New Mexico Judiciary

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

On the Cover

The New Mexico Supreme Court Building in summer. Radiant heating was installed beneath the flagstone walkway and an adjacent sidewalk to improve safety for visitors during the winter.

Photo credit: Beth Wojahn, Communications Officer, AOC

Acknowledgements

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

Graphics Design: Kathy Tolbert and Beth Wojahn

Editors: Barry Massey and Beth Wojahn

Statistical Addendum: Joseph Vigil, Judicial Information Division

Contents

1 Message from the Chief Justice

2 Message from the Director

3 Advancing Judicial Excellence

5 By the Numbers

6 Meet the Justices

7 Judiciary Investitures

9 Supreme Court

11 Court of Appeals

13 District Courts

27 Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court

28 Magistrate Courts

30 Magistrate Courts Facilities

33 - 44 Programs

45 State Courts Map

PROGRAMS

33 Adult Guardianship & Conservatorship

33 Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission

34 Children's Court Improvement Commission

34 Children's Court Mediation Program

35 The Commission on Access to Justice

35 Court Appointed Attorney Fund

36 Court Appointed Special Advocates

36 Domestic Violence

37 Family Advocacy Program

37 Human Resources Division

38 Judicial Information Division

39 Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission

39 Jury Services

40 Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative

40 Language Access Services

41 Magistrate Court Mediation Program

41 New Mexico Compilation Commission

42 Problem Solving Courts

43 Safe Exchange & Supervised Visitation

44 Tribal-State Judicial Consortium

About this report

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is required by law to submit an annual report to the New Mexico Supreme Court and the Legislature. NMSA 1978, § 34-9-3. This report is an overview of the Judiciary's accomplishments during the 2019 fiscal year (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019) and includes a summary of statistical data for New Mexico's appellate, district, metropolitan and magistrate courts.

This report as well as the complete Statistical Addendum can be found at nmcourts.gov.

Message from...

Chief Justice Judith K. Nakamura

As Chief Justice, it is my pleasure to present to you the New Mexico Judicial Branch Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report.

Fiscal Year 2019 marked the launch of our Campaign for Judicial Excellence. This three-year (FY20-FY22) plan, developed by our Chief Judges Council and Court Executive Officers Council, addresses national survey data suggesting that our courts are too slow, complicated, and inefficient. The Campaign advances judicial excellence by focusing on three key initiatives:

- Simplify our organizational structure and streamline case processing;
- Expand technology to better serve the public; and
- Make it easier for the public to access and understand court processes and programs.

During the last year, we have made considerable progress in each of these areas including: consolidating the administrative functions of all forty-seven magistrate courts into their local district courts; implementing a statewide online dispute resolution program in debt and money due cases; and increasing our public outreach efforts to include a first-ever presence at the New Mexico State Fair. You can find more information about the Campaign and our accomplishments at pages three and four of this year's report.

While working to advance judicial excellence our district, magistrate, and metropolitan courts handled more than 337,500 new cases and, once again, nearly half of the litigants filing civil cases in our courts appeared without a lawyer. While we continue to reach out to assist self-represented litigants at legal fairs, clinics, self-help centers, and court-sponsored alternative dispute resolution programs, the consistent appearance of self-represented litigants in our courts highlights New Mexico's access to justice gap, particularly in our rural communities. As we look ahead, we are exploring new and innovative ways to provide additional assistance to self-represented litigants as well as offer incentives for attorneys to practice in our underserved communities.

As Chief Justice, I have had the good fortune to meet with judges and court employees from across the state. This year's annual report is a window into the work of our courts but it does not tell the whole story - the story of judges and staff who come in early and work late; who understand that behind each docket number is a person who needs our assistance and deserves our respect; and who make every effort to ensure fair and equal access to justice. I have been moved and inspired by their dedication and the pride they take in their work and it is my privilege to share this report with you on their behalf.

Sincerely,

Judith K. Nakamura

Message from...

Administrative Office of the Courts Director, Arthur W. Pepin

The Annual Report reveals the great progress made by courts statewide toward achieving the goals of the Advancing Judicial Excellence Campaign. In her letter, Chief Justice Nakamura highlights some of the ways Campaign initiatives are simplifying organizational structure, expanding technology to better serve the public and making court processes and programs easier to access and understand. Through these initiatives, courts strive to be more open and responsive to the public we serve.

One particularly striking success is the initiative to consolidate magistrate courts under the administration of district courts. Local management of the 67 judges and nearly 300 magistrate court employees has already yielded significant improvements in communication among the courts, cross-training of staff, and more timely responses to court issues that arise. This major transition required those involved to have patience, listen carefully to others, and see challenges as opportunities. I am grateful to all of the judges and court staff for their positive attitude and hard work to improve not just the way courts work, but also the ways people are served when they come to a court.

A recurring theme among all the statistics and reports of court activities is service to unrepresented, or "self-represented" and "pro se" litigants. Courts can be an intimidating environment with challenging rules and practices that may seem arcane and unnecessarily complex. Many courts report data about self-help clinics, legal fairs, and self-help centers in the courts. Statewide initiatives also focus on assistance to those who do not have a lawyer as they interact with the courts including online dispute resolution, the family advocacy program, a centralized case resource center with a single 1-800 phone number for court information, and outreach activities such as the courts' presence at the State Fair.

Additional projects are underway to Advance Judicial Excellence: an exciting "dataXchange" project will create a platform for data sharing among criminal justice entities; implementation of full pretrial services in the Eleventh and Thirteenth Judicial Districts (San Juan County and Sandoval County); launching an Early Release Program for courts statewide; exploration of a curriculum and standards to allow broader limited legal practice, and projects to upgrade facilities or provide new, modern courts for the people of New Mexico.

All of this is the direct result of an amazing team of judges and court employees working to provide justice to people in its many forms. In these pages you will see some of the faces of those who work toward that goal every day. On behalf of the Administrative Office of the Courts, I am pleased and honored to present their excellent work reflected in the 2019 Annual Report.

Sincerely,

Arthur W. Pepin

Advancing Judicial Excellence

New Mexicans deserve a thriving Judiciary. To ensure that courts better meet the needs of the public, the Campaign for Judicial Excellence was launched in fiscal year 2019 to guide budget and program priorities.

The Judiciary had an amazing year Advancing Judicial Excellence, focusing on three initiatives: Simplifying the court system structure, expanding the use ofo technology to assist the public and improving access to court programs and service.

Simplifying Our Organizational Structure and Streamlining Case Processing

Administrative Consolidation

New Mexico Courts administratively consolidated magistrate and district courts to better serve the public and improve efficiency during FY19, with the Twelfth Judicial District serving as the pilot in Lincoln and Otero counties. District courts statewide assumed administrative oversight of magistrate courts on July 1, 2019.

Impact:

Court clerks are cross-trained to ensure no interruption in services when staffing needs to be shifted because of shortages, local responses to court services are streamlined, and resources like jury pools can be better coordinated. The Administrative Office of the Courts, which had provided budget, policy and human resource support for the 67 judges and 222 employees in the magistrate courts, can focus on operating statewide programs.

Expanding Technology to Better Serve the Public

E-Filing

In January 2019, the Judiciary launched a pilot for electronic filing of documents in criminal cases in the Second and Twelfth Judicial Districts. E-filing is used for submitting documents, such as motions, after a case is initially filed with the court. All district courts began to accept online subsequent filings in criminal cases on October 1. Although e-filing has been used in civil cases statewide for nearly five years, New Mexico is the first Odyssey integrated state with subsequent criminal e-filing in production.

Impact:

E-Filing is a game-changer for the courts and attorneys. Documents submitted with the filing are already electronic and do not have to be scanned by the court staff, saving time and creating efficiencies. The filer's deadline is extended beyond office and court hours to 11:59 p.m. of the deadline day, and many attorneys submit filings on weekends.

Online Dispute Resolution team at press conference launching ODR Pilot.

Online Dispute Resolution

Beginning June 1, 2019, the Judiciary piloted Online Dispute Resolution, making it possible for people to negotiate online to settle debt and money due lawsuits. In some cases, a successful resolution can lessen harm to an individual's credit rating and help avoid wage garnishments or other debt collection procedures. Project managers traveled to pilot courts in the Second, Sixth and Ninth Judicial Districts, as well Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court to lead training forums. The innovative program launched statewide September 3, 2019.

Sixth Judicial District training and getting ready for Online Dispute Resolution.

Benefits:

ODR can save people time and money by making it easier to navigate the legal system online and at their convenience. The online service is free and parties may request the assistance of a mediator during the first two weeks of online negotiation.

Making Court Processes and Programs Easier to Access and Understand

Limited Legal Technicians

In 2019, the Supreme Court acted on the need to better serve self-represented litigants and those living in rural areas by forming a workgroup to explore the feasibility of using non-lawyer practitioners to assist and advise people with certain legal matters and help alleviate a lack of legal representation in the most rural parts of New Mexico.

Twenty-one percent of New Mexico's counties have five or fewer lawyers, and a third of the state's 33 counties have 10 or fewer attorneys.

The workgroup met several times throughout the year and submitted a full report to the Supreme Court recommending proposals to improve the availability of legal services in the state.

Public Outreach at the New Mexico State Fair

In 2019, the Judiciary had a major presence at the New Mexico State Fair for the first time to enhance public awareness of court services and programs. Fairgoers who visited the New Mexico Courts booth learned outside the courtroom setting about the Judicial Branch of state government and the innovative programs available for all New Mexicans. Staff from the Administrative Office of the Courts, as well as employees and judges from courts statewide participated.

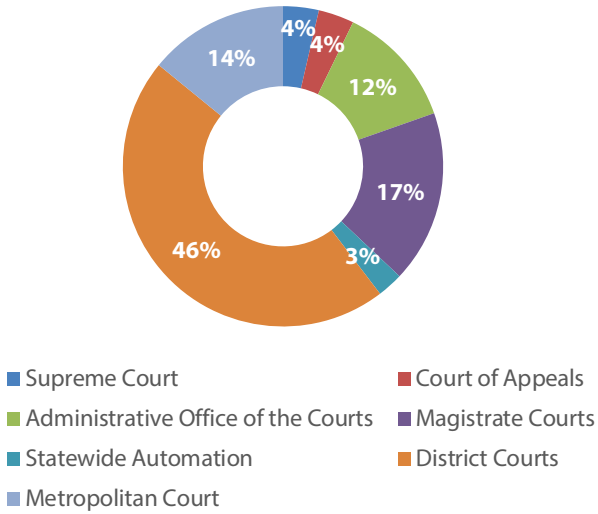
Representing the Judiciary at the New Mexico State Fair - Santa Fe County Magistrate Judge David Segura, Darla Goar, First Judicial District Judge Glenn Ellington, Chief Justice Judith Nakamura and Tamara Roybal.

By the Numbers

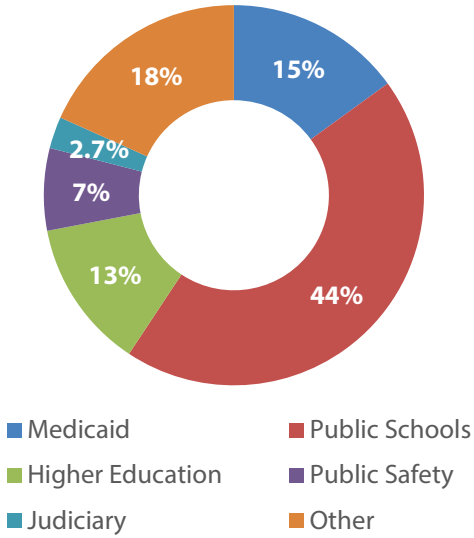
The Judiciary received a general fund appropriation of $170.1 million in the 2019 fiscal year, which ended June 30, 2019. The general fund budget for all of state government, including public education, totaled $6.3 billion in FY19.

The Judiciary's appropriation represented an increase of 6.3%, or $10.2 million, from the operating budget in the 2018 fiscal year. However, the Judiciary's funding has not fully recovered from recessionary cutbacks during the past decade. The purchasing power of the Judiciary's FY19 budget remained below the inflation-adjusted appropriation for the court system in the 2009 fiscal year, when lawmakers initially reduced the state budget as the recession undermined tax revenue.

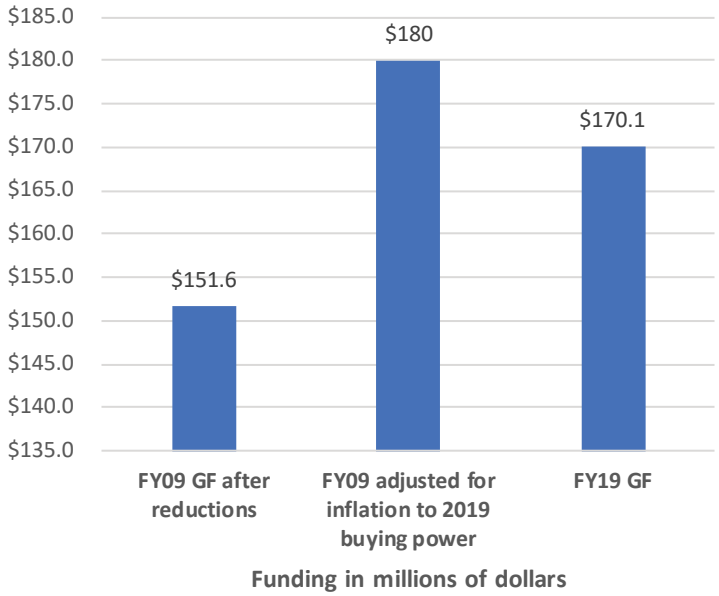
NEW MEXICO JUDICIARY
FY19 General Fund Operating Budget



General Fund Appropriations FY19



Judiciary Funding Remains Below Pre-Recession Levels after Adjusting for Inflation



Meet the Justices

Readers are Supreme – Supreme Court Justices are holding one of their favorite books in this picture. Bookmarks were made for the Judiciary's public outreach endeavors such as Law Day, the State Fair and speaking engagements.

Justice C. Shannon Bacon

Oath of Office:
February 4, 2019

Education: Bachelor of Arts in history and law degree from Creighton University

Book: The Secret History by Donna Tartt

"As I tell my young nephews, reading is so important because if you can read, you can learn anything."

Sr. Justice Barbara J. Vigil

Oath of Office:
December 7, 2012

Education: Bachelor's degree in accounting from New Mexico State University; law degree from the University of New Mexico School of Law

Book: The Seven Spiritual Laws of Success by Deepak Chopra

"Reading is valuable and important to developing one's understanding of the world and empathy for others."

Chief Justice Judith K. Nakamura

Oath of Office:
December 11, 2015

Sworn in as Chief Justice:
June 7, 2017

Education: Undergraduate and law degree from the University of New Mexico.

Book: Double Eagle by Charles McCarry

"Reading is a passport to new and exciting adventures."

Justice Michael E. Vigil

Oath of Office:
December 31, 2018

Education: Bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in history from the College of Santa Fe; law degree from Georgetown University Law Center

Book: Jonathan Livingston Seagull written by Richard Bach, "Because there are no limits to what you can achieve."

Justice David K. Thomson

Oath of Office:
February 4, 2019

Education: Bachelor's degree in economics and government from Wesleyan University; law degree from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law

Book: To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

"Atticus Finch was my vision of a small town lawyer doing things the right way for the right reasons."

Second Judicial District Court Chief Judge Stan Whitaker speaks at the investiture of Judges Felicia Blea-Rivera, Brittany Maldonado Malott and David Murphy of the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court.

Judiciary Investitures

Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court's three new Criminal Division judges Felicia Blea-Rivera, Brittany Maldonado Malott and David Murphy alongside Chief Justice Judith K. Nakamura.

Judge Maldonado Malott takes the oath of office from retired District Court Judge Alan Malott, her father-in-law.

Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court judges are sworn in by Second Judicial District Chief Judge Whitaker at the beginning of the year.

Judge Alex Rossario from the Third Judicial District with family after taking the oath of office.

Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court Chief Judge Sandra Engel administers the oath to Judge Jason M. Jaramillo.

Judge Melissa Kennelly of the Eighth Judicial District takes oath of office from Chief Judge Jeff McElroy.

Justice C. Shannon Bacon takes the oath of office with nephews by her side.

Justice Michael E. Vigil at formal investiture with wife Terry.
Retired Court of Appeals Judge James Wechsler administered the oath.

Justice David K. Thomson takes the oath of office with the support of his wife and daughter.

Supreme Court

From left to right: Justice C. Shannon Bacon, Senior Justice Barbara J. Vigil, Chief Justice Judith K. Nakamura, Justice Michael E. Vigil and Justice David K. Thomson.

The Supreme Court is the highest court for the State of New Mexico. It is the final authority on questions of law and can review decisions of the Court of Appeals as well as district courts. Appeals in capital criminal cases, Public Regulation Commission decisions and election challenges go directly to the Court.

The Supreme Court determines the rules of practice and procedure for the state bar and all state courts. It exercises supervisory control over state courts in New Mexico, including municipal and probate courts. Local governments fund municipal and probate courts, which are not part of the Judiciary's unified budget process and are not overseen by the Administrative Office of the Courts.

The Constitution authorizes the Supreme Court to order certain remedies through issuing extraordinary writs. The Court also acts on recommendations by investigatory boards and commissions for disciplining judges and attorneys and oversees the admission and regulation of attorneys in New Mexico.

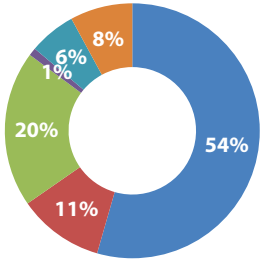
Supreme Court

The State of New Mexico's Highest Court

5 JUDGES 53 FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

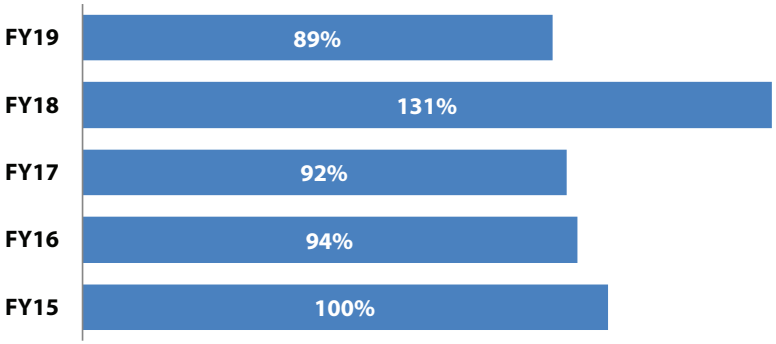
Chief Justice Judith K. Nakamura delivers State of the Judiciary address

2019 Fiscal Year Caseload
New and Reopened Cases:
711



- Review Court of Appeals rulings
- Extraordinary writs
- Review habeas corpus denials
- All other case types
- Capital, other criminal appeals, PRC, elections
- Attorney & judicial discipline, regulation

Disposition Rate



THE COURTS

Accomplishments

» Simplified the Judiciary's organizational structure by consolidating the administration of magistrate courts with district courts. The Administrative Office of the Courts had overseen magistrate court operations.

» Chief Justice Judith K. Nakamura delivered the State of the Judiciary address to a joint session of the Legislature, outlining plans for improving operations of state courts to better serve New Mexicans.

» Streamlined operations and management of the Supreme Court by administratively consolidating the Court, Law Library and Supreme Court Building Commission. With a unified structure, it is not necessary to administer three separate operating budgets or conduct three separate annual financial audits.

» Authorized the use of Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) in debt and money due cases statewide to expand the delivery of civil legal services to the public. Digital technologies like ODR are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, which reduces costs, increases convenience and makes courts more accessible to the public.

» Established a work group to consider whether the state should authorize a new non-lawyer practitioner to provide civil legal services to people unable to afford an attorney. The Court will receive a report from the work group concerning licensed legal technicians and other possible changes in court rules and programs to improve the availability of legal services in New Mexico.

» Increased transparency of the Judiciary by approving a rule change to allow for broadcasting, televising, photographing and recording of magistrate court proceedings. The change took effect Dec. 31, 2018. The guidelines for media coverage in magistrate courts now mirror what have been in place for the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, district and metropolitan courts.

» Completed upgrades to the historic Supreme Court building. A radiant heating system was installed underneath the main walkway in front of the building and an adjacent sidewalk. The heating system improves safety for visitors during the winter and reduces maintenance by eliminating the need to shovel snow and ice from the flagstone paving. New stucco also was applied to walls around the building's inner courtyard.

» Justice Michael E. Vigil joined the Court in December 2018 after being elected to the seat vacated by retiring Justice Edward Chavez. Justices C. Shannon Bacon and David K. Thomson joined the Court in early 2019, filling vacancies created by the retirement of Justices Petra Jimenez Maes and Charles W. Daniels.

Court of Appeals

Judge Kristina Bogardus is sworn in by Judge Linda Vanzi.

From left to right: Seated: Judge Julie J. Vargas, Judge Linda M. Vanzi, Chief Judge M. Monica Zamora, Judge J. Miles Hanisee, Judge Jennifer Attrep. Standing: Judge Briana H. Zamora, Megan P. Duffy, Kristina Bogardus, Jacqueline R. Medina and Zachary A. Ives.

Judge Briana Zamora taking oath as family looks on.

The Court of Appeals is the first and often final appellate court for most types of cases. The court has mandatory jurisdiction in all civil, non-capital and juvenile cases appealed from trial courts and discretionary jurisdiction over most appeals from administrative agencies. The court acts in three-judge panels and at least two judges must agree to decide a case.

Attorneys from the Prehearing Division screen appeals for assignment to the court's summary and general calendars. Staff attorneys provide the court with proposed opinions and recommendations on applications for interlocutory appeals, petitions for writs of certiorari and petitions for writs of error. Mediation is available for any matter pending before the court.

Judge Zachary Ives takes the oath of office.

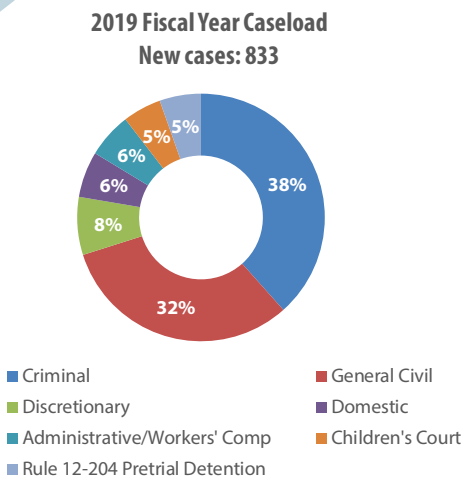
Judge Jacqueline Medina takes the oath of office.

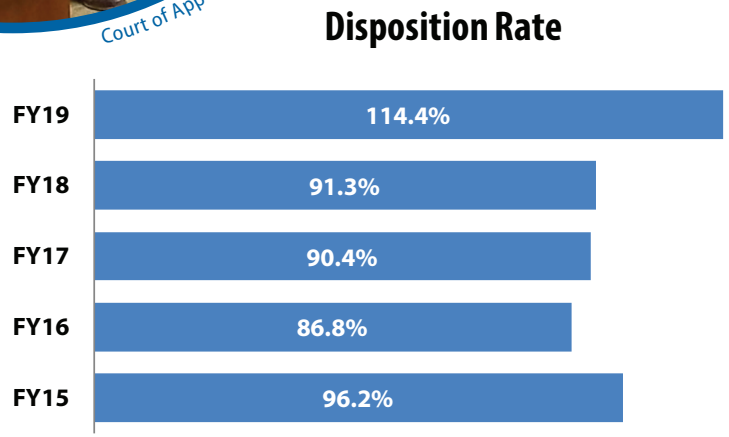
Court of Appeals

The First and often Final Appellate Court

10 JUDGES 51 FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

Court of Appeals Judge Megan Duffy takes oath of office





THE COURTS

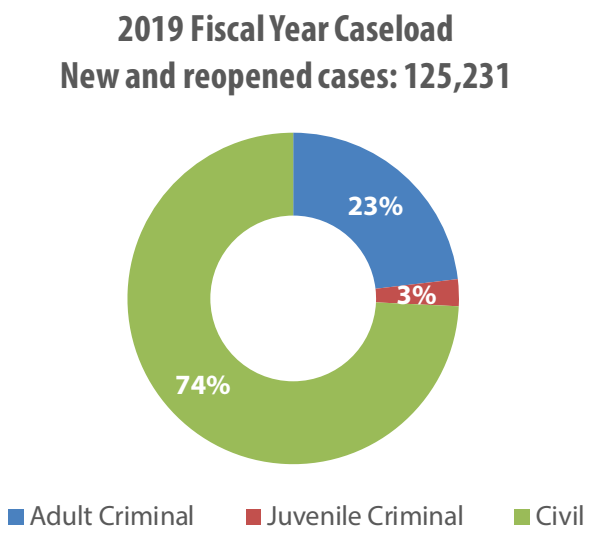
Accomplishments

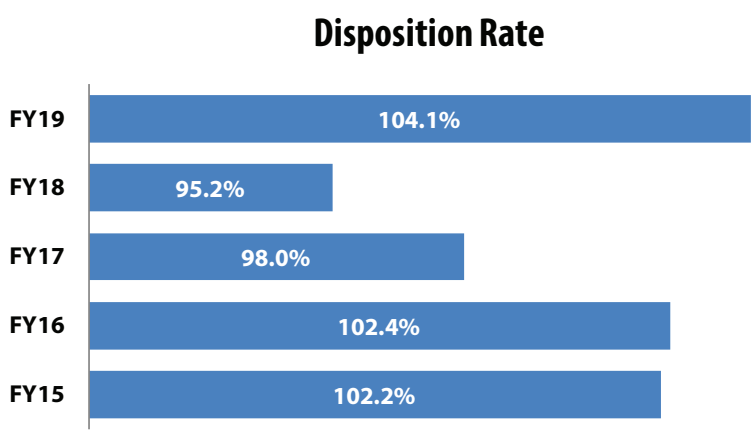
- Obtained a historically high disposition rate – 114% – while the court also experienced a historic turnover in judges because of retirements and judicial election results. Half of the court's compliment of 10 judges joined the court during the fiscal year. The disposition rate rose from 91% in FY18, and was the highest in at least the last 15 years.
- Resolved 953 cases in FY19, which is 118 more cases than the previous year, while 833 new cases were opened.
- Decided 34 expedited appeals regarding the pre-trial detention of criminal defendants. This is a significant decrease from 75 pre-trial detention appeals in FY18, indicating the court is successfully establishing case law that can be relied upon by the lower courts and litigants for this relatively new type of expedited appeal.
- Implemented major organizational and process changes in an effort to improve case flow. The court obtained a grant through which the National Center of State Courts evaluated the court and made recommendations to enhance performance.
- Enhanced transparency and access by continuing to make more case files and court materials electronically available to the public at no cost.
- Continued a collaborative relationship with the University of New Mexico School of Law to educate the next generation of attorneys and legal scholars. Judges and staff spoke to classes, served as professors and adjunct professors, judged moot court sessions, and provided educational externships.

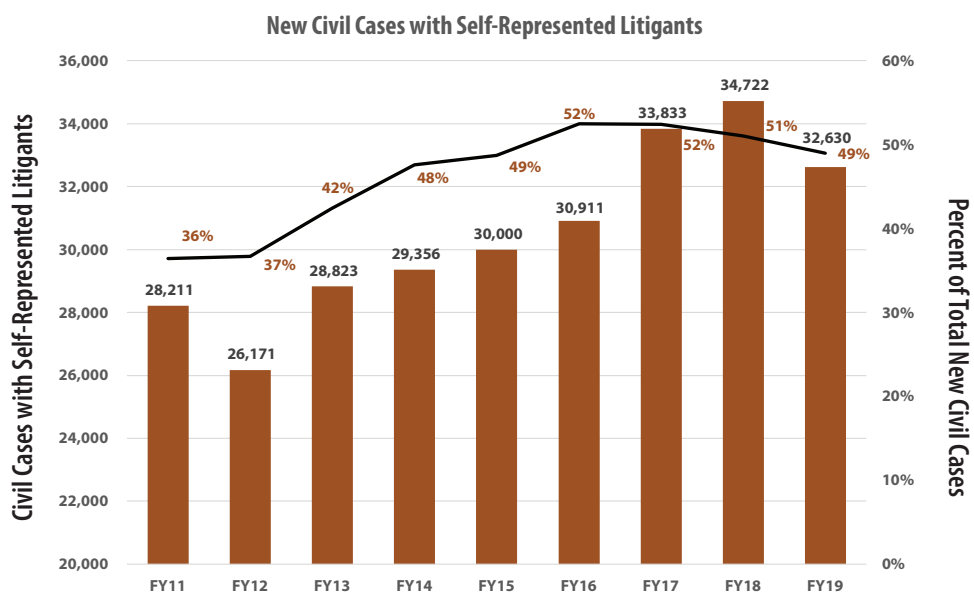
District Courts Statewide

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

There were 94 district judges in the 2019 fiscal year. The courts serve self-represented litigants in about half of newly filed civil cases, which adds to the demands on judges and staff as they ensure access to justice for those unfamiliar with legal procedures.





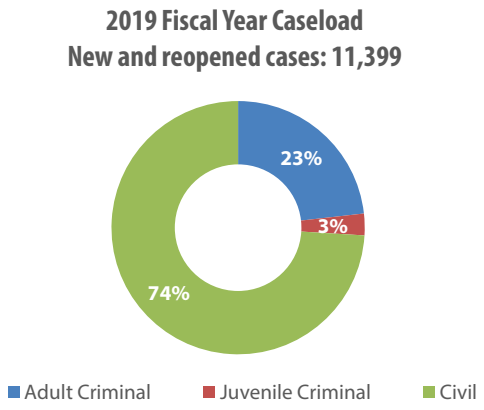


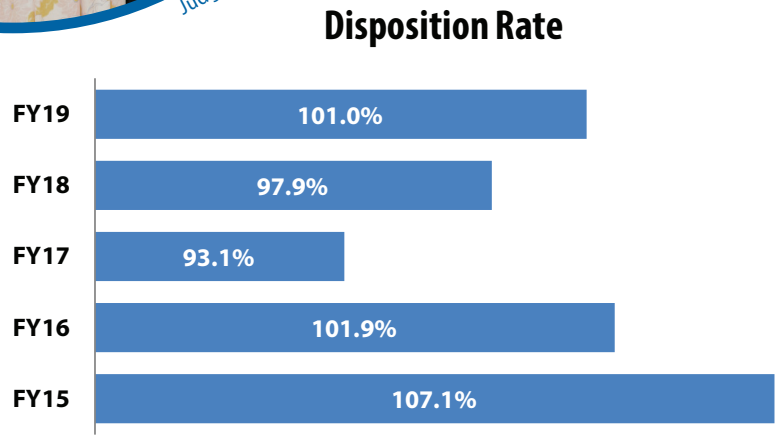
1st Judicial District

Santa Fe, Rio Arriba and Los Alamos Counties

9 JUDGES 90 FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

Judge Bryan Biedscheid and family





THE COURTS

Accomplishments

- 37 criminal jury and bench trials; 69 civil jury and bench trials.
- 17 graduates of adult and juvenile drug courts and mental health treatment court.
- More than 300 divorce and custody cases were settled at no cost to the parties through mediation by local attorneys at 22 Family Court Resolution Days.
- 268 civil and domestic cases were referred to the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) program, and 55% were resolved before or during a settlement conference. Slightly more than half of the cases involved self-represented litigants. A fifth of the cases qualified for pro bono or reduced fee services.
- 211 people attended free pro se family law orientation presentations on divorce and parentage cases. The monthly clinics at the Santa Fe Community College are in English and Spanish.
- 112 people attended six free legal clinics at the courthouse on civil matters, including landlord/tenant disputes and employee rights. Legal fairs – one each in Española and Santa Fe – assisted 115 people, mainly with child support, custody, divorce and probate matters.
- 214 cases were referred to the Residential Foreclosure Settlement Facilitation Program. Facilitators and contract attorneys conducted 406 telephonic status conferences between borrowers and lenders to try to resolve lawsuits and help people remain in their homes and resume mortgage payments. Sixty-six cases fully participated in the program and 79 percent were resolved.
- Family Court Services conducted 322 mediations, 533 priority consultations and 26 advisory consultations involving child custody, kinship guardianship and grandparent visitation issues. Mediations were conducted in 114 abuse and neglect cases involving families with children in state custody.
- 235 adult criminal defendants were referred to the Pretrial Services Division, and three-fourths were released from custody under supervision while their cases were pending. Defendants are monitored for compliance with court-ordered conditions of release, including drug and alcohol testing, electronic monitors, and mental health and substance abuse counseling.
- Information technology department closed 1,018 help desk tickets, while managing 90 active IT users and 513 devices, 25 physical and virtual servers and storage devices, five networks, 17 switches and one active directory domain. A failing server storage array was replaced, doubling storage capacity to 16TB, and three aging servers were retired by converting them to virtual servers.

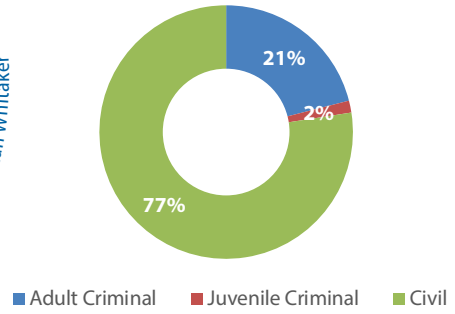
2nd Judicial District

Bernalillo County

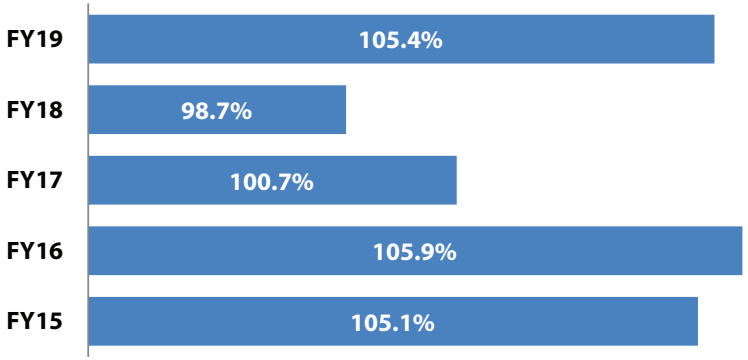
27 JUDGES 355 FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

Second Judicial District Court Chief Judge Stan Whitaker

2019 Fiscal Year Caseload
New and reopened cases: 39,898



Disposition Rate



THE COURTS

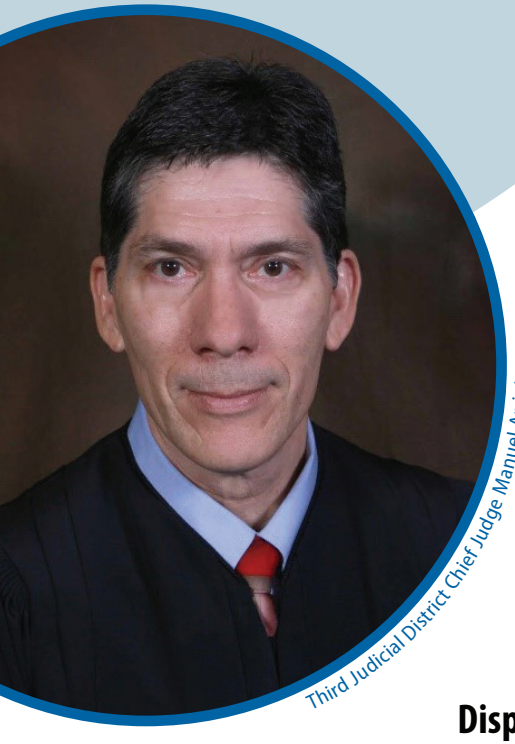
Accomplishments

- 144 criminal jury and bench trials; 38 civil jury and bench trials.
- 76 graduates of adult and juvenile drug courts, DWI court and mental health treatment court. No graduates of the Felony DWI Court have been re-arrested since it was established in 2013.
- Chief Judge Stan Whitaker received the Justice Pamela B. Minzer Professionalism Award from the State Bar of New Mexico.
- Former Chief Judge Nan Nash received the State Bar's Seth D. Montgomery Distinguished Judicial Service Award.
- The Judicial Supervision and Diversion Program was named by the State Bar as the 2019 Outstanding Legal Program. It uses evidence-based methods to determine proper levels of pretrial supervision of defendants and operates diversion programs, such as the DWI Felony Court, to enhance fairness and public safety in the justice system.
- Indian Child Welfare Act Specialty Court developed by the Children's Court for cases involving Native American children and their families.
- 1,301 people received legal assistance at civil and family law clinics, Law-La-Palooza legal fairs and Real ID fairs.
- 48 cases considered at the Family Court's annual Peter H. Johnstone Pro Se/Pro Bono Meditation Day and at least 85% resulted in partial settlement.
- 13,568 self-represented litigants served by the Center for Self-Help, with 401 needing interpreter assistance.
- Court interpreters assisted in 3,720 active cases, with 392 involving a language other than Spanish.
- The Foreclosure Settlement Program resolved 80% of its cases, allowing homeowners to remain in their homes or to relinquish homes on terms they found acceptable.
- 17,542 entries docketed in court cases by the clerk's office, court reporters and monitors, and trial court administrative assistants.
- 22,067 people served by the clerk's information desk, which also received over 39,000 phone calls.

3rd Judicial District

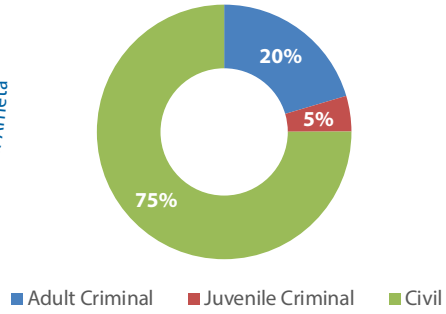
Doña Ana County

8 JUDGES 85 FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

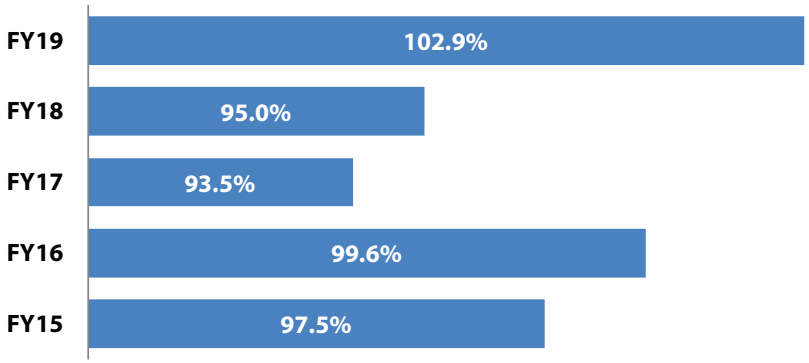


Third Judicial District Chief Judge Manuel Arrieta

2019 Fiscal Year Caseload
New and reopened cases: 12,297



Disposition Rate



THE COURTS

Accomplishments

- 40 criminal jury and bench trials; 17 civil jury and bench trials.
- 38 graduates of adult and juvenile drug courts and family treatment court.
- 7 graduates of the Veterans Treatment Court, which completed its first year of operation in FY19.
- District court assumed administrative oversight of magistrate courts in February 2019. There are three magistrate court locations in Doña Ana County with 30 full-time employees and seven judges.
- Chief Judge Manuel I. Arrieta was elected in May 2019, replacing Judge James Martin.
- 10 people successfully completed the Assisted Outpatient Treatment program during the grant year (November 2018-November 2019). The program is for adults with a serious mental disorder and has served 89 people since being established three years ago. Behavioral health services are provided currently to 52 people.
- 10,085 people assisted by the Pro-Se/Self-Help Division.
- 565 people served at legal advice clinics, with 70% of those involving domestic relations matters.
- 66 days of trial conducted by district court judges. Under consolidation, a goal is to combine jury pools for the magistrate and district courts.
- 222 civil settlement facilitations held by the mediation department, and mediation occurred in 217 domestic cases.
- A team of five in the clerk's office completed a review of 1,518 guardianship and conservatorship cases.
- A new security alert system was installed for the district and magistrate courts in Las Cruces. The system transmits messages directly to law enforcement officers and allows for notification of employees of threat situations through text and computer alerts.
- After over a decade of vacancy, the district court's deputy CEO position was filled. Stacey Madson previously had worked at the Farmington Magistrate Court DWI/Drug Court program.

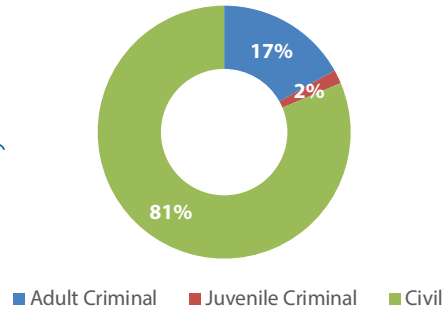
4th Judicial District

San Miguel, Guadalupe and Mora Counties

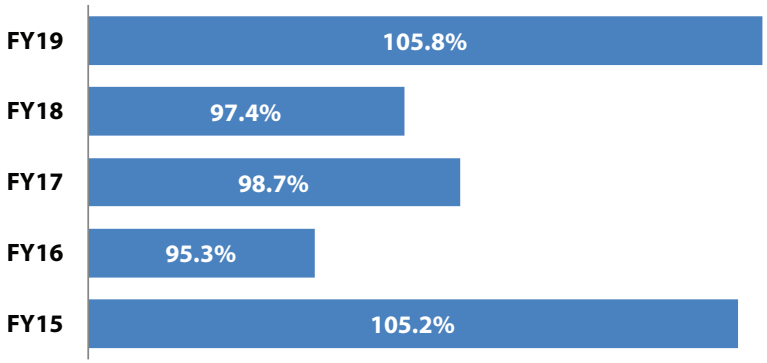
3 JUDGES 26 FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

District Court Judge Flora Gallegos and family

2019 Fiscal Year Caseload
New and reopened cases: 3,708



Disposition Rate



THE COURTS

Accomplishments

- 7 criminal jury trials; 4 bench trials.
- 6 graduates of adult drug court.
- Magistrate courts in San Miguel and Mora counties piloted a program for remotely administered pretrial assessments of defendants arrested for non-violent crimes. The assessments help determine whether defendants should be released on their own recognizance while awaiting trial. Defendants are screened through a video hookup with judiciary personnel working in Albuquerque. The assessments improve public safety by evaluating the risks posed by defendants and save taxpayer money by jailing fewer low-risk defendants before trial.
- 1,435 people assisted by the Self-Help Center, which provides forms, guidance and assistance to self-represented litigants. The public can access electronic court records through a courthouse kiosk.
- 415 supervised visits and safe exchanges for children in cases involving parental disputes, including divorce, custody and domestic violence.
- 56 children in abuse and neglect cases served by CASA volunteers.
- 100 individuals received free legal advice at a pro bono legal fair in which 18 attorneys participated.
- The San Miguel County Magistrate Court piloted a program to streamline judicial operations by having Administrative Office of the Court staff centralize data entry and processing of traffic citations issued by law enforcement without a criminal complaint.
- Theresa Delgado retired as court manager for the district court on June 28. She had worked for the district court for more than 11 years and served on many judicial committees.

Staff members (L-R) Joseph Vigil, Mary Edna Martinez and Sonia Valdez thank retired Second Judicial District Judge Ross Sanchez (seated) for hearing cases.

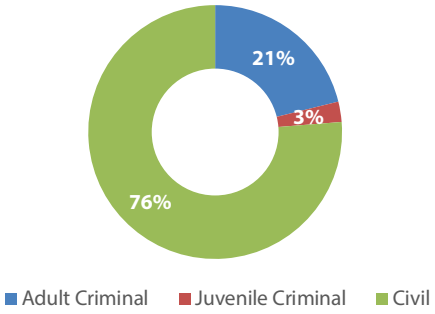
5th Judicial District

Chaves, Eddy and Lea Counties

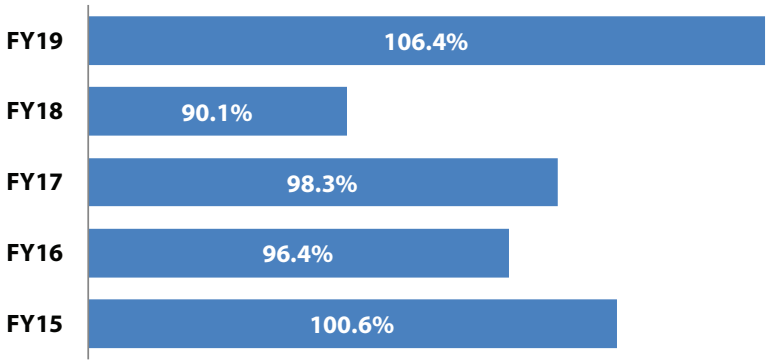
11 JUDGES 79 FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

Chaves County Courthouse in Roswell

2019 Fiscal Year Caseload
New and reopened cases: 16,263



Disposition Rate



THE COURTS

Accomplishments

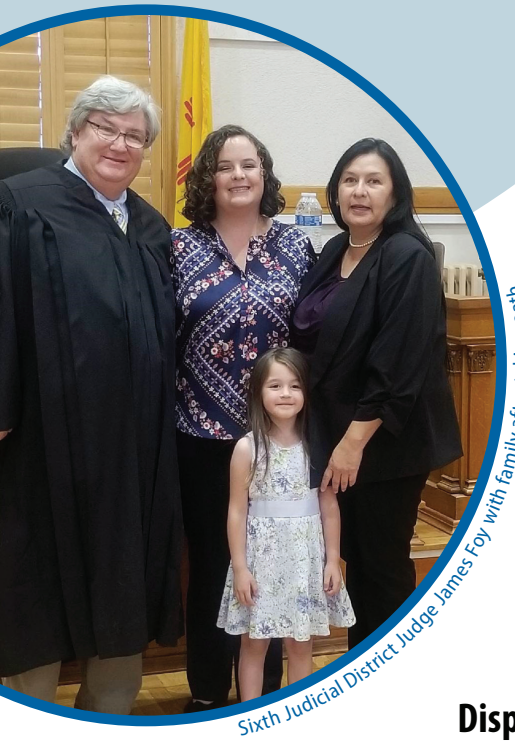
- 194 criminal jury and bench trials; 35 civil jury and bench trials.
- 15 graduates from family dependency court.
- Transitioned juvenile drug court program to an adult drug court program in Chaves County.
- 1,301 judgment and sentence orders produced in the courtroom immediately upon disposition of criminal cases.
- 319,292 entries docketed into the Odyssey electronic case management system by staff in the court clerk's office.
- 2,096 supervised visits and safe exchanges for children in cases involving parental disputes, including divorce, custody and domestic violence.
- 489 children in abuse and neglect cases served by Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) volunteers.

Chief Judge James Hudson and Court Executive Officer Kennon Crowhurst.

6th Judicial District

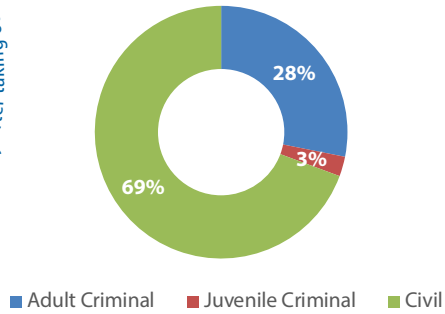
Grant, Luna and Hidalgo Counties

4 JUDGES 34 FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

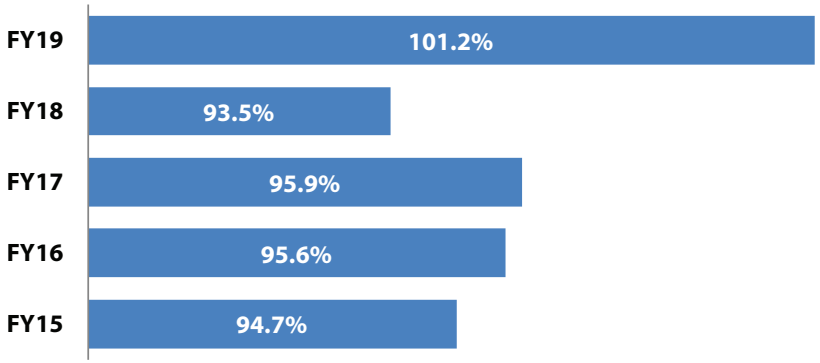


Sixth Judicial District Judge James Foy with family after taking oath

2019 Fiscal Year Caseload
New and reopened cases: 3,957



Disposition Rate



THE COURTS

Accomplishments

Court Executive Officer Melissa Frost and Chief Judge Jennifer DeLaney.

- 27 criminal jury and bench trials; 5 civil jury and bench trials.
- 26 graduates from adult and juvenile drug courts.
- District court assumed administrative oversight of magistrate courts in Grant, Luna and Hidalgo counties in January 2019. There are four magistrate court locations in the district with 19 full-time employees and four judges.
- 81 children in abuse and neglect cases served by CASA volunteers.
- 708 supervised visits and safe exchanges for children in cases involving parental disputes, including divorce, custody and domestic violence.
- 58 people received legal help at the Luna County pro bono legal fair.
- First annual Community Recovery Awareness event was held by the Luna County Adult Drug Court. It was organized by a program graduate with 459 drug-free days.
- The Luna County Adult Drug Court celebrated its third anniversary in March 2019 by hosting a barbecue. There have been 13 graduates since its inception. The Drug Court held a pumpkin carving contest for Halloween.
- The Luna County Juvenile Drug Court team played a basketball game with program participants and their parents. The participants won. The program has 129 graduates since its inception in 2000, and none have been convicted since graduating.

Sixth Judicial District Judge Thomas F. Stewart with family.

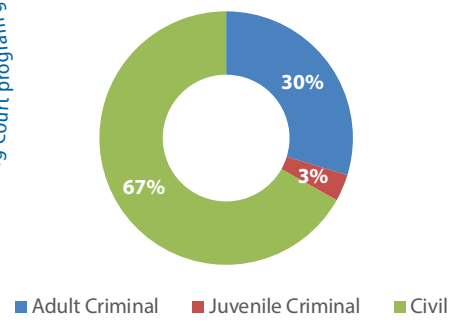
7th Judicial District

Catron, Sierra, Socorro and Torrance Counties

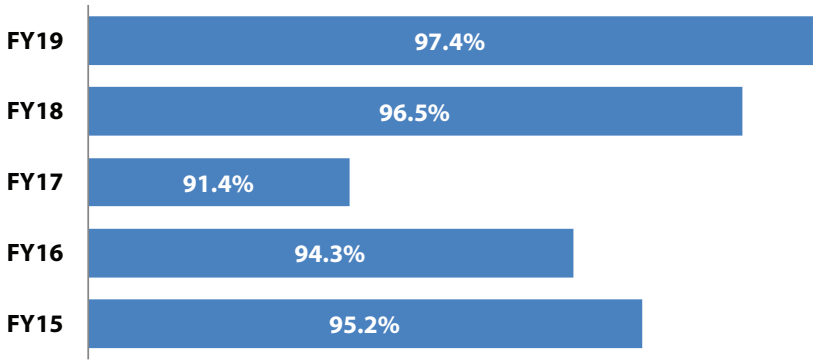
3 JUDGES 31 FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

Judge Shannon Murdock and Carl Wilcox- Torrance County Adult Drug Court program graduation

2019 Fiscal Year Caseload
New and reopened cases: 2,398



Disposition Rate



THE COURTS

Accomplishments

- 21 criminal jury and bench trials; 7 civil bench trials.
- 8 graduates from adult drug courts in Estancia, Socorro and Truth or Consequences.
- Judges in the Seventh Judicial District actively participated in Criminal Justice Coordinating Council meetings with prosecutors, defense attorneys and county officials from Torrance, Socorro, Sierra and Catron counties. Quarterly meetings were held in fiscal year 2019, but changed to monthly with the start of FY20. The council provides a forum to resolve criminal justice system issues.
- Estancia District Court offered web-based legal assistance clinics for self-represented litigants. The clinics are held in coordination with the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court and Judge Frank Sedillo.
- Judges and staff of the district courts worked with magistrate court judges and staff to prepare for an administrative consolidation that became effective with the start of the 2020 fiscal year on July 1. There are five magistrate court locations in the district with four judges and 15 full-time employees.

Drug Court Graduation: Sherilyn Oberlin (treatment provider), Brittany Bierner, Chief Judge Matthew Reynolds and Santiago Chavez.

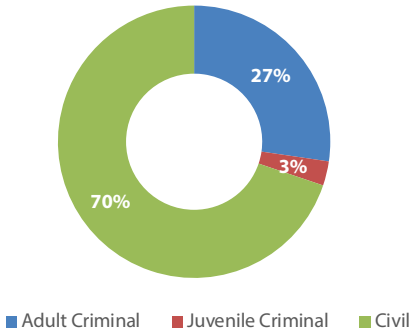
8th Judicial District

Taos, Colfax and Union Counties

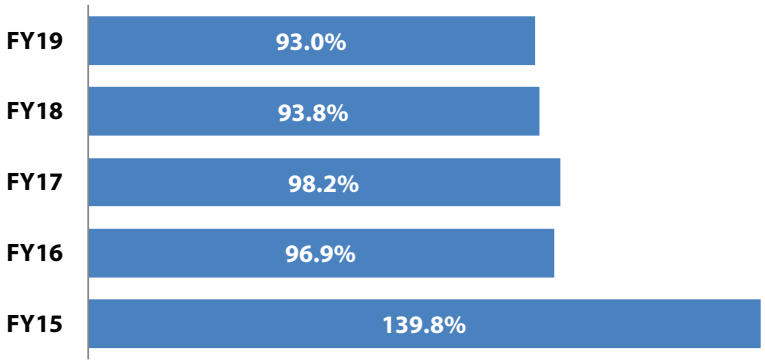
3 JUDGES 30 FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

Chief Judge Jeff McElroy and Chief Financial Officer Pam Nay

2019 Fiscal Year Caseload
New and reopened cases: 3,083



Disposition Rate



THE COURTS

Accomplishments

- 31 criminal jury and bench trials; 9 civil bench trials.
- 14 graduates from adult drug courts in Taos and Raton.
- District court assumed administrative oversight of magistrate courts in Taos, Colfax and Union counties in June 2019. There are four magistrate court locations in the district with 13 full-time employees and five judges. The district hired its first HR administrator in April to handle increased human resources needs from the administrative consolidation of courts.
- 874 people assisted by the Taos Help Desk, which operates Monday -Thursday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Help Desk offers monthly video appointments to provide assistance in Colfax and Union counties.
- 267 free legal consultations scheduled by the Help Desk with Taos lawyers and 47 consultations in Raton. The Help Desk launched a monthly Family Law Clinic in July 2019 in cooperation with a local legal non-profit group.
- 48 children in abuse and neglect cases served by CASA volunteers.
- 200 supervised visits and safe exchanges for children in cases involving parental disputes, including divorce, custody and domestic violence.
- Judge Melissa Kennelly filled a vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Sarah Backus in February 2019. Judge Kennelly is assigned to the courthouse in Raton.
- Court CEO Kasey Daniel joined the court in February 2019.

District and magistrate judges of the Eighth Judicial District at June 2, 2019 conference.

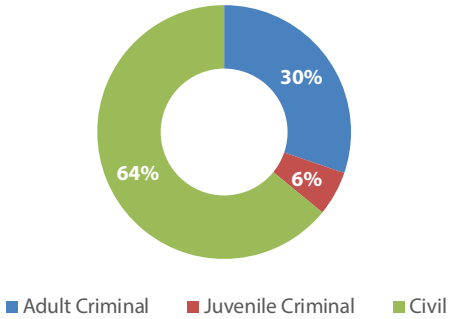
9th Judicial District

Curry and Roosevelt Counties

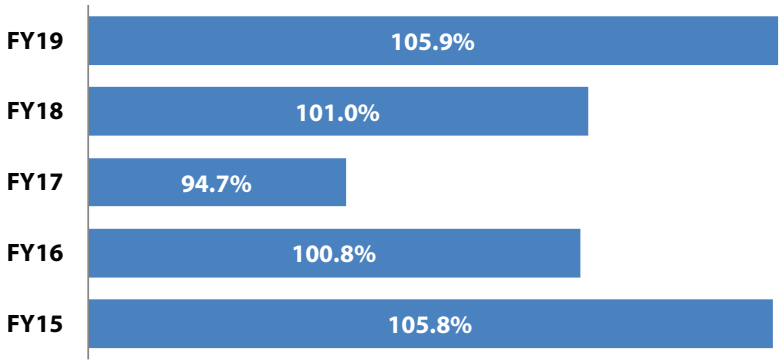
5 JUDGES 46 FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

Roosevelt County Courthouse in Portales

2019 Fiscal Year Caseload
New and reopened cases: 4,346



Disposition Rate



THE COURTS

Accomplishments

- 69 criminal jury and bench trials; 7 civil bench trials.
- 11 graduates from adult drug courts in Clovis and Portales.
- District court assumed administrative oversight of magistrate courts in Curry and Roosevelt counties in December 2018. There are two magistrate court locations in the district with 13 full-time employees and three judges.
- District and magistrate courts in Curry and Roosevelt counties piloted a program for Online Dispute Resolution in debt and money due cases. The free service allows the parties to negotiate online and quickly resolve their dispute without appearing in court.
- More than 100 mediations by the court mediation program, with self-represented litigants accounting for most of the participants.
- 193 self-represented litigants assisted at more than two dozen free legal clinics. A record number of people were served by the clinics during the fiscal year.
- 138 people received legal help at the 7th annual Ask-A-Lawyer event in Clovis.
- 9 adoptions finalized at the court's Adoption Day event. The adopted children gaveled their adoption hearing to a close and each received a teddy bear to commemorate this special day.
- 23 couples were married during the first Valentine's Day wedding events held in the Curry and Roosevelt county district courts.
- Judges and staff appeared in schools for Constitution Day, Character Counts, Career Day and other events through a Courts in the Community program, and also hosted school field trips to courthouses.

All Judges in the Ninth Judicial District (from left to right): Magistrate Judge Chris Mitchell, District Judge Matt Chander, District Judge Donna Mowrer, Chief District Judge Drew Tatum, District Judge Fred Van Soelen, Magistrate Judge Janemarie Vander Dussen, Magistrate Judge Shaun Burns.

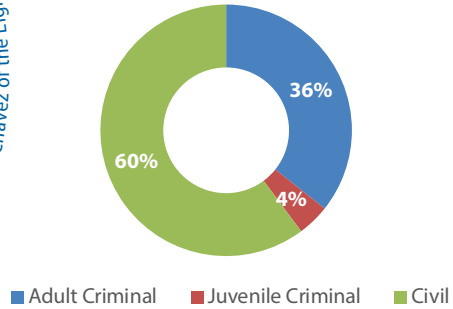
10th Judicial District

De Baca, Harding and Quay Counties

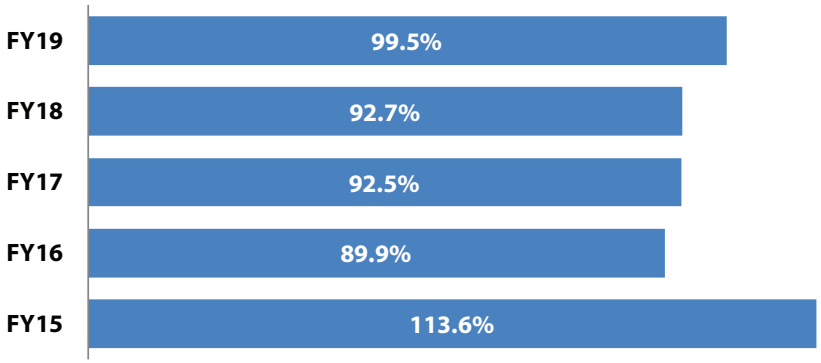
1 JUDGE 9 FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

Chief Judges Albert Mitchell Jr. of the Tenth District (r) and Emilio Chavez of the Eighth District

2019 Fiscal Year Caseload
New and reopened cases: 821



Disposition Rate



THE COURTS

Accomplishments

- 9 criminal jury and bench trials.
- District court assumed administrative oversight of magistrate courts on July 1, 2019. There are three magistrate court locations in De Baca, Harding and Quay counties with six full-time employees and three judges.
- In preparation for court consolidation, judges and staff of the six courts across the district gathered in June and held a cookout in the parking lot of the Quay County Magistrate Court in Tucumcari. Judges cooked on barbecue grills and staff provided side dishes.
- Improvements to the courtroom in the De Baca County Courthouse. A new railing was installed in the jury box and juror seats were secured to the floor.
- A car was purchased for travel on judicial business by the district court clerk staff and the court executive officer. Magistrate court judges traveling from the district utilize a vehicle previously used by the district court staff.

Court Executive Officer Marion Payton and Lynette Paulman-Rodriguez at a budget hearing.

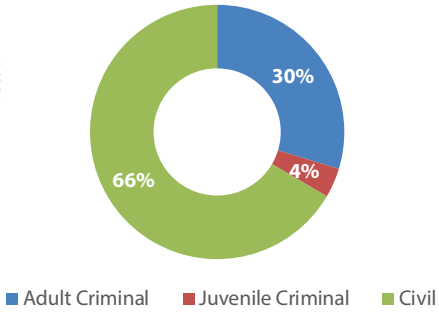
11th Judicial District

San Juan and McKinley Counties

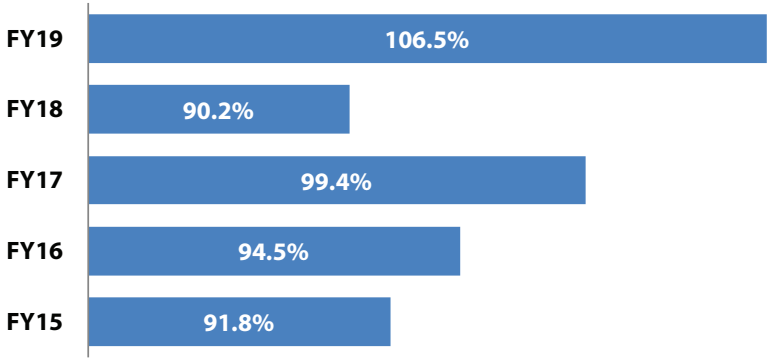
8 JUDGES 81 FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

Chief Judge Karen L. Townsend and Court Executive Officer Weldon Neff

2019 Fiscal Year Caseload
New and reopened cases: 9,636



Disposition Rate



THE COURTS

Accomplishments

- 83 criminal jury and bench trials; 8 civil bench trials.
- Pretrial services staff screened 332 offenders for possible pretrial supervision and release from jail. Two-thirds of the defendants were released to pretrial supervision.
- 23 graduates of adult and juvenile drug courts and mental health treatment court.
- 361 people were assisted at legal fairs in McKinley and San Juan counties.
- 267 people were assisted at monthly legal clinics in McKinley and San Juan counties; 44% of those receiving free legal aid earned less than $15,000 a year.
- District court assumed administrative oversight of magistrate courts on April 1, 2019. There are four magistrate court locations in San Juan and McKinley counties with 38 full-time employees and nine judges.

Judge Rena Scott, Ashley Lucero, Geri Hughbanks, Judge Cynthia Sanders and Judge April Silversmith at the New Mexico State Fair.

- Juvenile drug court clients participated in specialized programs that teach public safety, teamwork and trust. The "To Save a Life Program" helps youth in the juvenile justice system learn about the effects of drunken driving. Clients and their families attend classes, including a victim impact panel and presentations about alcohol-involved traffic crashes. The Summer Adventure Challenge lasts 1½ weeks and at-risk youth participate in biking, canoeing, rappelling and a ropes course – activities they may not otherwise experience – to learn team-building skills and form relationships with juvenile probation officers and law enforcement.
- More than 175 people – clients of the problem solving courts and their family members – were served Thanksgiving dinner by staff of the programs. Court employees and local businesses donate food for the annual dinner, which was first held in 2012.
- 135 children in abuse and neglect cases served by CASA volunteers.
- 342 supervised visits and safe exchanges for children in cases with parental disputes, including divorce, custody and domestic violence.

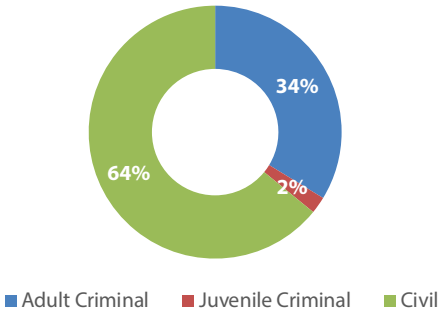
12th Judicial District

Lincoln and Otero Counties

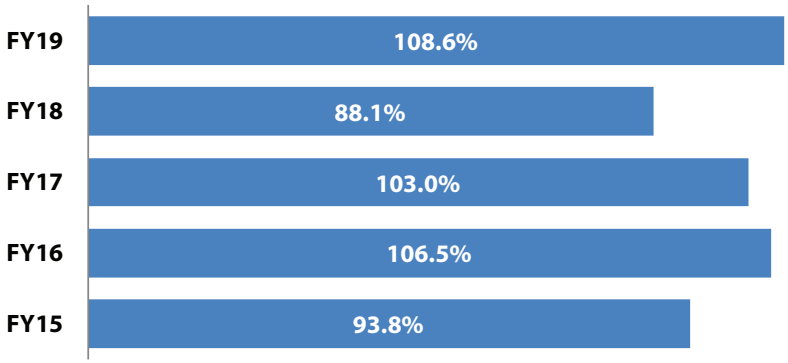
4 JUDGES 41 FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

District Judges James Counts and Angie Schneider during production of self-help video

2019 Fiscal Year Caseload
New and reopened cases: 5,261



Disposition Rate



THE COURTS

Accomplishments

- 123 criminal jury and bench trials in district court; 25 civil jury and bench trials.
- Served as the pilot for the Judiciary's administrative consolidation of district and magistrate courts. The district court assumed administrative oversight of magistrate courts in June 2018. There are three magistrate court locations in Lincoln and Otero counties with 14 full-time employees and four judges. More than 7,900 criminal, traffic and civil cases were filed in the magistrate courts during FY19.
- Centralized and streamlined juror administrative functions of the district and magistrate courts, eliminating duplicate work among staff and providing the public with a single point of contact about jury service.
- Served as one of two district courts to pilot electronic filing of criminal cases.
- 450 defendants referred to the court's pretrial services program.
- 7,529 hearings conducted by the district court.
- 150 cases to the court-connected mediation program.

Judges in the district attended the Bench and Bar Conference at the annual meeting of the State Bar of New Mexico. (L-R) Magistrate Judge Vickie Vega, District Court Judges Daniel Bryant, Angie Schneider and James Counts, Supreme Court Justice Petra Jimenez Maes, District Judge Steven Blankinship, Magistrate Judges Katie Lund and Michael Ryan Suggs.

- 11 graduates of the adult and juvenile drug courts in FY19, and 364 participants since the programs' inception.
- Self-help center used 6,647 times by the public.
- The court produced a series of videos about the legal process to assist the public. Videos offer information about jury service, what a person should do when appearing in court, available legal resources for self-represented litigants and the procedures for resolving a traffic citation.

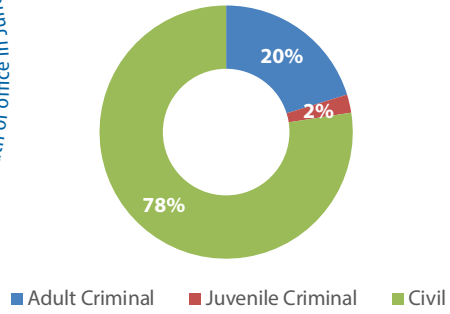
13th Judicial District

Cibola, Sandoval and Valencia Counties

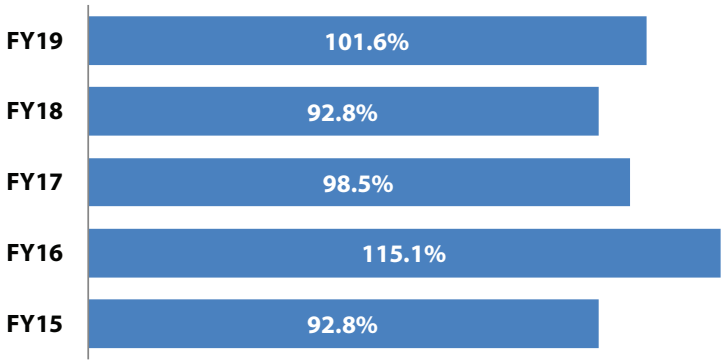
8 JUDGES 82 FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

District Court Judge Amanda Sanchez Villalobos takes the oath of office in June 2019

2019 Fiscal Year Caseload
New and reopened cases: 12,164



Disposition Rate



THE COURTS

Accomplishments

- 132 criminal jury and bench trials; 70 civil jury and bench trials.
- 64 graduates of adult and juvenile drug courts, family dependency treatment court and mental health court.
- Cibola County Drug Court began outdoor therapeutic programming with the Santa Fe Mountain Center, the first adult drug court in the state to do so.
- Sandoval County Drug Court successfully pursued a grant from the state Behavioral Health Services Division to add a case manager to the treatment court team.
- Pretrial services program supervised a daily average of more than 200 defendants in Sandoval and Valencia counties.
- Foreclosure settlement program bought together homeowners and lenders 796 times, and presented 100 foreclosure workshops to homeowners.
- 1,101 people assisted at 35 legal clinics during the fiscal year.
- 2,117 supervised visits and safe exchanges for children in cases involving parental disputes, including divorce, custody and domestic violence.

Magistrate Judge John Chavez, Sherry Aragon, Stephanie Trujeque , District Court Chief Judge Louis McDonald and Erin Olson at the New Mexico State Fair.

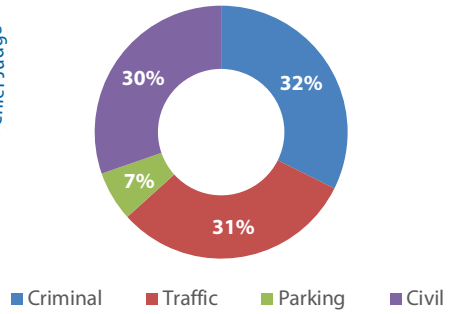
Metropolitan Court

Bernalillo County

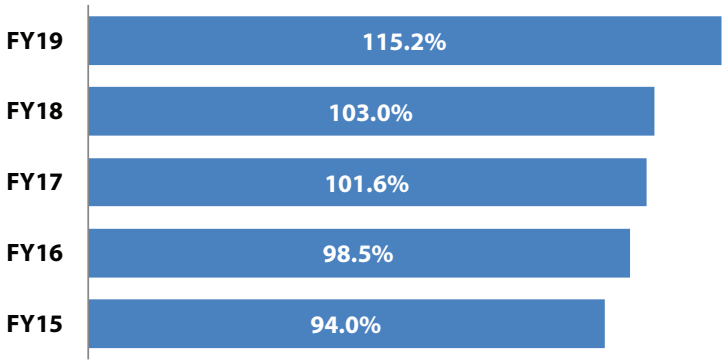
19 JUDGES 321 FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

Judges Felicia Blea-Rivera and David Murphy take the oath of office from Chief Judge Sandra Engel

2019 Fiscal Year Caseload
New and reopened cases: 66,824



Disposition Rate



THE COURTS

Accomplishments

- 22,180 criminal jury and bench trials; 21,231 civil bench trials.
- 4,037 defendants were supervised by the Felony Pretrial Services Division, and 3,573 defendants were supervised in misdemeanor cases.
- 6,578 felony first appearances and 6,373 preliminary examination hearings were scheduled.
- 98% of defendants released pretrial from the release on recognizance (ROR) program appeared for their first court date.
- 141 graduates of DWI drug court and mental health court.
- Started the Substance Use and Treatment Options Program (STOP), which is Metro Court's 12th specialty court. The program addresses the causes of addiction for those charged with a non-violent substance use-related felony, in which the defendant has pleaded to a misdemeanor.
- Received a five-year, nearly $2 million federal grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to enhance services in seven specialty court programs.
- Homeless Court was renamed Outreach Court and was restructured to follow the American Bar Association's seven guiding principles for these specialty courts. Local community providers serve as the gateway for participants to voluntarily enter the program.
- 82.5% graduation rate for the DWI Recovery Court and the Urban Native American Healing to Wellness Court. The combined recidivism rate was 6.9%.
- 298 people received free legal assistance at monthly civil legal clinics, which can serve up to 25 people each month.
- Judges and staff met after-hours with 13 community organizations to talk about the court's work and to address citizens' concerns.
- Judge Sandra Engel was elected chief judge.

Magistrate Clerk of the Year Alisha Archunde of Grants Court.

New magistrate judge training.

Magistrate Courts

Magistrate courts have limited jurisdiction and handle DWI cases, misdemeanors, traffic violations, civil actions up to $10,000 and hold preliminary hearings to determine probable cause on felony charges. Magistrate judges are not required to be lawyers except in Doña Ana County. Judges serve four-year terms and must run for election in partisan elections.

District courts have assumed administrative oversight of magistrate courts statewide, taking over supervision that had been provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). The consolidation simplified the Judiciary's organizational structure and streamlined processes to make court operations more efficient. Courts can pool resources and cross train staff. The Twelfth Judicial District piloted the consolidation in Lincoln and Otero counties. Four other districts completed the restructuring during the fiscal year and the change took effect in all remaining courts on July 1, 2019.

Roosevelt County Magistrate Court – Desiree Garrison, Judge Christopher Mitchell, Tiffany Lopez, Jamie Lindemann and Kelcy Johnson.

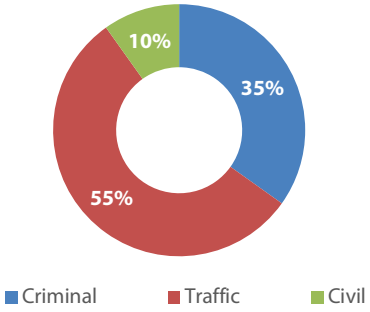
Magistrate Court

46 Courts Statewide

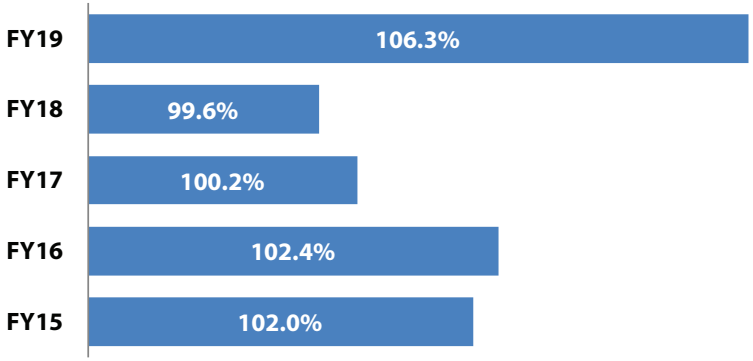
67 JUDGES 222 FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

Mora County Magistrate Court Judge John Sanchez in new courtroom

2019 Fiscal Year Caseload
New and reopened cases: 145,457



Disposition Rate



THE COURTS

Accomplishments

- 9,067 criminal jury and bench trials in magistrate courts statewide; 771 civil jury and bench trials.
- 63 graduated from drug courts in Doña Ana, Eddy, San Juan, San Miguel, Santa Fe, Torrance and Valencia counties.
- The Warrant Enforcement Program in the AOC was reconfigured to improve compliance with court orders. The program previously focused on defendants in magistrate court cases who were subject to an arrest warrant for non-compliance, such as for missing a court appearance or failing to pay fines and fees. Three units were established in the restructuring. Training and enhancements to technology resulted in a statewide error rate of less than 1% for citation data entered into the Odyssey electronic case management system.
- The citation processing unit standardized intake and processing of uniform traffic citations filed in magistrate courts. The unit researches and validates citation information, searches the electronic case management system for outstanding cases, issues summons, processes returned mail and assists people with citations by explaining court procedures. Centralized citation processing was piloted in the Fourth Judicial District, and was expanded to courts in the Sixth, Seventh, Ninth and Tenth districts. The service will be in place for courts statewide by the end of December 2020.
- The customer service unit offers a toll-free telephone number for assisting court customers from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on weekdays. People also can email questions, and answers are provided within two hours from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week, except holidays. Customers wishing to pay fines, fees and other court costs are directed to an online system or transferred to a vendor that accepts payments over the phone. The unit responded to calls from 2,503 people and sent 13,612 text messages during the pilot phase through the end of FY19.
- The compliance unit reviews cases with an active warrant and seeks to contact defendants, including by email and postcards. Staff assists defendants, providing court contacts to help bring individuals back into compliance. The unit is preparing a pilot project to send reminders to defendants of due dates for matters involving their court cases.
- The restructuring of the program and its focus on standardization, data quality and public outreach resulted in a 23% decrease in the failure to appear rate for defendants in the pilot court in the Fourth Judicial District.

MAGISTRATE COURT FACILITIES

Magistrate courts require improved facilities to accommodate the public's need for judicial services. As court buildings age, they pose safety and security concerns and need replacement over time. The Magistrate Facilities Division of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) has worked on developing a cost efficient and effective model for new magistrate court buildings. The division is preparing guidelines that provide a yardstick for comparing construction costs of facility projects, establishing standards for the space required for courts, and developing standards to assess whether courthouse space is used efficiently. The following are projects the division has worked on:

Mora Magistrate Court: In May, the court moved into a 5,663-square foot facility on the second floor of the Mora County Complex, which serves as the county courthouse and has county administrative offices. The magistrate court had operated since 2005 out of a small portable building at the Mora High School.

Belen Magistrate Court: Belen has secured financing for a new magistrate court adjacent to City Hall. The one-courtroom building is being designed and selection of a contractor is under way. The projected completion is in the winter of 2020.

Lovington Magistrate Court: Lovington has obtained funding to build a new magistrate court on the city's main street, one block away from the new Lea County Judicial Complex. AOC is in the process of selecting a contractor.

Ruidoso Magistrate Court: The village of Ruidoso and the AOC are working together to construct a building for a magistrate court and some district court operations. The village has some funding to study the project, which is proposed for the community's Horton Complex. Under the plan to improve court facilities, Lincoln County will allow the Carrizozo Magistrate Court to be located in the Lincoln County Courthouse.

Grants Magistrate Court: A contract has been awarded for a real estate group to build a new court that will be leased by the AOC. Project completion is expected by the summer of 2020.

Clovis Magistrate Court: The AOC and Curry County are collaborating on construction of a magistrate court with two courtrooms. The building will be adjacent to the district court and will create a convenient judicial complex to better serve the public. Cost and feasibility studies are underway.

Anthony Magistrate Circuit Court: The community of Anthony and AOC are working on a project to build a new magistrate court. Until a new facility is available, AOC is exploring the relocation of the court to the Anthony Municipal Complex, which houses the municipal court.

Santa Fe Magistrate Court: AOC plans to seek capital funding from the Legislature to construct a new state-owned building with four courtrooms.

Court Consolidation Projects: Having one location for all judicial operations is an option for better serving communities. AOC is exploring the possibility of moving the Raton Magistrate Court to the Colfax County District Courthouse, and is investigating possible co-location of magistrate courts in Guadalupe, De Baca and Union counties.

Belen Magistrate Court architectural rendering

Cibola County Justice Complex architectural rendering

Lovington Magistrate Court architectural rendering

Ruidoso Magistrate Court architectural rendering

Language Access Services staff present Director Artie Pepin with a plaque thanking him for his continued support. Pictured left to right: Paula Couselo-Findikoglu, Alex Araiza, Anabel Vela, Artie Pepin, Janie Hernández, Joshua Kahawai, Peggy Cadwell and Margarita Araiza-Johnston.

Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court Chief Judge Sandra Engel and Second Judicial District Chief Judge Stan Whitaker .

First Judicial District Chief Judge Mary Marlowe Sommer and Court Executive Officer Kathleen Vigil.

Eighth Judicial District judges and staff at a consolidation retreat in June.

The Judiciary Z Team visited the Behavioral Health Institute in Las Vegas, New Mexico.

Supreme Court justices with security officer Ralph Vigil (center front) at his retirement.

The Judiciary's next generation - Roman Salazar, son of Greg Salazar of the Fourth Judicial District, poses as a judge at the New Mexico State Fair.

Pictured left to right: Third Judicial District Chief Judge Manuel Arrieta, Samantha Woodward, David Borunda, Rosie Duran and Stacey Madson.

Judge Jacqueline Flores, fourth from the right, who presides over Second Judicial District Court Felony DWI Court, with nine graduates.

Chief Justice Judith K. Nakamura and First Judicial District Judge Glenn Ellington at the State Fair.

Judge Donna Mowrer, left, and Court Executive Officer Kevin Spears, right, from the Ninth Judicial District.

District and magistrate court staff and judges from the Sixth District.

Chief Judge Gerald Baca and Court Executive Officer Robert Duran from the Fourth Judicial District at a budget hearing.

Senior Justice Barbara Vigil, center right, Justice Shannon Bacon, second from right, and District Judge Victor Lopez, center left, hosted a group of Mongolian judges.

Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) training for Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court.

Adult Guardianship & Conservatorship

New Mexico continued to make significant improvements to the probate code and the legal and court process for adult guardianship and conservatorship cases by enacting Senate Bill 395 during the 2019 legislative session. A part-time staff attorney with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) participated in a wide range of committees and activities to assist the Judiciary in implementing the many changes required by the 2019 legislation and by a measure enacted in 2018 (Senate Bill 19).

L-R: Supreme Court Chief Justice Judith K. Nakamura, former State Auditor Wayne Johnson and Rep. Damon Ely highlighted changes in state law and court rules for the adult guardianship system in 2018.

During fiscal year 2019, the staff attorney:

- Participated in the Guardianship Reform Implementation Steering Committee to make recommendations to the Supreme Court regarding the use of funds appropriated to the AOC for guardianship improvements during the 2018 legislative session and possible future revisions to the guardianship system.
- Assisted in implementing a memorandum of understanding with the Office of the State Auditor to perform audits of certain adult guardianship and conservatorship cases.
- Conducted lunchtime training sessions for court clerks on the new court processes to docket cases correctly in Odyssey.
- Facilitated and made presentations on adult guardianship system at the annual Bench and Bar Conference for the State Bar of New Mexico, Elder Law Institute, and Office of Guardianship training for contract attorneys and corporate guardians.

Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission

L-R: Magistrate Court Mediation Program coordinators Cassandra Brown, Abby Foster, Ana Padilla, Maggie Reynolds and Sally Margolin at a two-day leadership retreat in 2019 to discuss strategies for offering mediation services to more parties statewide.

The Statewide Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Commission was established in 2011 to develop, organize and monitor court-connected alternatives to formal litigation. In fiscal year 2019 the Commission:

- Continued working with judicial districts on sliding fee scales and local rules that would comply with newly enacted legislation, and allow for expansion of civil dispute resolution programs statewide.
- Collaborated with the Judicial Education Center and ADR Bureau of the General Services Department to expand training opportunities in conflict resolution to the judicial branch.
- Continued efforts to improve access to ADR programs statewide.

Online Dispute Resolution

Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) was piloted in debt and money dues cases in the Second, Sixth and Ninth Judicial Districts in June and was implemented statewide in September 2019. The free service allows the parties to negotiate online to resolve debt and money due cases without appearing in court. In some cases, a successful resolution can lessen harm to an individual's credit rating and help avoid wage garnishments or other debt collection procedures. The ODR system asks questions of each party about what they want to potentially resolve the lawsuit. During the first two weeks of online negotiation, the parties may request the

assistance of a trained mediator. If no agreement is reached after 30 days, the case moves forward in court.

Heidi Allen from Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court is ready for Online Dispute Resolution.

Among the benefits of ODR:

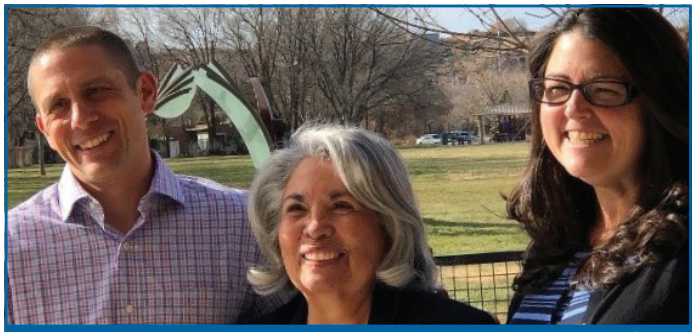
- New Mexicans can save time and money by negotiating online to quickly settle lawsuits over unpaid debts.
- The online system is available 24/7, offering a convenient alternative to appearing in court in person.
- Makes it easier to navigate the court system for those with a legal problem.

Children's Court Improvement Commission

The New Mexico Supreme Court appoints a broadly based commission to oversee federal grants for improving child welfare court systems. The commission includes judges, legislators, representatives from the protective services and juvenile justice programs of the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD), attorneys, child and family advocates, educators, service providers, foster parents, former foster youth and other interested parties. Under the federal grants, training for attorneys and judges is provided at the Corinne Wolfe Center for Child and Family Justice (CWC) and New Mexico State University through an agreement with the Administrative Office of the Courts.

During fiscal year 2019, the commission:

- Worked jointly with CYFD for enactment of legislation (Senate Bill 23) to extend foster care services to the age of 21. The new state law is called the Fostering Connections Act.
- Advocated successfully for creation of a task force that will recommend ways to improve legal services for children and parents in abuse and neglect proceedings. The Legislature approved Senate Joint Memorial 10 in 2019 to establish the task force and directed it to submit a report by July 15, 2020. The task force includes legislators, Children's Court judges, national experts in children's law, a former foster youth, a parent and attorneys involved in the child welfare system, and CYFD representatives.
- Held the 26th annual Children's Law Institute, which drew more than 1,000 registrants.


The Children's Court Improvement Commission is chaired by Ezra Spitzer (left) and Chief Judge Jennifer DeLaney of the Sixth Judicial District (right). In FY19, the commission celebrated the retirement of Supreme Court Justice Petra Jimenez Maes (center).

Children's Court Mediation Program

The Children's Court Mediation Program facilitates communication between family members and child welfare professionals involved in child abuse and neglect cases. In fiscal year 2019, the program's 12 highly skilled and trained mediators provided services in 677 child welfare cases to assist in clarifying issues and reaching agreements regarding open adoption, placement, visitation, and treatment services for families in order to improve permanency outcomes for children. Family participants expressed a strong level of satisfaction with the mediation services, with 94% of family participants reporting that the mediator was fair, that they could present their views during the mediation (83%), other participants listened to them during the mediation (80%), and that they would use mediation again if offered (83%).

The Commission on Access to Justice

The Commission on Access to Justice was established by the Supreme Court in 2004 to expand resources for civil legal assistance to New Mexicans living in poverty. The commission is co-chaired by retired Judge Nan Nash and Liz McGrath, the previous executive director of Pegasus Legal Services for Children. The commission finalized a strategic plan using a national model and grant funds from the National Center for State Courts in August 2018, and will present it to the Supreme Court for adoption. The plan focuses on several initiatives including plain language forms, a statewide information and referral web portal, expanding full representation, and identifying ways to use non-attorneys to assist people with legal needs.

In 2019, the commission also launched a public awareness campaign "…And Justice for All." The campaign included op-eds, as well as radio and TV ads featuring Supreme Court Justice C. Shannon Bacon designed to inform the public about the need for help in civil legal cases and to ensure people with civil legal needs know help is available.

Access to Justice press conference.

The Commission continues to collaborate with the State Bar and New Mexico Legal Aid (NMLA) to host legal clinics throughout the state. In FY19, 2,500 people received free legal assistance from nearly 800 attorneys who participated in events organized by the State Bar and NMLA.

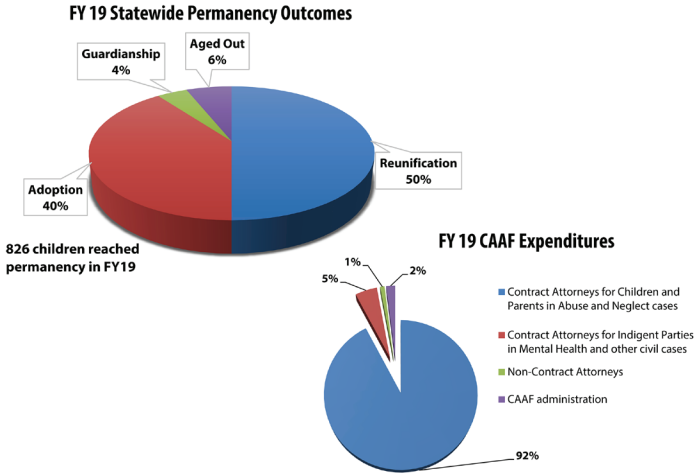
Court Appointed Attorney Fund

The New Mexico Judiciary is committed to providing quality legal representation for indigent parties in civil proceedings when the law requires that the court appoint an attorney. Among the clients served are children and parents in abuse and neglect cases, parentage, mental health and disabilities, and guardianship cases.

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) provides fiscal oversight, ensures compliance with contractual obligations by attorneys, and works collaboratively with the Court Improvement Project and the Corrine Wolfe Center for Child and Family Justice to offer attorneys free or reduced cost continuing education and trial skills training. The AOC continues its efforts to equitably allocate funds while maintaining focus on quality representation.

During FY19:

- 94 abuse and neglect attorneys, including 3 nonprofit legal organizations, 4 appellate attorneys, and 14 mental health attorneys, provided representation in over 2,500 cases.
- CAAF supported approximately 100 attorneys in their attendance at the Children's Law Institute which provides continuing education and training on child welfare cases
- Successfully secured increased funding for FY20.
- Supported expansion of the Family Advocacy Program (FAP) in the 13th and 2nd District, which is specifically designed as an interdisciplinary and holistic approach to abuse and neglect cases. The preliminary data indicates the cases which utilized FAP saw a significant decrease in the time it took children to exit foster care.



Court Appointed Special Advocates

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for Children is a network of community-based programs that recruit, train and support citizen-volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in courtrooms and communities. These programs house volunteers who provide foster children with individualized advocacy as the children move through the child welfare system. The volunteer advocates inform judges with reports and recommendations in order to make the best possible decision for each child. One year of CASA advocacy costs less than one month of keeping a child in foster care. A child with a court appointed special advocate is more likely to find a safe and permanent home, half as likely to re-enter foster care and is more likely to succeed in schools, according to national data.

CASA at a glance:

- 15 CASA programs in 29 counties.
- 803 trained and supervised volunteers.
- 1,782 children and youth received support from a CASA.
- 973 cases were assigned a CASA.

Domestic Violence

A part-time staff attorney with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) focused on firearms related issues as they related to domestic violence.

During fiscal year 2019, the staff attorney:

- Participated in an expert group meeting in Vienna, Austria of the United Nations Joint Global Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence.
- Assisted with implementing a new policy of accepting forms in any language in domestic violence order of protection cases.
- Finalized a form for reporting misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence to the FBI for entry into the National Criminal Background Check System (NICS) to comply with federal law. The form identifies the relationship between the defendant and the victim.
- Created the following resource tools for the Judiciary:
  - A bench card identifying the types of cases and charges that render an individual subject to federal and/or state firearm prohibitions.
  - Three forms to assist courts in implementing a new firearm relinquishment process for domestic violence order of protection cases.
  - A bench card outlining the difference between federal and state definitions of intimate partner and householder member under the Family Violence Protection Act and the criminal code.
  - Provided a 1½-day training to over 100 judicial employees on firearms-related issues, including the legal basis for firearms surrender, an explanation of the FBI's firearms background check system and what AOC reports to the FBI, an overview of newly enacted state laws on firearms (Senate Bill 8 and SB328), and the new forms, findings, and firearms prohibitions for criminal and domestic violence cases.

Family Advocacy Program

The Family Advocacy Program provides parents in child welfare cases with an interdisciplinary team of lawyers, social workers and parent mentors to help reunify families when possible and strengthen the parents' ability to care for their children. The Administrative Office of the Courts received a five-year $7.7 million federal grant in September 2018 to expand the program in Sandoval and Valencia counties in the Thirteenth Judicial District and Bernalillo County in the Second Judicial District, and establish the program in San Juan and McKinley counties in the Eleventh Judicial District. The New Mexico Supreme Court initiated the program, formerly known as Family Support Services, and piloted it in 2013 in the Thirteenth Judicial District Court. The Second Judicial District Court began accepting cases in 2017. The program adapted a model developed by the New York Center for Family Representation to intensively advocate for parents early in an abuse and neglect case. Team members help parents visit their children in foster care, prepare the parents for conferences with the state's child welfare agency and assist in obtaining needed services, such as substance abuse treatment, medical care, anger management classes or other therapy.

During fiscal year 2019, the program:

- Served 48 cases and 59 parents, and 20 aftercare case management cases in the Second and Thirteenth Judicial Districts. Twenty-one parents had their cases closed: 17 were reunified with their children, one relinquished child custody rights and three were discharged from the program.
- Contracted with seven social workers to work with 16 program respondent attorneys in the Thirteenth and Second Judicial Districts; two lead respondent attorneys; a lead master level social worker; parent mentor coordinator; clinical social work consultant; and the National Center for State Courts for independent program evaluation.
- Hired personnel, including a program manager and management analyst.
- Launched a series of interactive training sessions for judges, court staff, parent and children's attorneys, social workers, child welfare agencies, community service providers, educators, parents and families.
- Submitted an implementation and evaluation plan to the federal Children's Bureau for final approval.

Human Resources Division

Human Resources Division staff: (L-R) Liz Sandoval, Ellen Skaggs, Tamara Roybal, Moses Suleiman, Victoria Sandoval, Nicole Salazar, Nathan Hale, Lynette Paulman-Rodriguez, Michael Laflin and Loreen Mendiola.

The Human Resources Division serves approximately 2,000 judicial employees and judges statewide. It offers a comprehensive list of services including central recruiting, classification and compensation, employee relations, position management, training, payroll and benefit administration, performance and development, workforce planning, grievances process and investigations into claims of harassment, discrimination and retaliation.

The division continues to strategically plan for future employment needs while maximizing the effectiveness of current employees. Workforce planning includes identifying the competencies needed in the future and integrating these changes into recruitment, classification and employee evaluation to better serve the Judiciary.

During the 2019 fiscal year, the division:

- Implemented career pay progression in the Judiciary's Workforce Investment Plan (WIP) to advance employees through their pay range with step increases. Higher pay ranges and improved starting salaries for the judicial specialist classifications has allowed courts to attract and retain qualified workers. Vacancy rates and turnover have declined.
- Facilitated human capital management for the administrative consolidation of magistrate courts with district courts. The magistrate courts have more than 200 full-time employees and 67 judges. District courts, rather than the Administrative Office of the Courts, now oversee magistrate court operations.
- Revised the Judiciary's personnel rules and policies to support the effective operations of the state court system.
- Provided new employee orientation training to more than 150 judicial employees statewide.
- Drafted and published a comprehensive job classification and compensation report.
- Implemented a new business process for position management workflow in SHARE, the state's human resources and financial computer system.
- Assisted staff and management in a wide range of employment related issues.

Judicial Information Division

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

During the 2019 fiscal year, JID:

- Launched Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) for debt and money due cases statewide to improve public access to court services.

Margarita Terrell and Suzanne Winsor from JID trained court personnel on Online Dispute Resolution.

- Implemented electronic filing in criminal cases in district courts. The Second and Twelfth Judicial District Courts piloted e-filing in January 2019, and the service became available statewide in October. E-filing reduces costs and is more efficient than having prosecutors, defense attorneys and their staff filing paper documents in court.
- Standardized kiosks that provide information to the public in courthouses. The upgrade improved cybersecurity on about 80 machines in 20 court locations.
- Implemented electronic filing of traffic citations by State Police to improve efficiencies in the justice system and streamline court operations. To date, about 47,000 citations have been automatically converted to court cases in Odyssey with a 95% success rate.
- Developed software for sending text messages to defendants to remind them of scheduled court hearings.
- Upgraded video installations at seven magistrate courts, six district courts, three municipal courts and three tribal courts. Audio and video systems were improved at the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals and Administrative Office of the Courts.
- Converted all work stations in magistrate courts to the Windows 10 operating system.
- Set up 46 Surface Pro tablets for magistrate courts across the state to handle warrants and other documentation.

- Upgraded 45 digital court recording systems and 15 mixers in the magistrate courts, which are required to maintain a record of preliminary hearings for felony defendants.
- Improved security and reliability of the Judiciary's information technology system by moving all primary server operations to a Level III data center in Albuquerque that offers redundant power, cooling and 24-hour onsite security.
- Transferred all backup IT equipment to an off-site data center in Denver, providing additional protection for the state court system's electronic records and data.
- Expanded data storage, which now include top-tier Solid State Drives for the most demanding applications to improve efficiency and performance. The network has been upgraded to allow servers the fastest access to the new data storage.
- Upgraded the software that allows judges to easily access case information from the bench. Odyssey Judge edition also generates some orders and allows them to be signed electronically.
- Saved taxpayers an estimated $5.4 million through video arraignments of defendants, which eliminates the need for in-person appearances at the courthouse.
- Completed a pilot for electronic filing of documents in criminal cases in the Second and Twelfth Judicial District Courts, and implementing e-filing in district courts statewide in October 2019.

Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission

The Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission (JPEC) is an independent, nonpartisan, volunteer group that promotes public accountability of the Judiciary while preserving judicial independence.

The commission provides information to voters before every judicial retention election and offers performance feedback to judges to help them improve their work.

The evaluations by JPEC look at a judge's legal ability, fairness, communication skills, preparation, attentiveness, temperament and control over court proceedings.

During fiscal year 2019, JPEC began the evaluation process of 75 district court judges who will be standing for retention in the 2020 general election in two phases.

- Phase One (October 2019-March 2019) consisted of judges from the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th judicial district courts.
- Phase Two (March 2019-January 2020) consisted of judges from the 1st, 2nd, 7th, and 13th judicial district courts.

Jury Services

The Supreme Court's Committee for the Improvement of Jury Service and the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) assist courts in better addressing the needs of jurors, including exploring new procedures and technology to improve jury service.

During fiscal year 2019:

- The Jury Committee recommended a shortened juror questionnaire, and the Supreme Court issued an order on Nov. 1, 2019 approving a new, more user-friendly form. The previous questionnaire had 35 questions — one of the longest in the country. The new form has 20 questions and a space for comments by the juror. It took effect Dec. 31, 2019. To help develop a concise questionnaire, the Jury Committee formed an ad-hoc committee that included judges and representatives of district attorneys and public defenders. The group reviewed questions on the original form and recommended changes. With fewer questions to answer, prospective jurors may be able to complete the new form with a smart phone or other portable electronic device.
- 171,441 New Mexicans received a jury summons by district, metropolitan and magistrate courts — an 8.6% increase over the previous fiscal year.

- Courts experienced a 23% increase in jury trials in FY19, which likely accounted for the larger number of people summoned to jury duty.
- A new web-based jury management system completed its second year of operation, providing a range of convenient online services to people called to jury duty, improving the juror payroll process and offering real time data to courts to more efficiently manage jurors.

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative

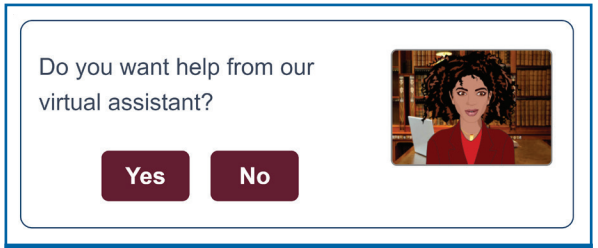
The Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) is a collaborative effort of the judicial branch of government, the Children, Youth and Families Department and the New Mexico Association of Counties. The primary goals are to reduce unnecessary detention of youth, reduce racial and ethnic disparities and promote youth success without sacrificing public safety. Bernalillo County has been a model JDAI site in the country for over 10 years. The Leadership Team made significant strides in FY19 to implement JDAI statewide.

Among the highlights:

- Conducted site assessments in Luna, Hidalgo, Grant, Sandoval and Valencia counties that gauged further readiness for juvenile justice reform.
- Supported approval of House Bill 149 by the Legislature to allow for earlier notice to tribes in juvenile delinquency proceedings.
- Held a two-day "Equitable Results Engagement" training in Ruidoso (May 14-15) for juvenile justice stakeholders to:
  - Understand the meaning of race and equity inclusion.
  - Recognize and address policies and practices that may suggest cultural bias and result in differential treatment.

Language Access Services

Language Access Services (LAS) of the Administrative Office of the Courts coordinates and funds court interpreting services, and recruits, trains and qualifies interpreters to ensure equal access to the state courts for people with limited English proficiency as well as deaf and hard of hearing individuals. LAS also supports court staff, judges and court users by providing training, document and website translation, signage, on-demand remote interpreting services and assistive listening equipment.



Meet Clara, the multilingual avatar.

In fiscal year 2019, Language Access Services:

- Developed and deployed an online multilingual avatar in English, Spanish and Navajo to help the public find information about court services on the Judiciary's website. The avatar uses speech recognition and voice command to enhance realism for website visitors.
- Began efforts to integrate the avatar into state-of-the-art kiosks in courthouses to better serve the public and improve access to justice.
- Accommodated more than 50 languages for court users.
- Secured a new scheduling system for court interpreters and prepared a paperless billing system.
- Provided volunteer interpreters for the Clinical Studies Program at the University of New Mexico School of Law. The initiative forged a strong partnership with the program, and offered training for law students and hands-on experience to students in the New Mexico Center for Language Access.

- Launched pilot programs for scribing services in the Second and Ninth Judicial District Courts in which staff help self-represented litigants fill out court forms and have them translated. The service improves access to court forms for people who cannot read or complete paperwork because of limited English proficiency, disability or illiteracy.
- Implemented bilingual domestic violence and domestic relations forms and provided translation for non-English documents.
- Expanded video remote interpreting for languages that are spoken by relatively small numbers of people and for which it is difficult to arrange for interpreters to be physically available at a court in New Mexico.
- Continued to offer the Language Access Specialist Certification, webinars and an annual symposium for bilingual judiciary employees. Language Access Specialists are unique to the New Mexico Judiciary and ensure the delivery of services to individuals with limited English proficiency.

AOC Director Artie Pepin and Paula Consuelo-Findikoglu, statewide senior program manager at the Council of Language Access Coordinators in San Francisco.

Magistrate Court Mediation Program

The program provides mediation services for general civil cases in eight magistrate courts in Sandoval, Santa Fe, Otero, Curry, Doña Ana, Taos, and Valencia counties. The program's approximately 60 volunteers mediated approximately 400 cases in FY19, of which 49% resulted in an agreement. The program will hire a full-time statewide program manager in fiscal year 2020 to oversee the continued success and expansion of the program.

During FY19, the program:

- Engaged the skills of about 60 volunteer mediators to provide over 1,000 hours of service.
- Partnered with other mediation organizations to provide continuing education for volunteer mediators and increase mediator pools.
- Contracted with three regional coordinators and one administrative coordinator to assist with program administration.

New Mexico Compilation Commission

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

The New Mexico Compilation Commission is the official legal publisher of the State of New Mexico, and effective May 3, 2019, free public online access to the state's annotated laws, appellate court opinions and court rules with court forms – the official master database – became available. The commission transitioned from an enterprise agency, which collected revenue from the sales of its print and online law publications, to an operational model that addressed long-standing public access needs.

Through updated technology, operational savings, and an exclusive content license for the printing and distribution of the commission's official print titles and e-books, free online access to the former subscription-only content was made possible.

To use the free, online service, go to **NMOneSource.com.** Training videos are available on the commission's YouTube channel through the website.

The impact and value to the public and legal community is measured by key attributes of the technology and the new operational structure:

- The Compilation Commission realized $300,000 in overall annual cost savings in FY20.
- An average of 15,000+ actions per day are performed by users of NMOneSource across the country and worldwide.
- The Judiciary provides self-represented litigants with free, downloadable court forms in Word format on NMOneSource to streamline court processes and court filings.
- State agencies, courts, libraries and businesses may provide access to state laws for their constituents, customers, patrons and clients by posting the URL, www.nmonesource.com, on their respective web sites.
- Print titles continue with new e-books and mobile app versions of the titles for offline access in low internet areas of the state through an exclusive content license with Blue360 Media.
- Power user tools, often charged at a premium in commercial services, are free and enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of users' research sessions.

New Mexico has earned national recognition for offering its free online public access in its sophisticated delivery system powered by software developed by Lexum.

- The Harvard Law School's Caselaw Access Project recently recommended New Mexico and its legal information website, **NMOneSource.com**, as a leading example of how courts can successfully expand access to the law through a publicly available website and shift from print-based legal publishing to "digital-first publishing."
- Executive Director Brenda Castello was selected as one of *Fastcase's*, 2019 Fastcase 50 winners, an award recognizing "innovators, techies, visionaries and leaders" in the legal field. *Fastcase* is a legal research service provider.

Problem Solving Courts

New Mexico's 52 problem solving courts offer an alternative to the costly revolving door of incarceration. The year-long programs treat the offender's addiction or mental illness – common drivers of repeat criminal behavior – while supporting and holding the offender accountable through frequent drug tests, probation visits and judicial hearings. Offenders with a high risk of reoffending and serious substance use problems are overseen by a judge and a team of professionals, including treatment providers, law enforcement, probation and compliance, prosecutors, and defense attorneys. Studies have found that drug courts are two times more effective than prison in preventing re-arrest and four times less expensive than prison.

In fiscal year 2019:

- The AOC was the first in the nation to pilot a peer review process for juvenile drug treatment court programs. The project provides networking among juvenile drug court teams while encouraging alignment with national guidelines. The Third Judicial District Court in Las Cruces and the Thirteenth Judicial District Court in Grants participated as the pilot sites.

- The AOC launched a pilot project for a standardized, validated, risk-needs-strengths screening instrument in the six jurisdictions with juvenile drug treatment courts to determine eligibility for the programs and other services. This effort with the state Children, Youth and Families Department will help identify areas for improvement, ensure procedures in each jurisdiction align with evidence-based practices, and promote agency collaboration and problem solving.

Problem-Solving Courts: November 19th conference.

- Two additional problem-solving courts received certification through an AOC process and two neared completion at the close of the fiscal year. This process evaluates treatment and confidentiality practices, drug testing protocols, professional development activities, team roles and responsibilities, and the application of sanctions, incentives, and therapeutic adjustments. Areas noted for improvement are typically addressed through training and technical assistance, resulting in program enhancements.
- The AOC collaborated with the New Mexico Association of Drug Court Professionals to host a statewide conference for problem solving court practitioners in November 2018. More than 400 people attended, making this the largest conference in the 10-year history of such events. Practitioners gathered to hear world-renowned speakers such as Dr. David Mee-Lee, chief editor of the "The ASAM Criteria" and Carolyn Hardin from the National Drug Court Institute.

Program Type	Graduation	Graduation Rate	Graduate Recidivism (Re-arrest)	Daily Cost Per Participant
Adult Drug Court	208	51.7%	13.9%	$23.32
Juvenile Drug Court	56	50.9%	18.6%	$57.33
DWI Drug Court	187	76%	7.7%	$20.02
Family Dependency	18	40.9%	11.1%	$32.77
Mental Health Court	46	46.9%	34.6%	$14.31

Safe Exchange and Supervised Visitation

The Safe Exchange & Supervised Visitation program (SESV) provides for the preservation of relationships between children and their parents while offering protection from harm during times of high family conflict. New Mexico SESV providers have staff trained by the international Supervised Visitation Network and adhere to the New Mexico Court Standards for Safe Exchange and Supervised Visitation.

District courts refer divorce, separation, custody, parentage, and domestic violence cases to local service providers who monitor visits and exchanges in safe, child-friendly environments, protecting children and removing them from the middle of parental disputes.

New Mexico has 13 SESV providers operating in 18 counties in nine judicial districts: Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, and Santa Fe counties (First Judicial District), Bernalillo (Second), Doña Ana (Third), San Miguel (Fourth), Chaves, Eddy, and Lea (Fifth), Grant, Hidalgo, and Luna (Sixth), Taos and Colfax (Eighth), San Juan (Eleventh), and Cibola, Sandoval and Valencia (Thirteenth).

Positive Impact on Families	1,028 Children Served	1,394 Adults Served
Supervised Visits and Exchanges	6,971 Supervised Visits	4,727 Safe Exchanges
Hours of Service	14,933	

Tribal-State Judicial Consortium

The Tribal-State Judicial Consortium is a Supreme Court advisory body that encourages and facilitates communication and collaboration between state and tribal court judges on common issues such as child welfare, domestic relations, juvenile justice, and drug/wellness courts. The consortium consists of seven state and seven tribal judges. It works to organize training and education for judges within both judiciaries on federal and state rules and procedures, and continues to build relationships between tribes, state courts and the Children, Youth and Families Department.

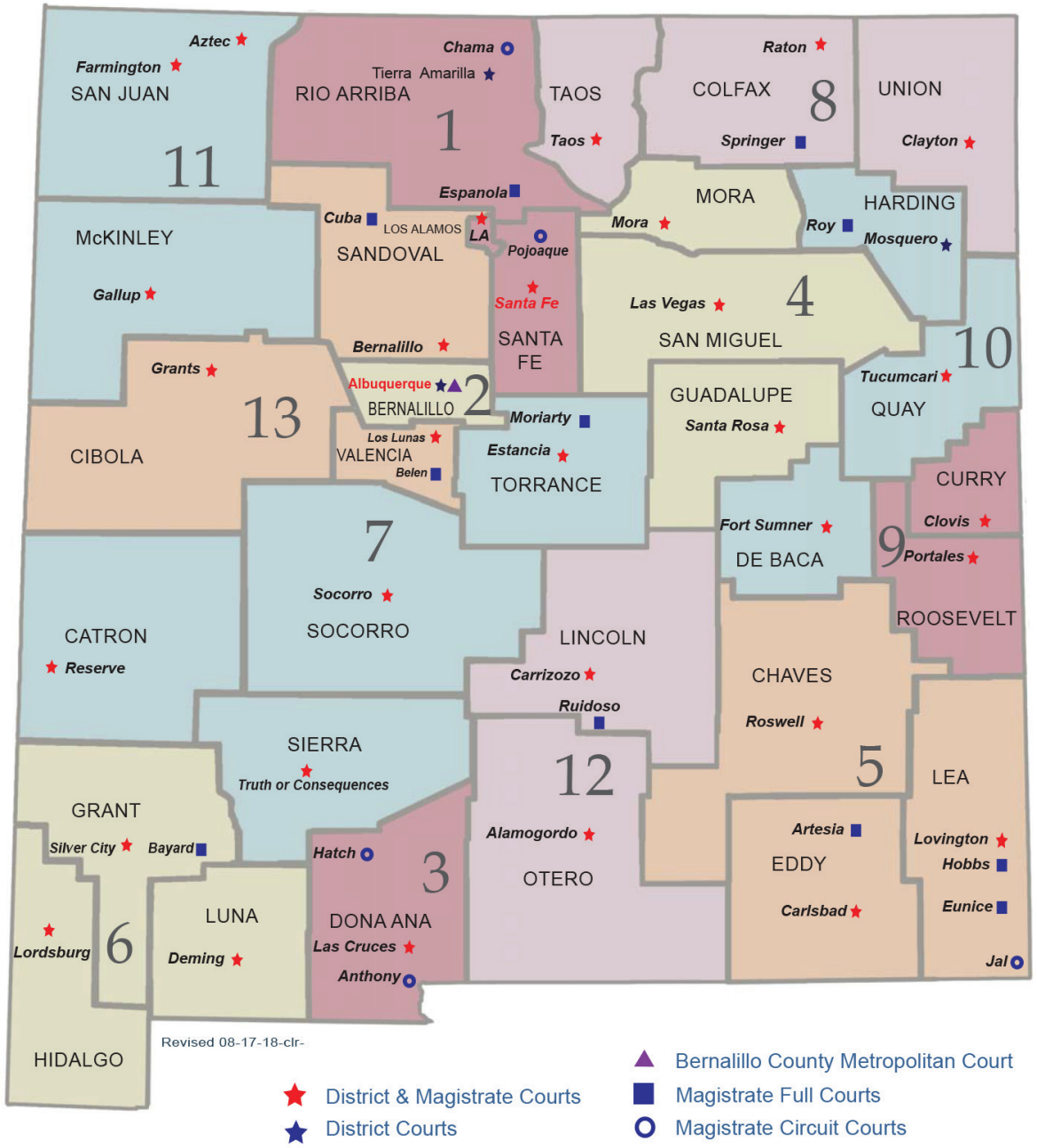
Fiscal year 2019 highlights:

- Model orders for involuntary commitment for both juveniles and adults have been approved by the Supreme Court and are available for use for allowing tribal courts to order individuals into state facilities more efficiently.
- The appointment of Judge Randall Collins as the new tribal co-chair was recommended to the Supreme Court. The previous tribal co-chair Judge William Johnson was appointed as an at-large consortium member.
- Initiated dialogue and discussions among tribes to start domestic violence programs and possibly develop a domestic violence court.
- On-going discussions with the Children Youth and Families Department (CYFD) about qualified expert witnesses – training, rules, qualifications, statutes, participation and their role within an Indian Child Welfare Act case.
- Continued support, discussions and possible development of a memorandum of understanding for the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative pilot project with Isleta Pueblo, assisted by CYFD and Bernalillo County.
- On-going discussions regarding tribal juvenile orders by state courts without the need for an inter-governmental agreement.
- Co-Chair Judge Collins and tribal member Judge Kim McGinnis presented the consortium's priorities and initiatives to the Legislature's Indian Affairs Committee earlier this year and spoke about collaboration during CYFD's presentation.
- Encouraging greater collaboration between state and tribal Courts to address the opioid and substance abuse epidemic, including methamphetamine, in New Mexico.

2019 Legislative highlights:

- Actively participated in drafting language for and passage of HB149 requiring notice to tribes by the state for proceedings concerning Native American juveniles referred to the juvenile justice system. This legislation also requires collaboration between tribes and the state.
- HM51 - The consortium will consult and collaborate with CYFD to develop a plan and make recommendations to the Legislature to implement tribal customary adoption in state courts.

NEW MEXICO
STATE COURTS



1st Judicial District
Santa Fe, Rio Arriba & Los Alamos

2nd Judicial District
Bernalillo

3rd Judicial District
Doña Ana

4th Judicial District
San Miguel, Mora & Guadalupe

5th Judicial District
Chaves, Eddy & Lea

6th Judicial District
Grant, Hidalgo & Luna

7th Judicial District
Torrance, Socorro, Catron & Sierra

8th Judicial District
Curry & Roosevelt

10th Judicial District
Harding, De Baca & Quay

11th Judicial District
San Juan & McKinley

12th Judicial District
Otero & Lincoln

13th Judicial District
Cibola, Sandoval & Valencia

Bernalillo County Metropolitan

Supreme Court
Santa Fe

Court of Appeals
Santa Fe & Albuquerque

New Mexico Administrative Office of the Courts
237 Don Gaspar
Santa Fe, NM 87501
505-827-4800
NMCourts.gov