Administrative Office of the Courts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dedication Ceremony Planned for Courthouse in Portales

PORTALES – New Mexico Supreme Court Chief Justice Charles Daniels is to attend a dedication ceremony on Friday of a newly constructed courthouse for the Roosevelt County Magistrate Court.

TIME: 1 p.m.

DATE: Friday, Sept. 30

PLACE: Roosevelt County Magistrate Court, 1700 North Boston, Portales, NM

Judges of the Ninth Judicial District Court, Administrative Office of the Courts Magistrate Division Director Rosemary McCourt, Magistrate Court Presiding Judge Linda Short and government officials from the Portales area also are expected to attend the dedication.

Construction of the single-story, 9,800-square-foot building was financed by Roosevelt County through the New Mexico Finance Authority. The AOC will lease the building from the county.

The new courthouse is next to the Roosevelt County Detention Center. The location will enhance operational efficiency and improve security. Defendants can be moved from the jail to the court through a secure passageway connecting the buildings.

Since 1997, the Magistrate Court has operated at a building at 42427 U.S. Highway 70.

Magistrate courts resolved nearly 170,000 criminal and civil cases statewide in the 2015 fiscal year.

Magistrate courts have limited jurisdiction and handle DWI cases, misdemeanors, traffic violations, civil actions up to $10,000 and may hold preliminary hearings to determine probable cause on felony charges. By law, there must be at least one magistrate court in each county but some counties have more than one court

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