income persons with basic civil legal needs in areas such as family law, domestic violence, housing, consumer, employment, government benefits and other non-criminal legal matters. The number of such persons with these legal cases has skyrocketed in the current economic crisis. The Commission operates through working groups composed of commissioners and interested parties.

In 2007, the Supreme Court adopted the Commission’s State Plan for Providing Civil Legal Aid to Low Income New Mexicans, continued its support of the Ten Step Plan to improve access to justice (by, in part, *increasing pro bono attorney services throughout the state*), and finally, accepted the Report of the Self Represented Litigant Working Group. In 2008, the Commission reported to the Supreme Court on its progress in implementing the recommendations of those documents and directives of the Court. *The State Plan* is currently under review and the Commission is preparing the Plan’s required mechanism for peer review of legal service provider quality. The *local pro bono committees* submitted annual reports to the Commission, which were approved and presented to the Supreme Court. *Most districts express the need for standardized pro se forms and for training for volunteer attorneys.* Much progress was made by *Phase I committees*. The Commission recommended that the 1<sup>st</sup> Judicial District expand its efforts beyond pro se clinics to develop a pro bono direct representation plan



***Expanding and improving civil legal assistance to New Mexicans living in poverty.***

including intake, screening and referral processes, and to include non-domestic matters. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> District, Law Access New Mexico received Civil Legal Service Commission funding to administer the pro bono intake and referral process; recruitment letters to attorneys signed by judges have been delivered. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District has a strong pro se program in place. The Commission advised the committee to expand its focus beyond domestic relations, to determine who is willing to be in the attorney pool, to develop an intake and referral system that could include opting in to a statewide process, and to develop tracking mechanisms. The 8<sup>th</sup> District requested training from New Mexico Legal Aid (NMLA) regarding matters such as Unfair Debt Collection or housing issues so more attorneys can help. NMLA sponsored its first accredited CLE on "Fair Housing and New Mexico's Elders" on October 8<sup>th</sup>; other sessions are joint efforts of NMLA and UNM Law School. In the 11<sup>th</sup> District, the Commission found that San Juan County's attorney questionnaire assessing attorney interest and willingness to participate should be considered a best practice; it has been used or modified for use by several other judicial districts. In the 11<sup>th</sup>'s McKinley County, the committee continues to work with the UNM Paralegal Division in Gallup to establish a program enabling paralegals to assist pro se litigants with filling out forms, and to broaden the pro bono pool. The 13<sup>th</sup> District has developed court clinics using pro bono attorneys, but to fully implement the Ten Step Plan, the Commission recommended that the committee expand its efforts beyond clinics to develop a pro bono direct representation plan including screening, intake and referral processes. Ninety-seven attorneys in the 13<sup>th</sup> have stated a willingness to help. The District continues to schedule pro se dockets for divorce and parentage once a month in each county, with mediators present to help negotiate any conflict. The District is also exploring ways to secure malpractice insurance for court-appointed attorneys; the Pro Bono Working Group is also researching the malpractice insurance issue.

*Phase II committees* are also progressing. In the 4<sup>th</sup> District, volunteer attorneys continue to conduct a pro se clinic monthly in domestic matters, and might expand to include foreclosure and other debt collection matters. The 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> districts are evaluating attorney willingness to assist and in what areas. The *Phase III districts* (7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>) are forming their committees and will no doubt learn from the prior efforts of other districts.

*In other efforts to increase pro bono services*, the Supreme Court adopted the Commission's recommended revisions to Rules 16-601 and 24-108 NMRA regarding an attorney's pro bono obligations and mandating reporting of pro bono hours. The Court also adopted Rule 13-301.2, the Limited License Rule, which allows attorneys who come to New Mexico as employees of qualified legal service providers to be State Bar members for a reduced fee and without having to take the Bar exam. These changes should assist legal service providers to recruit staff attorneys, particularly in rural areas. On May 6, 2008, the Court adopted revisions to Rules 1-089, 2-108, 3-108, and 12-302 NMRA that clarify

that attorney discrete task (limited) representation is authorized and set forth required procedures for entry of appearance, etc. The purpose of this type of representation is to limit attorney representation and fees to critical legal issues when full case representation is not possible or affordable.

*The Commission's Resource Development Group seeks to increase funding for civil legal services for low income people.* In 2004, New Mexico legal service providers turned away two people with valid legal issues for every one case they were able to handle with current resources. Although funding has increased over the past two years, providers in New Mexico still cannot meet the need for legal services when one quarter of people in this state live at or below 125% of the poverty level. In 2008, the Supreme Court adopted Rule 24-109 NMRA establishing mandatory IOLTA (Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts) participation for attorneys and comparability (of earned interest rates) requirements for banks. National studies show that this requirement will significantly increase IOLTA revenues. The Center for Civic Values is conducting ongoing training and notification for attorneys and banks in view of the effective date of January, 2009. Commission members and participants also recently helped avert possible exclusion of IOLTA funds from FDIC insurance due to federal law changes in response to the current financial markets and lending industry crisis by submitting urgent comments to the FDIC. The Resource Group is also exploring the possibility of "cy pres" or residual class action funds as a resource for legal service providers.

*The Self Represented Litigant Working Group* is revising a rule and guidelines ("best practices") for self help centers in courts statewide. A recent informal survey indicated that 94 percent of SRLs fall within 200% of the federal poverty guideline, which service providers under the New Mexico Civil Legal Services criterion. However, in 2009, New Mexico Legal Aid and DNA Peoples Legal Services turned away one low income person eligible for legal services for every person they provided assistance to for lack of staff or resources to serve that person. In other words, fifty percent of low income people in New Mexico have unmet legal needs, many of them in the critical areas of child support, custody, foreclosure, evictions and unemployment. These people either represent themselves or give up and do nothing.

On January 22, 2008, the Supreme Court adopted Rule 23-113 that defines the role of court staff working with self represented litigants. The Court also approved a companion notice to the public which is to be posted in all courts. The AOC staff attorney assigned to the access to justice program has developed an intensive powerpoint presentation on Legal Advice vs. Legal Information based on the template of Rule 23-113. This version of the presentation is specifically designed to function as a module in the online-learning portion of the NM Center for Language Access. The concepts of providing helpful legal information but avoiding stepping over the line into legal advice apply, no matter



***Strengthening  
and fostering  
relationships  
between the  
State and  
Tribal Courts***

what language the court services are delivered in. The staff attorney will also continue to work with the Judicial Education Center to improve ongoing standardized training for court staff on what types of information they are obligated to provide the public under Rule 23-113. This training will also be available to library staff as additional resources to which the public goes to obtain legal information.

The SRL Working Group has also proposed standardized plain language family law forms which are being circulated to the required consultant agencies and groups. When approved, English/Spanish forms should be available through the internet, as well as through courts and legal service providers. This Group is also exploring methods through which to increase the level of understanding of and compliance with court orders by self represented litigants.

### **New Mexico Tribal-State Judicial Consortium**

As an advisory committee of the Supreme Court of New Mexico, the Tribal-State Judicial Consortium continues to work actively with the Court on various activities directed toward strengthening relationships and fostering communications between State and Tribal Courts. The Consortium worked to extend its reach to additional State and Tribal Judges and Court staff, as well as others involved in the criminal justice system, including law enforcement officials.

Primary in its budgeted activities is the provision of scholarships for Tribal Judges to participate in the 2009 Judicial Conclave. These awards serve to cover the cost of registration and travel of one Tribal Judge from each Tribal Court located in New Mexico to attend the annual event. Sixteen of the twenty-two Tribal Courts were represented, and enjoyed renewing friendships from their prior two years of attendance. Conclave planners also asked the Consortium to design a workshop for the conference. The Consortium turned to Professor John LaVelle, Director of the Indian Law Program at the University of New Mexico School of Law, who addressed State authority and jurisdiction in Indian Country. He received excellent ratings for his efforts.

In FY 2009, the Consortium continued to promote Project Passport, the initiative calling for a recognizable first page on orders of protection in domestic violence cases. In October, 2008, the Supreme Court adopted a uniform first page and directed District Courts to use the form on their protection orders. Shortly thereafter, the Tribal Courts at the Pueblos of Santa Clara, Laguna, Zuni and Nambé adopted a similar page for their orders. Planning for an additional series of three Regional Meetings, co-sponsored by American University with Bureau of Justice Assistance grant funding, occurred in FY09, to be conducted in the summer months at the Pueblos of Zia and Tesuque, as well as in Gallup. These one-day conferences are tracking the design used during FY 2008, with expert speakers and group discussions allowing people to learn about the Passport

initiative, while at the same time identifying common concerns, building relationships and fostering communications.

Working with AOC's Judicial Information Division staff, the Consortium introduced a new web page in the Spring of 2009, including Tribal and State judicial directories, contacts for Tribal officials, information about the Consortium's recent activities, and links to other websites important for the Courts' work. Seeking to become an effective resource for members and interested parties, the Consortium intends to post additional information on an ongoing basis.

### **State Stream Adjudication**

Three active stream adjudications in the state courts continue: the Lower Rio Grande, below Elephant Butte, the Pecos, spanning from Las Vegas down through Carlsbad, and the San Juan stream adjudication, covering a large watershed in northwestern New Mexico. In the Lower Rio Grande, over 16,000 claimants have been joined, and substantial progress has been made in adjudicating claimants' water rights. In the Pecos, adjudication activity has focused on the Carlsbad Irrigation District, the Pecos Valley Conservancy District, and the Las Vegas area. In the San Juan, adjudication activity has focused upon water rights within the La Plata section of the larger San Juan Basin. In addition, proceedings to judicially enter the Navajo Settlement have recently commenced. Less active state stream adjudications include the Animas, Santa Fe, and Rio San Jose.

In an effort to facilitate effective case management, the New Mexico Supreme Court has designated Judge James Wechsler, of the New Mexico Court of Appeals, to preside over the state water right adjudications. At present, Judge Wechsler will preside over the Pecos, San Juan, Rio San Jose, and Santa Fe water right adjudications. Sitting district court judges currently preside over the Lower Rio Grande and Animas adjudications, and these cases will be assigned to the adjudication judge in the future.

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



# New Mexico Supreme Court



In Fiscal Year 2009, 601 new cases and 35 re-opened cases were filed in the New Mexico Supreme Court and 218 cases remained pending from the prior year. Within the Court's discretionary jurisdiction (those cases not requiring automatic review), petitions for writ of certiorari, certification requests, interlocutory appeal applications, and petitions for writ of habeas corpus are submitted to the full court. In FY09, 544 new cases and 21 re-opened cases were filed within the Court's discretionary jurisdiction. Extraordinary petitions for writ of mandamus, prohibition, and superintending control are submitted to a rotating panel of three associate

justices. As necessary, submission to the full court may occur upon direction of the panel. In FY09, 82 extraordinary writ cases were filed.

Cases within the Court's mandatory jurisdiction are automatically reviewed by the full court. Cases within the Court's mandatory jurisdiction include criminal appeals in which life or death sentence is imposed, disciplinary cases involving judges and attorneys, appeals from the Public Regulation Commission, and election challenges. In FY09, 57 new mandatory jurisdiction cases were filed.

Each justice reviewed and voted on approximately 523 cases in FY09.

Of the total number of cases filed and pending in FY09, 118 were disposed of by written opinion, decision, dispositional order, or order quashing a writ of certiorari (dismissed without comment). The Court issued 59 majority opinions, 12 unpublished decisions, 7 dispositional orders, and quashed certiorari 37 times. The Court's clearance rate for FY09 was 95%, which represents the cases disposed of as a percentage of cases filed.

Petitions for extension of the six-month rule to begin trial and other miscellaneous motions are rotated on a monthly basis among the associate justices for a ruling. In FY09, the Court decided 1,752 rule extension petitions. In addition, the Court ruled on 14 motions for rehearing or for reconsideration.



The Supreme Court oversees 36 committees, boards, commission, 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 suggestions submitted by judges, attorneys, or the court's staff attorneys. Proposed amendments and new rules are published for comment in the *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 are submitted to the court for review and final action. In FY09, approximately 261 proposed amendments and new rules were processed. The staff attorney division assists the court to move forward in adopting rules that are essential to a just, speedy, and inexpensive system of justice. The court remains optimistic that when the State's economic forecast improves that the Legislature will assist the court to fulfill its goal of a staff attorney division consisting of five attorneys and one paralegal. To date, the division is staffed by three attorneys and one paralegal. Full staffing of five attorneys will allow the court to be on par with other courts of last resort.



### **Supreme Court Building Commission**

Installation of a fire suppression system in the Supreme Court Building commenced in FY09 when capital project improvement funds were approved. All areas other than the law library will have sprinkling systems installed; the law library will have dry pipe and gas systems installed in FY10 using funds from the issuance of severance tax bonds.

# New Mexico Court of Appeals

## PAMELA B. MINZNER LAW CENTER OPENS

Over the past several years the Court of Appeals received \$15 million to construct a Court of Appeals building. The new Court of Appeals building is located on the North Campus of the University of New Mexico next to the School of Law. The building is named in honor of Justice Pamela B. Minzner, who served both as a law professor at the UNM School of Law and as a judge on the Court of Appeals. Construction of the building was completed in November 2009. This new building will provide much needed space for Court of Appeals judges and various court staff, as well as a courtroom and space for storage and imaging of closed case files, and storage generally.

The Court's main operations will, of course, remain in Santa Fe. The courtroom will be utilized for law school appellate advocacy classes and appellate arguments in conjunction with moot court competitions. The courtroom includes a soundproof classroom in the back where law students and professors can observe and hold discussions while oral arguments are being held. The building includes space to allow for law student externs to work directly for appellate judges as part of their law school experience. This is the first partnership of this nature in the country between a state law school and a state court of appeals.



Pamela B. Minzner Law Center



# Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court

The Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court was established by the New Mexico State Legislature in 1980 and continues to be the only one of its kind in the state. It is the busiest court in New Mexico, visited by up to 5100 customers each day. The court is a court of limited jurisdiction handling traffic and misdemeanor cases, plus civil litigation in which the amount in dispute does not exceed \$10,000. The Court has 19 judges: 16 criminal and three civil. All judges are lawyers. During Fiscal Year 09, over 126,000 cases were filed with the Metropolitan Court, including approximately 18,000 civil and 108,700 criminal cases.

## **Background Investigations**

This Division investigates the backgrounds of defendants arrested and held in the Metropolitan Detention Center who may qualify for release on their own recognizance. In FY 09, the Division interviewed 21,722 defendants. Of that number, 5,278 defendants were found to meet the qualifications to be released on their own recognizance (ROR). The Background Intake Officers placed 2,948 pre-trial service holds on defendants who had violated conditions of release or probation. The Background Investigators completed 18,580 criminal history reports that were used by the Metropolitan Court Judges during custody arraignments, felony first appearances, and in-custody hearings. The Division also ran 27,665 NCIC triple III criminal histories (national criminal history).

## **Case Initiation/File Maintenance Division**

The Division continues to work with the Information Technology Division to test electronic transfer of traffic citations from the Albuquerque Police Department (APD). Using a test program, the citations are being processed electronically, allowing traffic cases to be initiated without daily data entry of each citation. Once this program goes live and can be utilized to generate traffic cases for citations currently issued by APD, staff members will be able to concentrate much of their efforts on imaging additional documents for each case type filed in the Metropolitan Court. The Division continued to work towards imaging all documents related to each specific case type. This will allow the Court to ship actual case files to State Records and Archives.

This Division continues to initiate and prepare all court case files for arraignments. Below is the number of cases initiated and processed in FY09:

- 64,316 Traffic cases
- 21,814 Misdemeanor criminal cases
- 7,032 Felony (First Appearance) cases
- 6,768 DWI cases
- 5,290 Domestic Violence cases
- 8,076 Civil cases
- 3,528 Parking cases

## **Communications, Information and Public Outreach Office**

In addition to handling daily news media liaison work and public inquiries, the outreach office scheduled and provided several dozen tours to school groups from all levels, special education to college-level classes. The office arranged for mock trials, coordinated activities of court volunteers and handled special events for the court including Valentines Day weddings and new judge investitures. Communications, Information and Public Outreach is also responsible for Court photography, some graphics work, presentations and news releases issued by the Court.

The office also oversaw the re-design and implementation of the courts internal and Internet websites and continues to participate in updating information as needed.

#### **Compliance Division**

The Docketing Review Section of Compliance continues its high volume of case reviews. A staff of five reviews approximately 3100-3500 files per week. The staff thoroughly reviews each case file to ensure the Judges' disposition has been entered into the case management system correctly. If discrepancies are discovered, the associated case file will be routed to the appropriate Division staffer for clarification or correction.

The Division reviewed case files for accuracy and processed the following:

Failure to Pay Summones (fines, fees, costs)	46,431
Failure to Comply Summonses (Educational programs, non-compliance with judge's orders)	16,214
Failure to Pay Bench Warrants (Fines, fees, costs)	12,609
Failure to Comply Bench Warrants (Educational programs, non-compliance with judge's orders)	11,853
Docketing Review Section (Files from courtroom reviewed for accuracy)	180,273
Closed	569 boxes containing 80-120 files each
Files reviewed prior to close-out	176,493

This Division also helped coordinate three successful Operation Warrant Enforcement (OWE) operations with local law enforcement agencies. The staff prepared over 1500 packets containing information officers needed to locate defendants with outstanding bench warrants. Law enforcement officers were able to bring in offenders who had failed to comply with the orders of the court to post bond, or transport the defendants to MDC. The Court has seen an increase in the number of defendants who come in to address their case issues at the Customer Service counters.

#### **Courtroom Support Division**

The Division's two-month-long training module continues to provide top level training opportunities for staff. Written materials cover in- and out-of-courtroom skills and the training simulators provide practice for improving docketing skills. There are 16 criminal clerks and three civil clerks assigned to courtrooms. Nine roving clerks provide back up coverage and assist assigned clerks.

Courtroom clerks sit next to the judges in the courtroom. They provide assistance to the judges, the assistant district attorneys, public defenders, private attorneys, the defendants and law enforcement officers. They are responsible for entering the judges' orders in the court's docketing program. This enables the disposition to be viewed by staff and the public on the Court's website in real time. Staff members also hand out routing slips, notices of hearings and other pertinent documents once the case has been docketed. The CRS staff processes an average of 4,370 cases per week in the courtrooms, while maintaining an average error rate of less than 3%.

The on-record cases (domestic violence and DWI) are recorded daily using CourtSmart software. Five courtroom monitors monitor up to four courtrooms at once and cover an average of 1,200 record cases per week. In addition, the court monitors complete requests for CD recordings from the public and appeal cases. They have processed 380 requests from January 2009-August 2009. The staff in this Division continues to be responsible for preparing the Metropolitan Record Proper when a case is appealed to the 2nd District Court and have processed five Record Propers from January 2009-August 2009. Once the case is remanded, the staff is also responsible for entering the case information into the docketing program.

### **Customer Service Division**

This year, the Customer Service Division has put a renewed focus on cross-training to enhance court efficiency. Eight clerks have now been cross-trained in the Traffic Arraignment check-in process to provide additional coverage. five staff members have been cross-trained in both the criminal and civil areas to provide coverage where needed. Another leadworker has been trained in the civil area and a leadworker was trained at the motions/pleadings window. Four other clerks have been trained for the information counter and three clerks have been trained to assist at the criminal counters.

Cross-training and setting structured daily goals or tasks has allowed the Customer Service Division to be more efficient in assisting customers and given supervisory staff the flexibility to reassign individuals within the Division when necessary.

Through a joint effort with the Finance Division, a supervisor and a two of the leadworkers were able to implement a set of new worksheets for reconciling the trust and agency account for the civil bonds. The worksheet is provided to the Finance Division on a monthly basis. All the civil bonds were audited and researched to ensure the bonds were being handled and accounted for properly.

Clerks of the Customer Service Division assist other Divisions within the Case Management team when they are short-staffed or need assistance. This year, members of the staff closed out cases, assisted in mailing out summonses for the Compliance Division and helped process case files for the Case Initiation/File Maintenance Division. The motions/pleadings clerks worked with file room clerks putting case files in numerical order. A clerk also assisted the Jury Division with jury panels.

The Customer Service Division handled 163,381 incoming telephone calls and 170,389 people who came to the counter areas during this fiscal year.

Customer Service staff accept payments by cash, credit cards and money orders. The clerks also accept and process bonds for defendants as long as they are not in custody. The staff provides assistance to the defendants who are ordered to complete school programs and/or community service hours. They accept monies and are responsible for reconciling their registers. The staff at the phone bank provides the same assistance with the exception of accepting bonds.

### **Educational Services Division**

The Division organized and executed the FY09 annual mandatory meeting with all of the non-profit community service agencies in Albuquerque working with the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court.

In FY08, the manager participated in the formalization of a new school, Alcohol

Community Education (ACE) for defendants found guilty of a minor in possession charge. The school in FY09 had 499 participants successfully meet the class requirements.

The Division has made extensive progress on the planning and preparation for the renovation of the facility adjacent to the courthouse to the relocate the DI/DWI school. The target date for completion of the project is the first half of FY10.

The Division, having oversight of the completion of various schools/educational programs by referred defendants, recorded the following completions for FY09:

The Division manager was again invited to participate in the New Mexico Traffic Safety Summit, a three-day conference addressing a wide variety of issues facing the New Mexico motoring public. The manager handled the processing and submittal of documentation for the 2008-09 re-certification of the DWI and DI Schools required by the Traffic Safety Bureau.

• DWI School	1,853	• Driver Improvement School	6,186
• Victims Impact Panel	2,792	• Aggressive Driving School	649
• Occupant Protection Education	354	• Alcohol Community Education	499
• A.S.P.E.N.	667	• Responsible Pet Ownership School	116
• Hunter Education School	1	• Motorcycle Safety School	4

#### **Finance Division**

The Finance Division continues to challenge its staff in executing its fiduciary accountability to record, reconcile, report and analyze all financial transactions of the Court. The economic squeeze in Fiscal Year 2009 did not deter or suppress the Division's legislatively mandated responsibilities:

- The Court held and managed approximately 23,000 individual bail bonds (cash, misdemeanor and felony) totaling over \$62.5M.
- The Court collected in excess of \$8.2M in fines, fees and court costs during the fiscal year, of which approximately \$6.9M was utilized by various state and local government agencies. Approximately \$1.3M was earmarked for the Court's Warrant Enforcement and Mediation funds.

The preparation and processing of over 2,600 payment vouchers totaling in excess of \$6.7M.

#### **Human Resources Division**

The Human Resource Division supports the day-to-day operations of the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court. Services include employee recruitment, employment, compensation, employee relations and administration of employee benefits and payroll, training and staff development.

The Division is committed to provide the highest quality in customer services. It partners with management to recruit and retain a highly qualified, diverse staff; facilitate positive employee relations; and coordinate training to enhance employee skills, performance and job satisfaction. A primary focus of the Human Resource Division is to provide management and its employees with a comprehensive and supportive human

resource system based on integrity and sound management principles. This includes the development of policies, procedures, information and training in support of the agency's missions and management objectives.

### **Information Technology Division**

In FY 2009 the IT Division continued migration to and expanded use of web technology. The Division continues to create new applications, and replace applications developed in proprietary languages to applications developed in the open source JAVA language.

- External Website: Numerous enhancements to the Metropolitan External Website;
- Internal Website: Redesigned and implemented Metropolitan Internal Website;
- Case Initiation/File Maintenance: Created application to retrieve bond data and print onto file labels. Continued to design application to print bench warrants on laser printer from nightly work files;
- Background Investigation/Probation: Designed and implemented new interview system;
- TraCS citation entry program: Implemented system allowing law enforcement to transmit citation data directly into the Metropolitan Court Case Management system;
- Case Management Civil case data: Continuing effort to validate data, correct erroneous data, and purge files that have exceeded their retention schedule - this will be a continuing priority in preparation for the Odyssey conversion;
- Traffic Arraignment: Completed design and development and entered testing phase of a new Traffic Arraignment system. Version 3.0 will revise work flow to include the use of electronic signatures, a new interactive conditions of release document, automated docketing, issuing no-show warrants and more - implementation early FY 10;
- Significant effort was expended preparing for the initial meetings with the Odyssey managers concerning the case management system (CMS). Numerous documents were prepared and sent to them;
- All IT staffers increased their usage of our project management software (THQ). All projects were entered into THQ and the older ones closed out. Part of this time was spent learning the software;
- We transferred domestic violence cases to JISC in the similar fashion that we transfer the DWI cases to JID;
- Numerous Java utility programs were written to support current and future development;
- Numerous reporting improvements were done programmatically to support different Divisions for data accuracy;
- Created web applications to add/modify statutes and allow access to probation reports;
- Document scanning: Improved retrieval performance and changed, modified the electronic document storage process to allow more quickly find scanned court documents;
- Implemented application to allow city parking to query the warrant file by license plate number thus improving office and court personnel productivity;
- Created a number of special purpose reports for various levels of government to include DWI statistics report to the Governor;
- Infrastructure and Technical Support:

- o More than 4100 Help Desk requests were handled in the fiscal year;
- o CourtSmart – Complete upgrade of servers, workstations, and software;
- o Cisco Call Stack replacement “Unified messaging system, Emergency Responder”;
- o Cisco Core 6500 upgrade “Core Network Routers for entire court”;
- o Deployment of New PCs throughout the court;
- o Replaced LT02 tape drive to LT04 tape drive;
- o Upgraded Backup Exec from version 10 to version 12.5 “network backup software”;
- o Upgraded LanDesk from version 7.0 to version 8.8 “desktop management software”;
- o Evaluated and installed production Zimbra email server; and
- o Installed VMware server environment 4 VM servers, 1 control server.

### **Interpreters**

Staff Court Interpreters provided services for over 10,000 cases in FY09. Additionally; contract interpreters provided services for languages the court can not support as well as the Spanish-speaking cases beyond our capacity to support.

### **Jury Management Division**

- In FY09 the Jury Division sent out 8,730 summonses, out of those summons, 4,386 people were qualified by staff for the two-week terms.
  - o Staff excused 1,607 potential jurors for service and found 758 to be ineligible;
  - o The Metropolitan Court Jury Division has a 50.24% response rate for summonsed jurors, which is higher than the national average;
  - o In the same fiscal year, the Division coordinated 7,768 jurors who supported 150 jury trials out of the 1,697 trials scheduled and the 376 trials that were initialized; and
  - o The Metropolitan Court’s Jury Division continues to provide weekly juror orientations every Wednesday, which consists of anywhere from 70 to 95 jurors per orientation.

The Division is currently working with the IT department in developing a new web-based jury management system, which will better manage the jury pools, incorporate the use of email to send and receive juror qualification/questionnaire forms as well as excusal and postponement letters in an effort to increase juror response, streamline the qualification and notification procedures and reduce the cost of outgoing postage.

### **Probation Division**

The Probation Supervision Division provides services to over 5,000 defendants/offenders under the court’s jurisdiction. On average, the front desk clerical staff members sign in approximately 370 offenders/defendants to the probation lobby daily. These defendant/offenders have been ordered to participate in one of the following components of the Division: Intakes or screenings for specialty court programs, pre- and post-adjudication supervision, third-party release, pre-sentence report intakes, monitor counseling compliance, restitution payments, verifying installation of ignition interlocks, participation in the In-House Screening, submission to urine and/or breath alcohol screening, and all other orders imposed by the court. A breakdown of the Division is as follows:

- The Standard Supervision Unit provides pre-adjudication and post-adjudication supervision services to over 1,500 defendants and offenders each month.
- The DWI First Offender Enhanced Supervision Unit (DWI FOP) provides supervision for "true first offenders" determined to be at high risk to re-offend. Currently this program is supervising over 500 high-risk supervised offenders and over 1,800 low risk unsupervised offenders. Additionally, there are over 700 offenders being monitored for ignition interlock compliance as a condition of their release by this unit.

The Division's In-House Screening Unit performed 3,580 ADE screenings in FY09.

There are seven specialty court programs within the Probation Supervision Division.

- DWI/Drug Court enrolled a total of 375 participants. Included in these statistics are the following additional drug court tracks:
  - Co-Occurring Disorders Drug Court Track has 30 participants currently enrolled;
  - The Urban Native American Drug Court Track has 41 participants currently enrolled;
  - The Spanish speaking Drug Court Track has 16 participants currently enrolled;
  - The Domestic Violence Early Intervention enrolled 288 participants.
  - The Domestic Violence Repeat Offender Program enrolled 30 participants.
  - Homeless Court enrolled 97 participants;
  - Mental Health Court enrolled 385 participants. This included both the pre- and post-adjudication components of the program; and
  - Competency Court monitored and scheduled 678 competency cases.

### **Mediation Division**

The Division resolved over 600 cases, primarily civil complaints including landlord/tenant, debt collection, consumer complaints, etc. Clerks have definitely noticed an increase in debt collection cases and have been able to assist parties in negotiating payment plans. The Division mediated a limited number of criminal cases involving neighbor disputes, etc. Of the 1061 cases referred for mediation, 700+ mediations were conducted.

The Mediation Division/Program is in its 23<sup>rd</sup> year of operation. The program began as a pilot program July 1, 1986 and became an official Division of the court in 1996.

The Division also conducted numerous telephone mediations for out of town/out of state litigants. Due to budget constraints, no advanced training workshops were offered for our volunteer mediators this year, however, the Program Manager continues to work closely with mediators to help build and improve their skills.

### **Self-Help Center**

Employees assisted 8,029 individuals during FY09, a 20% increase over FY08. There were 5,744 contacts in person and the rest were via telephone. Of that number, 662 were conducted in Spanish.

The Center also provided a wide array of literature and materials for those seeking information on civil and legal cases at Metropolitan Court. The Division also worked

# Problem Solving Courts



## First Judicial District:

The **Adult Drug Court Program** is in its 12th year of working with felony-level offenders in Santa Fe, Rio Arriba, and Los Alamos Counties. The program has positively impacted a large number of individuals and families within the First Judicial District Court. Participants in the program develop strong life skills and increase their education and job skills, which promotes self confidence within each individual. The Drug Court program prepares clients to live a productive life, with over 90% of all graduates having employment or attending college level courses upon completion of the program. The Program's intensive structure transforms felony level offenders who are burdens in the community into law abiding tax-paying citizens.

The **Adult Treatment Court Program** has been in operation since October of 2005. Over the last four years the program has seen a steady increase in number of clients served. The program is currently operating at capacity of 25 clients and is often forced to place clients on a waiting list. The Treatment Court has dramatically reduced the number of days a defendant spends either hospitalized or incarcerated for his/her mental illness. The Program provides individualized treatment to each participant, addressing the many needs often associated with Co-Occurring Disorders. The most important aspect of the program is that it provides defendants the opportunity to gain control of their lives and develop a better understanding of their illness.

The **Juvenile Drug Court** has been in operation for eight years and currently has a nine-month program, as well as a three-month Early Intervention Program (EIP). This year the court started receiving referrals to EIP from the local Teen Court Program and have enjoyed success in that process. Since inception, the program has had 407 participants with 107 graduates. The recidivism rate continues to be low, demonstrating that the Program has assisted the youth in the area.

## Second Judicial District:

The **Adult Drug Court** has been in operation since 1995 and is proud of the difference it makes in the community by helping offenders overcome their addictions through treatment, guidance and substance abuse monitoring:

- Albuquerque currently has 200 participating offenders.
- There were 129 graduates during 2008-09 and 1321 total.
- The Court has shown a graduation rate of 69%, a three-year recidivism rate of 8.84% and a retention rate 88%.
- Two drug-free babies were born during 2008-09.



The **Juvenile Drug Court** has been serving youths and their families of Bernalillo County since August of 1998. Since inception it have grown into two separate tracks: the Intensive Track Supervision Program and the Fast Track Program. Both offer solid supervision in conjunction with a dynamic therapeutic intervention component to both the clients on probation and to the families who participate in the program. Intensive Track: The Juvenile DWI/Drug Court program is an intensive supervision program consisting of juveniles between the ages of 14 and 18. They are offenders who have demonstrated their drug dependency by their involvement in the juvenile justice system, sometimes for non-drug offenses directly related to their drug use. The program lasts a minimum of 28 weeks and is aimed at eliminating drug use among the participants. The Juvenile DWI/Drug Court provides frequent random urinalysis and treatment, along with quick consequences for negative behavior and rewards and incentives for positive behavior and success. Fast Track: The Juvenile DWI/Drug Court Fast Track Program consists of juveniles between the ages of 14 and 18. They are offenders who have demonstrated drug dependency by their involvement in the juvenile justice system, sometimes for non-drug offenses, which are directly related to their drug use. The program lasts a minimum of 12 weeks and is aimed at eliminating drug use among the participants

**Third Judicial District:**

The **Adult Drug Court Program** began its operations in October 1998. The program has served over 460 participants in intensive outpatient treatment, graduating 240 drug free, taxpaying participants. The program has a 3.7% recidivism rate of its graduates over the last four years. Our community service program component, entitled Community Pride, has seen participants donate/serve over 2300 hours in various projects in FY 09 alone. The program's participants have continually participated in the National Make a Difference Day project since 2001, and have donated canned goods, children's books and Coats for Kids in the community.

The **Family Reunification Court Program** began operations in 2004 and has served over 90 participants. Team Members include staff representatives from Nava Counseling, CYFD, Families and Youth, Inc. and C.A.S.A. The program's recidivism rate of its graduates averages is 16.6% for the past two years. The program participants, who often face challenges with co-occurring disorders, participate in parenting classes, mentoring opportunities and intensive substance abuse therapy in both individual and group sessions.

The **Lea County Family Drug Court** has just completed its seventh year of operation. Since inception, the program has served 96 participants, of which

48 have graduated. The program accepts CYFD and Probation and Parole referrals. All of the participants have been parents who were at risk of losing their children or had lost custody of them. The CYFD termination rate was reduced 40%-50% in parents who participated in the Lea County Family Drug Court. There has been a significant decrease in the babies being born drug exposed to the mothers participating in the program. Lea County has a strong After-Care available to graduates which is a two-three year program. The program has a 98% rate of graduates who are employed or attending school at the time of graduation.

The **Lea County Juvenile Drug Court** has just completed its first year with many successes. The Family Drug Court has expanded services to provide oversight and accountability to the juvenile probation population. At this time, the program only receives referrals from the Juvenile Probation and Parole office. The program has served 15 juvenile participants, of which 5 have graduated this year. The program is in the infancy stages and has the ability to expand and provide services to more juveniles of Lea County. The program has a dedicated team that provides intense services to the participants.

The **Chaves County Juvenile Drug Court Program** is in Roswell, NM. The program has been running since 2006, with no funding. The team consists of volunteers who felt the program was a necessity for this community due to the increased number of referrals into the JPO office for drugs and alcohol offenses. The program consist of four phases which can be anywhere from 9 months to 18 months. For FY08 Chaves County Roswell received the following referrals for drug related offenses: Possession of Marijuana; 111, Minor Allowing Self to be Served; 172, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia; 78, and Probation Violations involving Alcohol and Drugs; 30. The court is moving forward to working diligently to reduce the percentage of juveniles who have continuous contact with law enforcement and the juvenile justice system. The primary focus of this program is to obtain and maintain sobriety among juveniles.

**Sixth Judicial District:**

The **Juvenile Drug Court program in Luna County** continues to move forward. A fast track system has been utilized to target substance abusing juvenile offenders at a younger age. Prior to the fast track program the average age of a juvenile drug court participant was 16.5 and the self-reported age of first use was 12.75. Because the fast track barely began in May '09, it is too early to report on graduation and recidivism rates. However, it is anticipated that because we are targeting juvenile

offenders a couple years earlier than before, we will be reducing recidivism because we are addressing their substance abusing behaviors at an earlier age and positively impacting their academics before they fall too far behind in school. The program has maintained a 100% educational attainment for drug court graduates. The program graduated 3 participants as of June 30, 2009, with a cost-per-client-per-day of \$37.40. The program has graduated 5 participants in just the first 2 months of the current fiscal year.

The **Grant County Adult Drug Court** maintains 100% retention and 0% recidivism. We recognize we are a young program but feel our success is due to the collaborative efforts and passion put forth by the drug court team. Cost savings to the taxpayer are noteworthy as well. In New Mexico, one day in a County Jail costs an average of \$81.53, while Drug Courts cost significantly less; currently Grant County is approximately \$40 a day, not to mention the cost savings of not having a person enter into treatment unsuccessfully multiple times. Start up is the most expensive phase. Participants in Grant County receive a face to face contact almost daily, and are tested for substances three to four days a week. Drug Court is working in Grant County as currently all but one of our participants are employed. In Grant County the entire household is subject to Drug Court intervention, which is one reason we feel we are as efficient as we are.

The **Adult Drug Court in Hidalgo County** has had many significant accomplishments; we were able to secure funding in our first year of a Total Community Approach Grant. We believe the collaboration and passion for our work in Hidalgo County is why our Drug Court participants do so well. We use a 16 week Intensive Out-Patient treatment program and the participants attend 9-10 hours per week. Since the beginning of the program we have had 13 Graduates, no new substance charges, and we have 6 people pending graduation in October.

**Seventh Judicial District:**

The Seventh Judicial District Court has **Adult Drug Courts in Sierra, Socorro and Torrance counties**. The programs have been very successful in their short existence. We are proud to have had twenty-one graduates and plan to have many more in the upcoming years.

**Eighth Judicial District:**

The **Adult Drug Court Program in Taos County** is in its 10<sup>th</sup> year of serving alcohol and substance abuse felony offenders in Taos County. In February of 2009 we celebrated our 100<sup>th</sup> graduate from Drug Court which is a tremendous accomplishment with the type of clients we serve. Our Adult

Drug Court Program also accepts CYFD Clients who are in need of services through the Family Reunification Program. Just recently two of our Drug Court graduates received full time scholarships to attend UNM-Taos during the fall semester of 2009.

The **Juvenile Drug Court** Program in Taos County has been providing services to children since April of 2001 with an emphasis in reducing the consumption of drugs and alcohol in the county as well as having a significant impact on reducing truancy behavior among teens. During the last few years, in coordination with the Taos Municipal Schools we have developed a Saturday morning school for students who have fallen behind in their studies or require additional tutoring. The Juvenile Drug Court Program also provides an “Early Intervention Program” for early offenders who have been referred to JPPO’s on a drug/alcohol related offense, or when there’s reason to believe that drugs played a role in the commission of the offense.

The **Adult Drug Court Program** in Colfax County was developed in July of 2007 with funding obtained through the NM Legislature. Services provided by the program include Intensive supervision, Individual and Group Counseling, Drug testing, Case Management, Moral Reconciliation Therapy, Acupuncture, and Anger Management sessions. Clients are in direct contact with the District Court Judge weekly. During the two years of existence we have provided services to 30 drug/alcohol felony offenders. To date we have graduated 9 Clients from the eight month (minimum) program.

The **Juvenile Drug Court** Program in Colfax County was initially started in May of 2008 with funding obtained through the Daniel’s Foundation. During the 2009 legislative session the Eighth Judicial District Court received State funding to continue operating the Juvenile Drug Court Program effective FY 2010. During its existence the Program continues to improve its services for youth who have drug/alcohol issues and are referred to the CYFD-Family Youth Services.

#### **Eleventh Judicial District:**

The **Adult Drug Court** is in its 12th year of operation. During that period the program has served hundreds of clients, and will be graduating its 300th graduate in the fall of 2009. For all graduates recidivism is under 15%, proving without any doubt that the program is very effective in keeping drug addicts from having future encounters with the judicial system.

The **Adult Treatment Court** just finished its first full fiscal year of operation. The program began operation as a pilot program in August 2007

and became fully funded by the legislature for fiscal year 2009. The program differs from many Treatment Court Programs in that each client has an individual treatment plan, so the rewards and sanctions for each client are different. The "cookie cutter" approach was recognize as an ineffective approach with the type of clients served by the program due to the wide range of mental illnesses and disabilities. The program serves clients with all kinds of mental illness and disabilities including traumatic brain injuries, a type of disability which many programs have chosen not to attempt to serve.

The **Juvenile Drug Court Program** began in September 2000 and since then we have had 86 graduates and our recidivism rate is 16 %. The current cost per client per day is \$16.21 which is far below the statewide average cost of an adolescent in detention. Currently the program can treat up to 34 adolescents at a time using group and individual counseling. The Juvenile Drug Court program is an intensive outpatient treatment program that provides adolescents with a positive environment where they can learn to overcome their alcohol and substance abuse issues. The educational component is strong utilizing the well structured Grade Court model as its basis. Our team of Juvenile Justice Professionals' frequently utilizes the Traditional Native American approach providing Medicine Man Services, Ceremonies and Sweat Lodges. Other resources include Equine Therapy, Experiential Education, and Art Therapy. Many other community resources are used to empower the youth in this program. The program uses random urinalysis testing, along with GPS and SCRAM monitoring to ensure program compliance. The Judge sanctions clients who violate the program rules with a variety of consequences including community service, physical activities and detention. A variety of rewards donated by community members are given for positive reinforcement.

#### **Twelfth Judicial District:**

The 12th Judicial District's Drug Courts continue to overcome challenges and enjoy success. Although budget cuts have and are expected to continue to negatively impact program operations, the District continues to operate an **Adult Drug Court in Otero County, and Juvenile Drug Courts in both Lincoln and Otero Counties**. We instituted significant changes within both juvenile programs including changing from a two track back to a single track program. This along with substantial changes in program policy appears to be having a positive impact on historically low juvenile graduation rates. We also completed the last of three annual program evaluations on the Lincoln County Juvenile Drug Court program. The independent evaluator referred to the program as a "Model Program" and highlighted several innovative aspects

of the program at the 2009 National Association of Drug Court Professionals Annual Conference.

**Thirteenth Judicial District:**

The **Valencia County Juvenile Drug Court** expanded educational and vocational services to its young participants by partnering with the University of New Mexico Valencia County Adult Education Services. The additional education given to these juveniles provides increased opportunities for educational and vocational success after graduation. The VCJDC continues to provide a highly intensive and multifaceted approach to the juvenile's substance abuse and mental health problems.

These important program components are now at risk of being cut as a result of the budget reductions imposed upon the Thirteenth District Court. The number of participants which the Valencia County Juvenile Drug Court is able to serve has been reduced by 30% as a result of budget cuts.

The **Valencia County Adult Drug Court** began operation in FY'09. The adult drug court has consistently maintained or exceeded its matrix of 20 participants throughout the year. The efficacy of this program is demonstrated by the fact that over 50% of its 13 graduates were able to complete the program without testing positive for drug use. Although budget cuts have made it necessary to reduce the number of clients that will be able to participate to 15, the VCADC continues to improve its programming thereby making Valencia County a safer community for all.

The **Sandoval County Adult Drug Court** is in its 4th year of operation. During that period the program has served over a hundred clients, and graduated its 60th participant in September of 2009. For all graduates recidivism is under 20% and the retention rate is about 73%. The average client cost per day is about \$13.81 compared to the \$64.00 per day it costs to house inmates in the Sandoval County Detention Center. This proves that the program is not only cost effective but successful in reducing recidivism. In addition, the employment attainment of drug court graduates averages 93% and their educational attainment averages 88%.

Unfortunately, with budget cuts during 2009, the program capacity was reduced from 45 clients to 20 clients.

**Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court:**

In FY09, The Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court, Probation Supervision Division, Specialty Court Programs, provided supervision to over 800

participants. Each of these problem-solving courts are fully funded and mature programs designed to deliver and support therapeutic jurisprudence with a wide range of interventions. The program participants receive close supervision, judicial oversight, and treatment to address causative factors which may have limited their ability to succeed in the past.

**DWI-Drug Court Program:** Three Judges are assigned to the DWI-Drug Court program in addition to their regular criminal court docket. One judge is also designated as the Presiding Drug Court Judge for administrative oversight. Judges provide biweekly one-on-one status reviews with each defendant. The hearings are preceded by a multi-disciplinary staffing which includes the probation officer and counselor. In addition to its traditional program, the DWI/Drug Court has Spanish Language, Urban Native American and Co-Occurring Disorders tracks to better serve the community. Additionally, our court has 16 criminal court Judges who refer defendants into the DWI-Drug Court program for eligibility determination and acceptance.

Since 1997, 1,885 defendants graduated from this program. During FY-09 there were 375 new enrollments in the program, and 266 Drug-Court participants graduated. The retention rate for FY-09 was 89%. The cost per participant per day was determined to be \$13.11 compared to a cost of incarceration of \$58 per day, a 4.5 times lower cost. During FY-09 a three year recidivism rate of 6.12% was found.

**Mental Health Court Enhancement:** There is one program judge assigned to this specialty court. There were 385 defendants enrolled or inducted into MHC during FY09. Under the enhancement component, there were another 225 defendants under “post” or “pre” adjudication supervision. In FY09 there were 125 new enrollments with 137 successful graduations. The services offered to defendants assist in stabilization, gaining housing, medication/psychiatric management, benefits applications as well as treatment services. This population consists of *significantly mentally ill* individuals who have had repeated contacts with authorities. An evaluation of outcome results show that defendants who graduate from this program had an overall decrease of 75% in new offenses for an 18 month review period following graduation.

**Homeless Court:** There are two program judges who rotate responsibilities for this court which serves homeless individuals with pending non-record criminal cases in Metropolitan Court. Court hearings are held in the community, and the program works with defendants and service providers to

remove obstacles in order to reduce homelessness. Hearings are held monthly at a community provider setting working with the homeless population. There were 97 new enrollments referred in FY09, nearly double the previous year.

**Competency Court:** There is one program judge for this court. During FY-09 there were 359 forensic evaluations completed to determine competency of defendants having a question of competency. A defendant may have had more than one case filed during the year. There were 678 cases filed during the year requiring a competency determination.

**Domestic Violence Programs:** The **Domestic Violence Early Intervention Program (DVEIP)** has one program judge. The EIP program is pre-adjudication and designed to address first-time misdemeanor domestic violence offenses with strict court supervision and treatment. The program enrolled 288 new participants, and 291 participants graduated successfully completing the program in FY-09. During the year the program supervised a total of 529 defendants in addition to supervising a total of 505 Pre-trial domestic violence cases pending adjudication. Since program inception two studies have been conducted, the most recent in-house review being 2009. The recidivism rate, defined as a subsequent domestic violence related charge, was found to be eight (8%) percent, post graduation.

The **Domestic Violence Repeat Offenders Program (DVROP)** has one program judge and is modeled after the DWI- Drug Court model. This program offers highly structured supervision and treatment as an alternative to incarceration for misdemeanor domestic violence repeat offenders. Additionally, the program offers support services to the victims and children of program participants. Offenders are intensely supervised, attend counseling two or three times per week, and participate in bi-monthly reviews with the program judge. Violations are addressed immediately and defendants who are terminated serve their full jail sentence. At the beginning of FY09 enrollment was at 24 offenders; during the year the program enrolled 30 new offenders for a total number of 54 defendants/offenders supervised. There were an additional 10 defendants supervised under PTS by the DVROP officer that were not admitted into the program and that were subsequently sentenced. An in-depth study performed in May of 2008 examined outcome results. Recidivism rates were found to be seven (7%) percent for this population.

#### **Eddy Co. Magistrate Court**

The DWI/Drug Court is in its 5<sup>th</sup> year of operation. During the past 5 years to



current, the DWI/Drug Court Program has served hundreds of Eddy County residents; to date we have graduated 286 successful participants. Our recidivism rates stay well below the normal average, staying below 10%. This helps in reducing the cost to local law enforcement and our community as a whole. It also reduces the number of inmates in our correction facility, again reducing the cost to residents of Eddy County. The Mission and purpose of the Carlsbad Magistrate Court Program are to provide substance abuse offenders abstinence, to reduce dependency, thereby reducing criminal activity.

**McKinley Co. Magistrate Court:**

The **McKinley County Magistrate DWI Drug Court Program** has been in existence since 2000 and there is a close working relationship between the county and the court, with the county providing administrative oversight and staff of the program. Judge John Carey presides over the program. The treatment is in-house, with two full-time county employed counselors and three contracted counselors. The program is a voluntary program designed to meet the unique needs of the population. This three-phase program incorporates intensive supervision, regular contact with the Drug Court Judge, mandatory substance abuse treatment with individual treatment plans for each client, attendance at self-help groups and intensive random drug testing.

# 2009 Highlights

## **District Courts**

### **First Judicial District**

#### ***Jury Management Division in FY09***

In FY09, the Jury Management Division eliminated Petit Jury Orientations in Rio Arriba, Santa Fe and Los Alamos Counties which saved approximately \$200,000 per year and saved time for potential jurors. In addition, the Los Alamos Grand Jury Panel was eliminated, saving approximately \$20,000 per year and time for potential jurors. The Jury Management Division worked with the AOC to implement new summons in order to decrease costs of summoning jurors. In FY09, the Jury Management Division implemented the use of the First Judicial District Court website to include information regarding jury schedules. This expanded the availability of information to potential jurors.

#### ***Clerk's Office***

During fiscal year 2009, the First Judicial District Court Clerk's Office experienced a substantial increase in the daily workload. The main clerk's office counter staff served an average of 195 customers per day. According to statistical reports, 9,566 new cases filed within Santa Fe, Rio Arriba and Los Alamos counties were processed. In addition, 232,000 Civil, Domestic and Criminal case filings were received and processed. Employees of the First Judicial District Court Clerk's office have demonstrated consistent drive, motivation, teamwork and perseverance while providing exceptional service to their customers.

An in-house Imaging Division was created and implemented in FY09. The Division imaged and archived 800,000 documents, the equivalent of 13,950 case files. This process eliminated the need for and expense of sending case files to a contractor to be imaged and archived.

The Special Services Division completed retention research and destruction of over 100 evidence boxes in accordance with New Mexico State Judicial Retention Schedules.

#### ***Family Court Services***

While the overall number of cases has remained relatively the same as in the prior year, the complexity of cases have increased, requiring more Court Clinician time to address the issues. There has been a shift of the caseload from Mediations to Priority and Advisory Consultations, which take more time. While the numbers are similar to FY08, Family Court Services (FCS) operated with 40 fewer clinician hours per pay period in FY09. FCS also continues to provide mediation services in Abuse/Neglect cases and Open Adoption cases.

Mediation	Priority Consultation	Advisory Consultation	Settlement Meetings from AC	Abuse & Neglect	Open Adoption
528	467	70	54	75	13

### ***Child Support Hearing Office***

The Child Support Hearing Office created an Order for Discovery that requires the parties to exchange documents listed in the order 20 days rather than five days prior the hearing. This has greatly assisted in keeping the hearing date or vacating in advance. Positive feedback has been received from attorneys and pro se litigants.

The Notice of Hearing was revamped to include a “Request for Telephonic Appearance” and a “Request for Interpreter. The amended Notice allows for better planning and greatly reduces the need to reschedule hearings.

### ***Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)***

A permanent Self Help Information Center, staffed by the Legal Office Specialist, was established to assist pro se litigants with forms and procedural information, but not with legal advice or representation. Two public access computers with current child support worksheet software are located in the Center. ADR Program staff has developed eight separate divorce packets and a parentage packet that includes the required forms and instructions, and has collected an extensive forms library. Pro Se Services also maintains on the court’s website information and forms, including the divorce and parentage packets.

### ***Second Judicial District***

Fiscal year 2008 - 2009 was a year of change, challenge and restructure for the Second Judicial District Court (SJDC), and its 330 employees, 26 judges and 10 hearing officers. In preparation for the roll-out of our new case management system, the SJDC reconstructed its clerks office from divisions to teams. The Criminal, Civil, and Family Clerks offices have been consolidated and restructured into one Clerks office comprised of eight teams: Calendar, Counter, Customer Support Research, Dockets, Files, Research, Scan and Special Services teams.

The SJDC, along with the rest of the state and our nation has been challenged by the declining economy and has implemented several cost-cutting measures such as cancellation of contracts/leases, maintaining vacant positions for longer periods of time and cutting supply requests. This has had a significant impact on the Court as a whole and, specifically, the Clerk’s Office as they experienced an increase in case filings of 12.5% between FY08 and FY09. During times of economic downturn, the Court experiences higher case filings, especially in civil cases, which have grown 18.2% and includes a 32.4% rise in foreclosure actions. Criminal cases have grown by 8% and Family cases by 8.2%. Abuse and Neglect cases are up by 6.7% and Domestic Violence cases by 11.0%. The SJDC has been able to manage the increased caseload by not only restructuring Clerk’s Office hours, but with the help of *all* divisions taking on additional tasks.

Administrative support divisions (Court Administration, Information Technology, Human Resources, Fiscal Services, and Purchasing) have played a key role in applying cost-cutting measures by expeditiously providing quality projections, reports and much needed applications and technical support. These functions have aided in Administration's decisions to manage the budget and increasing caseloads by streamlining functions.

We continue to provide life-improving programs such as the Youth and Family Counseling program at Children's Court, which provides therapeutic intervention to families with juvenile offenders; the PEG program (programs for the Empowerment of Girls); and the Juvenile Drug Court, which aims to reduce substance abuse and delinquency by the children of our county. The Family Court also addresses these often veiled social needs of our litigants by pursuing the cutting edge F.A.I.R. program (Family Assessment and Intervention Resources). This no-fee program is another community partnership, which collaborates with the University of New Mexico's Psychology Department to deliver assessment and treatment for domestic violence offenders and education to victims of domestic violence. A 12-week group session program focused on parenting education and conflict reduction skill-building for co-parents who have experienced family violence has experienced success in stopping destructive interpersonal behaviors, reducing continuing violence and preventing the next generation of domestic violence. As a result of budget cuts, this program will not be available in FY10. The Court Clinic of the Family Court also provides no fee mediation services to separating and divorcing families, evaluation and other dispute resolution alternatives with the primary goal of empowering parents to resolve conflicts. The clinic has also expanded front-end, on-call services to assist the Court in resolving cases more expeditiously and cost effectively.

This year, the SJDC continued to be challenged by the declining economy and an increase in caseload. These challenges have proven the dedication, innovation, and perseverance of the employees, and judges within this Court. There The court and its employees are committed to being proactive in providing effective assistance to the administration of justice.

### **Third Judicial District**

The Third Judicial District has been able to maintain regular business hours, which bolsters customer service - a top priority for the Court. To date, Drug Courts have retained their viability with only a slight reduction in client capacity. Case processing, primarily docketing and filing, has suffered only slight lag times consistent with budgetary constraints. Cross-training and some internal personnel repositioning has facilitated this Court's ability, at least for the present, to accomplish more with less.

**Fifth Judicial District**

The Fifth Judicial District Court, comprised of Chaves, Eddy and Lea Counties, has reviewed every aspect of its business operation in an effort to promote the best possible efficiency and effectiveness to the public served. Employees with genuine interest and enthusiasm help ensure that goals can become reality with teamwork and unity.

All courtrooms in the Fifth Judicial District are now equipped with state-of-the-art technology. Judges, attorneys, litigants, witnesses, jurors and the public served will benefit from this completed project. Also during this time, the Chaves County office has withstood and survived the implementation of the new Case Management software "Odyssey" and looks forward to its implementation in Lea and Eddy Counties. The Legislature's support of funding for this statewide project is greatly appreciated, as is the hard work of Judicial Information Division staff members who dedicate hours of staff time and time away from their families to meet the challenges needed to bring the District, Magistrate and Metropolitan courts in New Mexico to a higher standard in Case Management technology.

Currently, the Fifth District Court has not reached the point of furloughing employees. A strong foundation, teamwork and effective communication have played a vital part of its ability to withstand the challenges of the economic downturn in our nation.

**Sixth Judicial District**

The Court takes great pride in providing professionalism, timely performance and efficiency that replicate a positive outlook toward the judicial system of New Mexico.

***Luna County Judicial Complex***

The state-of-the-art, 25,000 square foot complex was completed, furnished, equipped and placed into service this fiscal year. The grand opening was celebrated on May 15, 2009, with many special guests, including Senator John Arthur Smith and Chief Justice Edward L. Chávez.

The facility houses two judges along with their staff, one special master, the court clerk's office, Juvenile Drug Court and security staff provided by Luna County. A visiting judge's office is available, along with the four courtrooms and two jury rooms.

### ***Administration***

Upper management has successfully maneuvered the complexity of furnishing and equipping the new judicial complex while also reducing the overall operation budget for the agency, as mandated by the legislative budget cuts. An efficient level of service to meet the needs of the community and the staff during these times of transition was a major task. The contributions and efforts of the entire district's personnel can not be overstated.

### ***Juvenile Justice Continuum of Services***

Although a major reduction in funding was absorbed by this program, each county has managed to maintain the most critical programs in their effort to positively address juvenile delinquency and crime. The down turn in the economy and budget cuts has added strain on these programs.

The Juvenile Justice Continuum of Services in Luna County continues to maintain a comprehensive strategy in order to reduce juvenile delinquency in this district. The key success to this special program is the ability to work collaboratively with the many partners and agencies providing services for juveniles in the areas of prevention, positive youth development and intervention services for adjudicated youth.

In May 2009, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration paid all expenses for the Adult Drug Court Project Manager to administer a presentation in Rockville, Maryland, the topic of drug court's and community collaboration in a border town.

### ***Seventh Judicial District***

The Court directs self-represented litigants to available resources. Socorro has a local legal aid office that provides assistance to self-represented litigants.

The district provides mediation services in domestic relations cases and neglect and abuse cases in all four counties.

Court staff attended the annual district court conference held in Las Cruces.

The Sierra County Courthouse renovation project has been completed. In March of 2009 the district court had a grand opening ceremony in Truth or Consequences.

The Court purchased new audio/visual, and recording equipment.

### ***Ninth Judicial District***

#### ***Court Security - Roosevelt County***

Several important changes occurred to enhance court security, including

- Installation of a new court clerk's window with an electric trigger lock and a security wall with an electric lock to secure Judges' chambers and the back of the courtroom were installed;
- Installation of additional security cameras and audio intercoms on security doors;
- the evidence room was refurbished;
- work space was remodeled to provide a secure crime victim's waiting area away from the public;
- a metal detector was installed and a security checkpoint created; and
- Roosevelt County agreed to provide overtime to the Sheriff's Department for court security.

#### ***Court Security—Curry County***

Curry County also made significant changes:

- office space was remodeled to provide an appropriate and secure jury deliberation room for Division 1;
- the Court's first attorney/client conference rooms were created;
- a secure waiting room adjacent to the parking lot court annex to ensure appropriate security screening prior to entry into the courtroom;
- additional security cameras and audio intercoms were installed on the security door at the parking lot court annex;
- a security checkpoint was installed on the second floor landing;
- an X-ray machine and two metal detectors were purchased, one for the main courthouse and one for the parking lot court annex;
- the video hearing room was remodeled into secure facilities for the Adult Drug Court; and
- the Court provided a secure room where victims of domestic violence can complete and file DV paperwork.

#### ***IT and Communications —District-wide***

- The Court purchased a new VOIP telephone system to replace five outdated systems, allowing district-wide intercom communication and allowing the court to save approximately \$5,000 per year on phone line leases; and
- The Court used internal staff to diagnose, repair and replace most computer problems with equipment and network, freeing JID staff to assist with Odyssey roll-out.



### ***Enhanced programs/Improved efficiencies***

- The Domestic Mediation program was revitalized to improve case flow of domestic matters;
- Improved awareness and utilization of the supervised visitation and exchange programs was achieved;
- Improved awareness and utilization of mediation in abuse and neglect cases was achieved;
- Adult Drug Court was moved to the courthouse to improve service and save county housing expense;
- Adult Drug Court matrix was increased from 15-20 to 25-30 by utilizing the Program Manager and Clinical Interns to increase treatment provision;
- Two court clerks became the first New Mexico district court employees to become IAPE Certified Record and Evidence Specialists - they then implemented procedures for record and evidence retention, cleaned up years of old evidence and educated the court and local bar regarding proper evidence handling;
- Court Clerks and Judges worked with area attorneys to get old cases disposed of;
- Court clerks worked many hours cleaning up old docketing errors from prior years so the new Odyssey system conversion would be smooth, and implemented procedures where error reports are cleaned up weekly;
- The jury pool and jury service were improved by changing the jury term, improving timeliness of jury payment, offering personal jury orientation, having district judges rather than court clerks do jury excusals, and having judges issue orders to show cause when potential jurors did not respond to a second summons;
- The court implemented new U.S. passport procedures and processed hundreds of U.S. passports for the citizens of both counties;
- Although the Court is short-staffed, all employees are picking up the slack and working tirelessly to keep court business going;
- Judges and staff have taken over the duties of the staff attorney who left two years ago, and staff have been particularly helpful in assisting pro se litigants with forms; and
- The judges and the CEO continually get compliments on the friendliness and professionalism of the district's staff.

### ***Education/Certification***

- Several employees are taking the Judicial Studies certification classes and many have graduated;
- Several employees received scholarships and attended various

Domestic Violence seminars in order to improve service to victims of DV;

- All security bailiffs and many other employees attended the Court Security Course made available by New Mexico Homeland Security;
- All employees received training on Harassment, including Sexual Harassment and on Drug and Alcohol Use;
- Two court clerks became the first New Mexico District Court employees to become IAPE Certified Record and Evidence Specialists;
- A Certified Court Monitor is attending Court Reporter classes in Albuquerque, requiring two days a week on the road. The judge's TCAA is covering both jobs;
- A Drug Court Program Director received her Licensed Independent Social Worker designation;
- All drug court personnel were certified to collect and interpret urine drug samples;
- All drug court personnel were trained in conducting BAC exams;
- All drug court team members have attended annual drug court conferences; and
- Many employees took classes dealing with ethics.

Ninth Judicial District staff have excelled in many other areas and are to be congratulated for doing more with much less while the court's budget continues to be cut.

#### **Tenth Judicial District**

The Tenth Judicial District Court has successfully handled a 200% turnover in district judges over a period of two years. The Court has successfully adapted to the changes that occur with these turnovers and has accomplished this with a vacancy rate of over 20%. While during this time statistics [may](#) not show the typical rate of closure in cases for which the District is known, staff have continued to docket the vast majority of items on the same business day they are filed, and there has been no interruption in services with the exception of De Baca County, where office hours were reduced from 35 hours per week to 10 hours per week and staff has begun driving 400-600 miles a week to provide limited services in that county.

#### **Eleventh Judicial District**

- Grade Court—there were 25 Graduates and 21 Graduates attending College.
- Pro Bono Plan for McKinley County—On December 31, 2008, the Eleventh Judicial District Court in McKinley County submitted its Pro Bono Plan to the New Mexico Access to Justice Commission. The plan sets out the needs of the County and how the limited legal resources will

be utilized to help provide legal services to the poor. In addition to local attorneys, the plan will utilize paralegal students from the University of New Mexico - Gallup Branch to help draft final orders for pro se indigent litigants.

- Access & Visitation Programs – In FY09 McKinley and San Juan Counties implemented access & supervised visitation programs. These programs are providing safe exchanges and supervised visitation for high risk domestic violence and domestic relations cases.
- Child Custody Mediation - 112 cases resolved by the parties attending mediation.
- Jury Trials – 109 Trials combined in both Counties.
- Water Case – 59 new subfiles, 23 new claims, 1 new appeal, 8 disclaimers, 11 implied consent orders and 209 regular consent orders. All of these new activities impacted hundreds of people and required an intense amount of work with our limited staff.
- New and Reopened Cases - The combined caseload in both Counties increased by 5.9% over the FY08 filings.

## **Magistrate Courts**

In 2009, the Magistrate Court Division opened a badly-needed and long-awaited new magistrate courthouse in Las Cruces, New Mexico. The Las Cruces Magistrate Court is the busiest magistrate court in the state. It currently has five judges and needs nine. The new courthouse was built with a sixth courtroom, for the time when the Legislature is able to add a sixth judge. The facility can be expanded to add another six courtrooms on the same site when the Legislature deems it appropriate. The building is both beautiful and functional and is a great benefit not only to judges and staff but to the public.

The Magistrate Court Division, in partnership with the Judicial Education Center, has embarked on a distance learning program. Courses have been offered during the noon hour over the judiciary's video conferencing network. The network was built primarily for cross-county video arraignment but can also be used to accommodate lunchtime training. This enables judges and staff to take advantage of additional training opportunities while staying in their home courts, thus providing greater service to the taxpayers but without the cost of travel.

Three magistrate locations, Estancia, Moriarty and Roswell, implemented the new case management system as pilot courts and are providing valuable insight as we prepare to "go live" in the Farmington and Grants Magistrate Courts in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2009. The remaining magistrate locations are reviewing their data quality to prepare for the rollout.

The Warrant Enforcement Program increased collections by 7%, collecting \$2.7 million in bench warrant fees, and \$11 million for other fee categories. The Program continues to look for more effective technologies to assist in achieving compliance from defendants in warrant status. The Warrant Enforcement Program has received recognition from the National Governmental Collectors Association as a program "on the move."

## **Judicial Information Division**

The Judicial Information Division (JID) of the Administrative Office of the Courts provides a full range of information technology services and technology planning to the Judicial Branch in New Mexico.

### ***Odyssey Court Case Management System Project***

The rollout of the Judiciary's new case management system (CMS) was the most important JID task for FY2009. During FY2009, the first pilot court district, the Fourth Judicial Court District (insert counties) was successfully implemented in November of 2008. This implementation involved conversion of three district courts: Las Vegas, Santa Rosa and Mora.

Following the Fourth Judicial Court District was conversion of the Torrance County Magistrate Courts in Moriarty and Estancia. Soon after the Torrance County implementation, JID launched a joint conversion of the Chaves County Magistrate Court and the Fifth Judicial Court District in Roswell. This joint magistrate and district court implementation was the biggest combined conversion effort for the project, thus far, and challenged court staff and JID staff, but the conversions were successful and the new application is now beginning to provide benefits to the Roswell courts.

The seven implementations of Odyssey followed many months of analysis, programming and training. Many key staff from courts throughout New Mexico participated in the preparations and worked diligently to ensure that the implementations would be successful. During fiscal year 2010, Odyssey implementations are scheduled for the three district courts in the Seventh Judicial Court District, two magistrate courts in Farmington and Grants, and the Thirteenth Judicial Court District location in Grants. All courts, statewide, should be completely converted to the new CMS within a few years.

#### ***Software Application Support and Application Development***

JID programmers support a number of off-the-shelf office productivity software tools for the Judiciary and has developed and supports many custom software applications for New Mexico courts. JID Programmers also responsible for supporting custom development for the statewide Odyssey case management.

During FY2009, JID programmers initiated new development projects including a children's mediation case management system, a time keeping application, and a Judiciary Website content management system. JID Programmers also support the Judiciary's web sites, and during FY2009, created new websites for Problem Solving Courts, Children's Court Judges, Tribal-State Judicial Consortium, Children's Mediation, and the Judicial Standards Commission. In addition, JID programmers developed a prototype application for employee performance evaluations, and this system is planned for final adoption during the last quarter of FY2010.

#### ***Network Management and Support***

JID provides the network infrastructure for courts and supports internet/intranet and e-mail services to courts, statewide. JID also supports the Judiciary's primary website, [www.nmcourts.gov](http://www.nmcourts.gov), and all of its many subsidiary sites. In addition, JID staff members manage and monitor the statewide judicial communications infrastructure, which operates over dedicated commercial circuits, digital microwave and DSL. This network supports data communications including video services for courts throughout the State.

### ***Help Desk***

JID provides help desk services to approximately 2000 court users for the purpose of quickly resolving computer hardware, Internet, e-mail and case management problems and other information technology problems. JID also responds to members of the public regarding case information and statistics and assists with problems that public users might have with the online public Case Lookup Internet site. During FY2009, JID responded to 8692 requests for help, and 1,610 of these were from members of the general public.

### ***Information Technology Training***

JID provides information technology training services to court employees throughout the State and recently designed training for new users of the Odyssey case management application. JID also provides training on off-the-shelf productivity software and the statewide jury management application.

### ***JID Data Center Upgrades***

A complete upgrade of the JID Data Center began in FY2008, and continued through the first quarter of calendar year 2009. Upgrades include an new dedicated uninterruptible power supply (UPS) room, enhanced data center cooling, data center power conditioning and a new diesel generator. These upgrades were necessitated by new CMS equipment installed in the Data Center, which has approximately doubled the number of computing devices and has significantly increased the load on the Data Center's cooling and UPS systems.

### ***Network and Internet***

During FY2009, the JID Systems Team continued the process of installing commercial DSL for thirty courts to provide greater bandwidth. JID Systems staff also began the process of converting all court e-mail users to the Zimbra browser-based e-mail application. In addition, JID staff during FY2009 made major strides to improve the Judiciary's Telecommunications Network. Automated monitoring and alerting for all JID routers has been implemented and an automated version control system was implemented. JID also began to utilize Metropolitan Ethernet connections from Qwest between Albuquerque, Las Cruces and Santa Fe. This increased the network capacity, lowered the network latency and increased the overall reliability of the network.

### ***Green Computing in the Judiciary***

The Judicial Information Division recycles all decommissioned computers and periodically refurbishes installed computers to increase usable lifespan. In addition, all computers purchased during FY2009 were "energy star" compliant and were configured prior to installation to minimize overall power consumption. At the same time, JID staff continued to convert older dedicated server applications to run on virtualized servers to reduce the server power needs and more efficiently take advantage of server processing power.

The judicial green computing initiative was undertaken to reduce overall amounts of environmental toxins such as heavy metals and flame retardants in New Mexico landfills, and to lower the Judiciary's carbon footprint by reducing power consumption in courts throughout the State. All judicial computer recycling was done through certified vendors who pledged to handle equipment in a responsible fashion and reclaim or dispose of toxic components in a way that will not harm the environment or pose risk to populations in developing countries.

***Staff Support for IT Governance Council and its Subcommittees***

During FY2009, the Judicial Information Division provided staff support for the Judicial Information Systems Council and its subcommittees, which provide stakeholder-based governance for all judicial technology initiatives. These committees include the Judicial Information System Council, the Judges User Group, the Odyssey Steering Committee, the Odyssey Executive Committee, the Public Access Subcommittee, and the E-Filing Committee. Tasks in support of the various IT governance committees included creation of meeting agendas, meeting minutes, project plans, position papers, informational papers, presentations, and meeting schedules.

***Video Conferencing, Video Arraignment and Video Distance Learning***

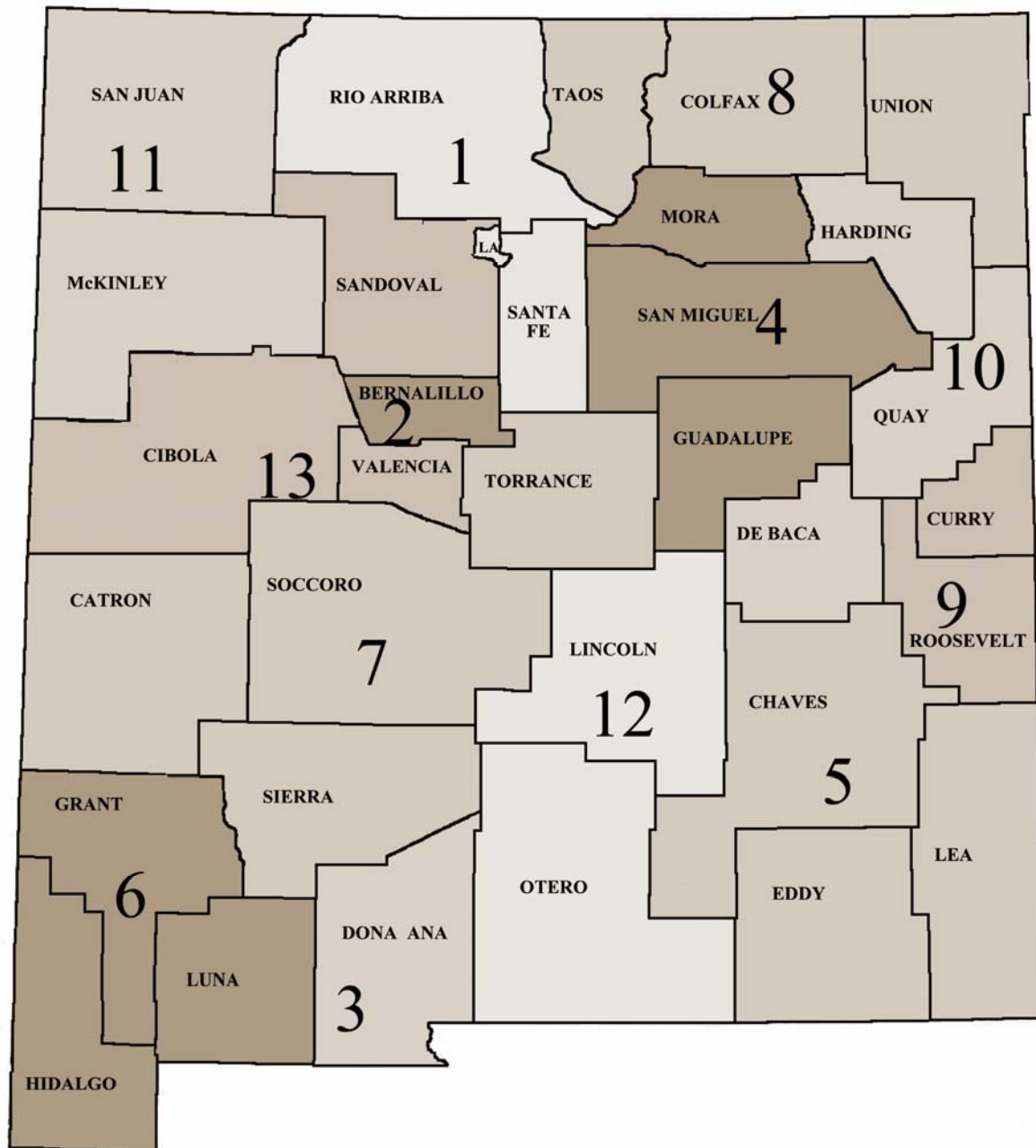
During FY09, the Video Arraignment Program supported video sites at 38 magistrate courts, 18 district courts, 11 municipal courts, 30 detention centers and 5 administrative offices, which are all connected statewide through a video bridge application. The Video Arraignment Program continues to schedule and manage cross-county arraignments and expert witness testimony, in collaboration with other state agencies such as Department of Corrections, Department of Public Safety and Department of Health. In addition, the video program facilitates a number of video conferences for judicial meetings and statewide training for court staff.

***Training and Development***

The Judicial Information Division recently overhauled its training center to allow for video conferencing and distance training of court staff. The training center now has the capacity to train a class of up to thirty students, onsite, but by using the video distance learning technologies, the instructors can deliver training to multiple remote participants at multiple locations.

During FY2009, JID staff conducted training on a variety of IT-related topics, both at its training center and offsite. Staff also facilitated delivery of numerous training sessions that were delivered by non-JID instructors on a variety of legal, business and management topics.

## New Mexico Judicial Districts



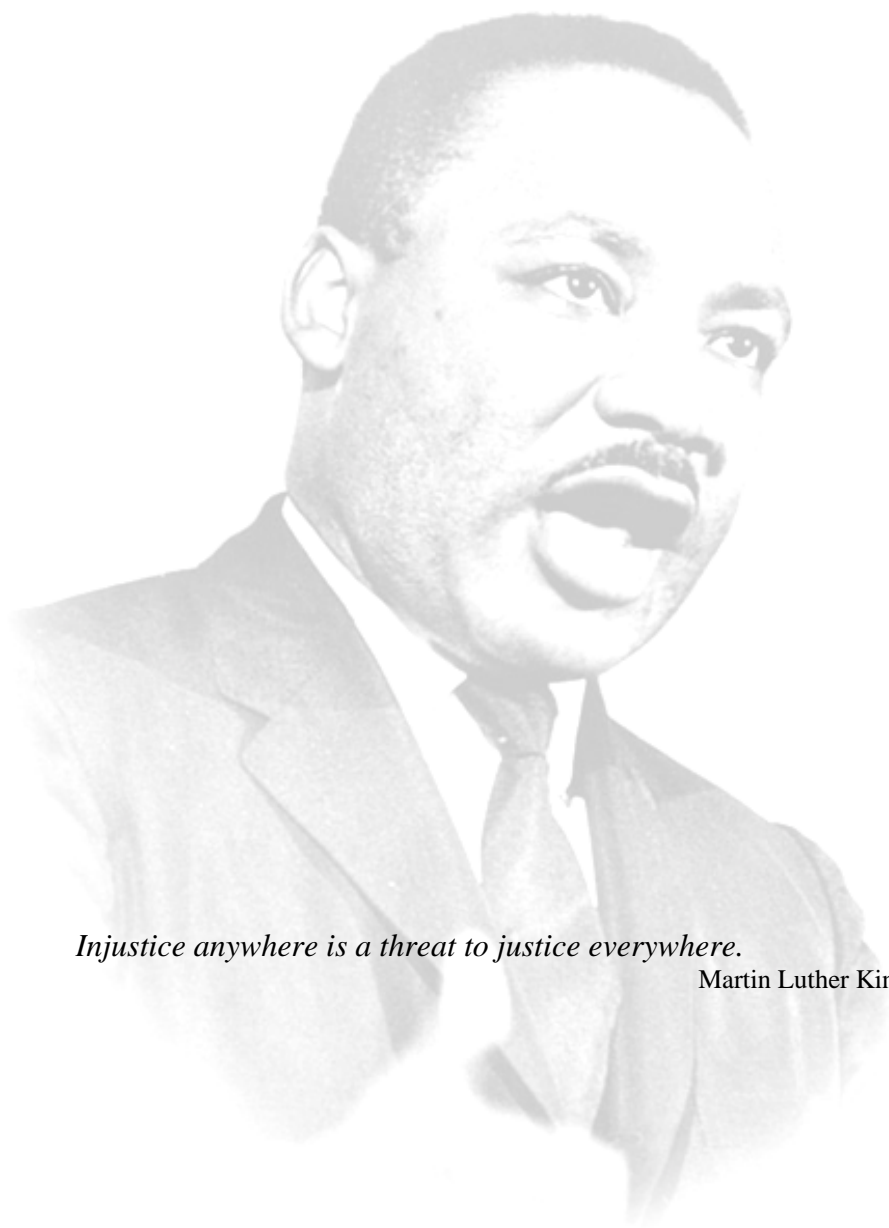




New Mexico Supreme Court

Top, l to r: Justice Richard C. Bosson, Justice Charles W. Daniels  
Bottom, l to r: Justice Patricio M. Serna, Chief Justice Edward L. Chávez, Justice Petra Jimenez Maes





*Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.*

Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Supreme Court of New Mexico  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
237 Don Gaspar  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501**

