NEWS RELEASE

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NEW MEXICO COURT ADMINISTRATOR HONORED BY NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

SANTA FE, N.M. _ Arthur Pepin, director of the New Mexico Administrative Office of the Courts, has been selected for the Warren E. Burger Award for Excellence in Judicial Administration by the National Center for State Courts.

The award is among the highest honors given by the center and is named for the former U.S. Supreme Court justice who helped found the NCSC. Pepin will formally be presented with the award next year.

"Artie Pepin has the vision and the dedication of a true leader. He continually takes innovative and decisive steps to improve the operation of the New Mexico courts. His accomplishments in New Mexico have made him a role model among state courts nationally," said NCSC President Mary C. McQueen.

Pepin has served as director of the Administrative Office of the Courts since 2006. He was director of the criminal appeals division in the New Mexico Attorney General's Office from 2000 to 2006

"With Artie's vision and leadership, New Mexico courts have implemented the most robust and innovative language access program in the country," New Mexico Supreme Court Chief Justice Barbara J. Vigil said in a letter nominating Pepin for the award.

The New Mexico Center for Language Access helps the courts meet the needs of individuals who don't speak English or have limited English proficiency. The center offers online training for court interpreters and bilingual judiciary employees, and New Mexico's language access program is being shared with courts across the country.

The chief justice also credited Pepin with improving court technology through implementation of a statewide electronic case management system, spearheading efforts to improve the solvency of judicial pension funds and leading a commission to help reduce overcrowding at the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Detention Center.

"Artie's impressive accomplishments are the result of his vision, his leadership, his seemingly endless energy, his respectful communications style and his personal integrity, which make him the consummate court administrator," Chief Justice Vigil said.

Pepin said the award was in “recognition of the hard work and great accomplishments by judges and court employees throughout New Mexico.”

The Administrative Office of the Courts oversees financial, personnel and information technology operations and other programs for New Mexico courts.

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