



New Mexico Judicial Branch

2018 Annual
Report



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.

This report is an overview of the Judiciary's accomplishments during the 2018 fiscal year (July 1, 2017– June 30, 2018).

The report as well as the FY2018 Statistical Addendum can be found at www.nmcourts.gov.



Acknowledgements

This report was prepared with special assistance from AOC staff, court personnel and judges across the state.
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Statistical Addendum: Joseph Vigil,
Judicial Information Division

On the Cover

Supreme Court Building at sunset.

The dedication of the Supreme Court Building occurred 80 years ago on Aug. 9, 1937. The building is the only Works Progress Administration project in New Mexico still in use for its original purpose. The building is on the National Register of Historic Places and the New Mexico Register of Cultural Properties.

Photo by Barry Massey

MESSAGE FROM

CHIEF JUSTICE JUDITH NAKAMURA



As Chief Justice, it is my pleasure to present to you the Judicial Branch's Fiscal Year 2018 annual report.

Our courts handled over 357,000 new cases during fiscal year 2018, and continued to find and implement innovative, efficient and cost-effective ways to meet the needs of those we serve. Our trial courts operated drug courts, DWI courts, mental health courts, homeless courts and veteran's courts helping criminal defendants stay engaged in their communities, and become more productive and law abiding citizens. Efforts were also made to meet the

needs of increasing numbers of civil and self-represented litigants with over 44,000 New Mexicans at legal fairs, clinics, and court self-help centers.

As we continue to look for ways to improve our day-to-day operations, the Judicial Branch is also planning ahead. In the spring of 2018, Court leaders studied the needs of court users, identified areas of concern, and with the assistance of the National Center for State Courts developed a three-year initiative to advance judicial excellence and build the best court system possible. The initiative, to be launched in Fiscal Year 2019, will address ways to better serve the public by:

- Simplifying and streamlining court organizational structure and improving case management;
- Expanding the use of technology to improve efficiency, increase services, and reduce delay; and
- Improving the public's access to and information about the courts.

Our dedicated judges and employees are committed to excellence as we work together to uphold the rule of law, ensure fair and equal access to justice, and build the first-rate court system our citizens expect and deserve. It is my privilege to share this report with you on their behalf.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Judith K.", followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends to the right.

Judith K. Nakamura

MESSAGE FROM

ARTHUR PEPIN

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS DIRECTOR



The 2018 Annual Report shows our courts actively moving to improve delivery of justice in New Mexico. Words such as “consolidation,” “restructure,” “implemented,” “established” and “launched” occur throughout the report. As a whole, the Judiciary in 2018 examined existing programs and practices, refreshed those that required new energy, and began new programs and services on many fronts.

A few examples reflect the many other actions that are evident in this report. Numerous courts initiated self-help centers to provide access to justice for those unable to hire an attorney for their court case. Addressing the continued high rate of persons representing themselves in court cases, the Judiciary implemented the Guide and File system that asks a series of questions accessible from any computer to produce forms that can be filed in court for divorce and other family law cases. Courts statewide in 2018 began to accept domestic violence and domestic relations forms filed in Spanish which are promptly translated by certified translators into English. Pilot courts have implemented text message reminders that dramatically improve the rates of appearance for defendants in court, avoiding the necessity of issuing an arrest warrant for those who forget their court date. Magistrate courts in five counties now receive criminal history information that judges can consider when setting conditions of release under a pilot that should be expanded in the future. A new jury program increased efficiencies in jury service and reduced costs. The Supreme Court reorganized its operations and restructured the Law Library to provide more robust services. Many will remember the important legislative changes made to the system of guardianship during the 2018 legislative session. The Judiciary has implemented new rules and practices to make guardianship cases more transparent to all interested parties, enforce requirements for regular review of guardianship orders, and modernize the tracking of these cases. These changes are consistent with action throughout the Judiciary to identify and implement evidence-based best practices across the spectrum of court case types.

An important theme that is not obvious at first is the significant transitions some courts are experiencing. Three retirements during 2018 mean the Supreme Court now has three new justices. Retirements and elections in the Court of Appeals mean six of the ten members of that court will serve their first year during 2019. Transitions in the district, metropolitan, and magistrate courts are occurring as well. Change always presents an opportunity to re-examine longstanding practices and look with a different perspective at current operations. No doubt 2019 will continue the careful consideration by the Judiciary of the ways we execute our mission to serve the public with timely, open, accessible, and fair justice for all.

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Arthur Pepin. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, prominent loop at the end.

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2018 FISCAL YEAR IN REVIEW

Guardianship Reform

Courts implemented improvements to the adult guardianship system for vulnerable New Mexicans no longer able to manage their finances, health care or living arrangements because of an incapacitating illness, injury or disability. The Supreme Court approved new rules and forms to carry out changes in law enacted in 2018. Among the changes, guardians and conservators must submit additional information about a protected person's finances and health in reports to district courts.

Criminal Justice

Rulings by the Supreme Court provided guidance to judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys on evidence required for the pretrial detention of criminal defendants.

A federal judge dismissed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of bail reform rules adopted by the New Mexico Supreme Court in 2017 to govern pretrial release and detention decisions by state judges.

A pilot program in five magistrate courts allows the early screening of people arrested for nonviolent crimes to determine whether they should be released on their own recognizance (ROR) without first being booked into a jail or appearing before a judge. The assessments are performed remotely through a video teleconference with intake officers at the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court. The Judiciary is seeking funding in fiscal year 2020 to expand the program for courts in all counties.

Changes were approved to a case management order governing criminal cases in the 2nd Judicial District. Amendments adopted by the Supreme Court included adjustments to deadlines for disclosing evidence and scheduling pretrial witness interviews. More time also may be allowed for cases to go to trial upon a showing of good cause. The procedural order was implemented in 2015 to resolve criminal cases without undue delay and reduce a case backlog.



Technology

Defendants in criminal cases in the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court can receive text message reminders of upcoming court dates. The rate of defendants failing to appear for court proceedings dropped 50% after the service was implemented in misdemeanor cases. The court has expanded text reminders to defendants in felony cases.

The Judiciary extended the use of video remote interpreting. A video station was installed at the Santa Fe Magistrate Court. It and similar equipment at the Second Judicial District Court allow video remote interpreting to other courts in the state, potentially saving money and reducing the need for interpreters to travel to hearings.



Problem Solving Courts

Problem solving courts continue to offer a cost-effective alternative to incarceration, with 527 New Mexicans graduating from adult and juvenile drug courts and mental health treatment courts during the 2018 fiscal year. The daily cost per client averaged \$23.25 for drug courts statewide and \$18.36 for mental health courts. About 12,400 defendants have graduated from the problem solving courts since their inception.

Jury Service

The Judiciary implemented a new web-based statewide jury management system offering convenient online services for people summoned to jury duty and allowing courts to more efficiently manage juries. The number of New Mexicans called to jury duty dropped 14% in fiscal year 2018, reversing a four-year trend of annual increases.

Children and Families

A collaborative project by courts was recognized for its success in more quickly leading to a safe, permanent home for children in foster care. The Family Advocacy Program – formerly called Family Support Services – received the 2018 “Outstanding Program Award” from the State Bar of New Mexico. The program is a joint initiative of the Thirteenth and Second Judicial District Courts and the Administrative Office of the Courts. A team of a court-appointed attorney, social worker and parent mentor works with parents at the outset of a child protection case.

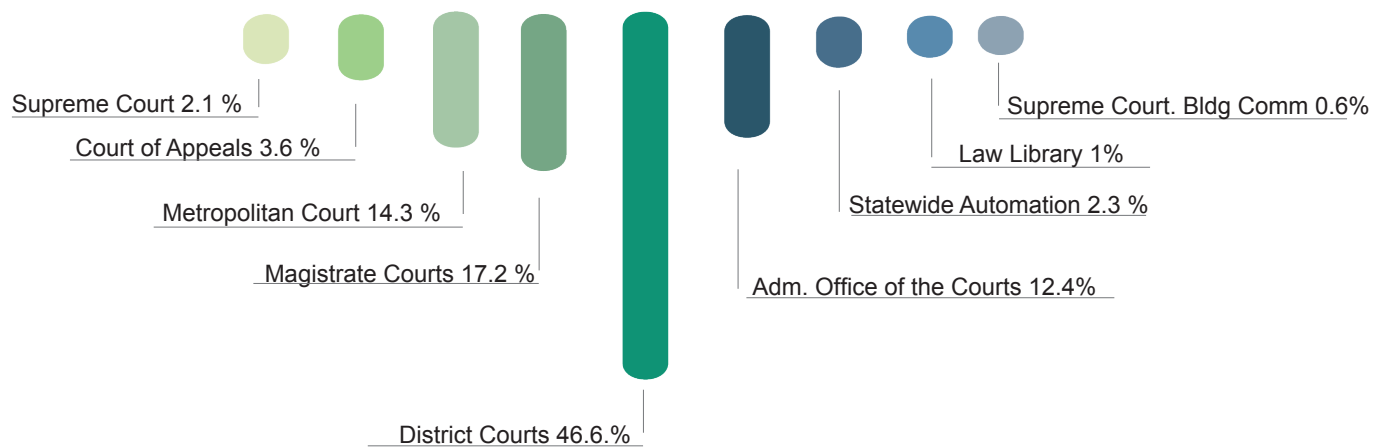
Access to Justice

Self-help centers at district courts assisted over 40,000 New Mexicans and more than 4,000 people received legal help at free clinics and legal fairs across the state.

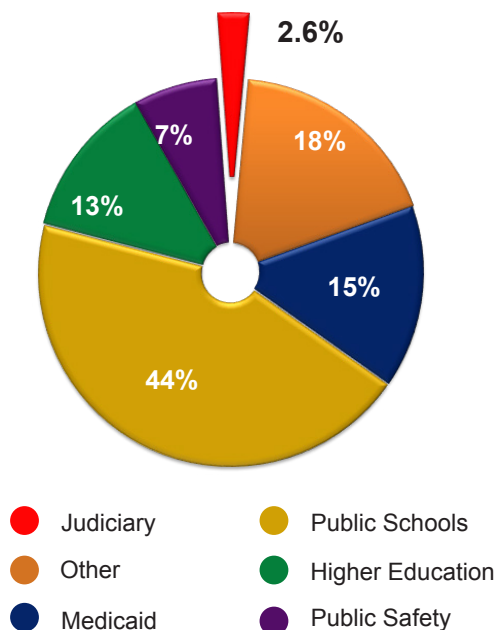
BY THE NUMBERS

The Judiciary received a general fund appropriation of \$160.1 million in the 2018 fiscal year, which ended June 30, 2018. The Judiciary's appropriation represented an increase of \$3.9 million or 2.5% from the operating budget in the 2017 fiscal year. District court operations accounted for nearly 47% of the Judiciary's overall budget. After adjusting for inflation, the Judiciary's funding has eroded by about 10 percent since the 2009 fiscal year when the state budget was cut because of the recession. In FY18, general fund appropriations totaled \$6.1 billion for all of state government, including public education.

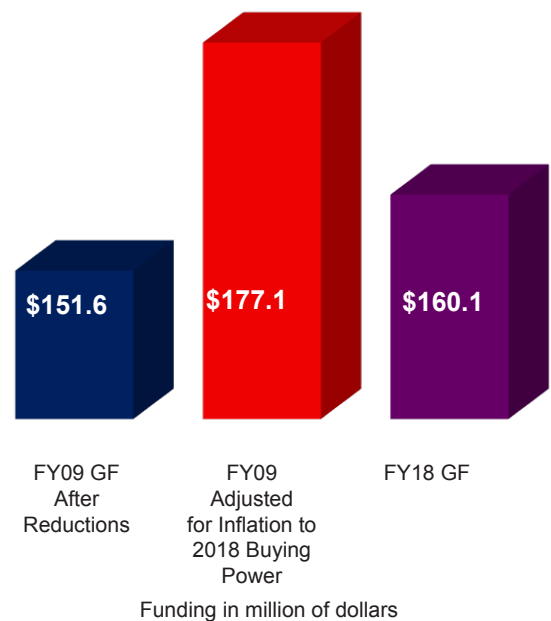
NEW MEXICO JUDICIARY FY18 GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET



FY18 NEW MEXICO STATE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS



JUDICIARY FUNDING (IN REAL DOLLARS) HAS FALLEN BEHIND SINCE THE RECESSION



SUPREME COURT



Justice Barbara J. Vigil, Senior Justice Petra Jimenez Maes, Chief Justice Judith K. Nakamura, Justice Charles W. Daniels and Justice Gary L. Clingman

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.



From left to right: Justice Charles W. Daniels, Senior Justice Petra Jimenez Maes and Justice Gary L. Clingman, who left the Supreme Court at the end of 2018.

SUPREME COURT

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

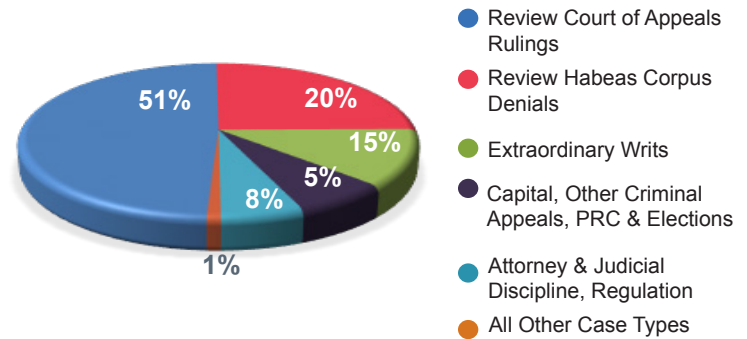
- Consolidated the Supreme Court, Law Library and Supreme Court Building Commission administratively and in appropriations, streamlining management and operations. The Judiciary sought legislation to establish the unified structure, which eliminated the need to administer three separate budgets and conduct three separate financial audits each year.



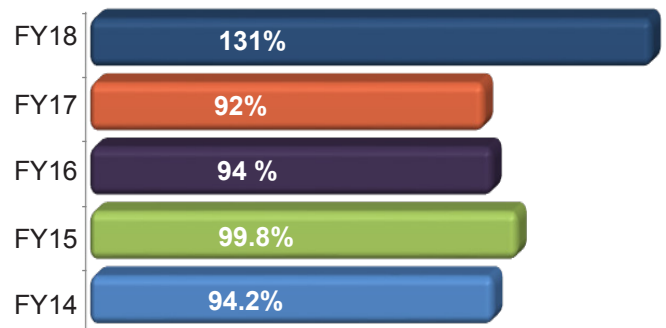
- Restructured operations to reallocate and more effectively use staff counsel, paralegal and law clerk positions. Also achieved efficiencies by revising and eliminating some of the court's committees.
- Approved new rules and forms for guardians and conservators to help implement improvements in the adult guardianship system enacted in 2018. New reports to district courts require additional information about a protected person's finances and health.
- Formed a steering committee with representatives from all branches of state government to make recommendations regarding \$1 million allocated by the Legislature to the Administrative Office of the Courts to carry out guardianship reforms.
- Transferred administration of the Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) program to the State Bar of New Mexico to help improve services and shape legal education for attorneys.
- Supreme Court Justice Edward Chávez retired in March 2018, and became chairman of a newly formed task force to develop a strategic plan for improving criminal justice and public safety in New Mexico. The Legislature approved a joint memorial establishing the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Task Force.
- Senior Justice Petra Jimenez Maes and Justice Charles W. Daniels did not seek retention in the general election and retired when their terms expired at the end of 2018. Justice Maes joined the court in 1998, and Justice Daniels was appointed in 2007.

2018 FISCAL YEAR CASELOAD

NEW CASES:
630



DISPOSITION RATE



Chief Justice Judith K. Nakamura administers the oath of office to Justice Gary L. Clingman. Patrick Clingman, the justice's son, holds the Bible. Justice Clingman, who filled a vacancy from the retirement of Justice Edward Chávez, lost in the November 2018 general election to Court of Appeals Judge Michael E. Vigil.

COURT OF APPEALS



Front row:

Judge J. Miles Hanisee, Judge Michael E. Vigil, Chief Judge Linda M. Vanzi, Judge M. Monica Zamora, Judge Julie J. Vargas

Back row:

Judge Daniel J. Gallegos, Judge Henry M. Bohnhoff, Judge Stephen G. French, Judge Emil J. Kiehne, Judge Jennifer L. Attrep

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 in 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 Jennifer Attrep is sworn into office by Supreme Court Justice Barbara Vigil while Judge Attrep's family looks on.

COURT OF APPEALS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Implemented electronic filing of documents in cases, which was made possible by the court transitioning to the Odyssey electronic case management system. The court's case files are now more accessible to parties and the press through an online system operated by the Judiciary.

10
JUDGES

51
FULL-TIME
EMPLOYEES

- Decided 75 expedited appeals regarding the pre-trial detention of criminal defendants. The court implemented procedures to handle this new type of expedited appeal with no increase in staffing.

- Started a reorganization initiative to improve case flow and internal procedures. The court applied for a grant through

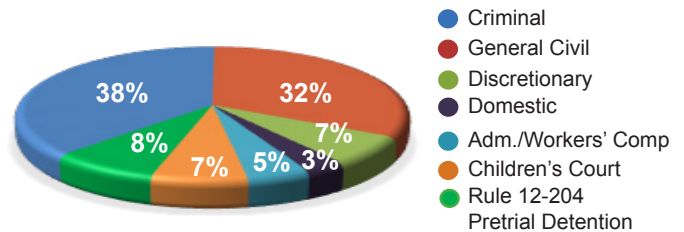
which the National Center for State Courts will evaluate court operations and make recommendations for increased efficiency.

- New case filings increased 11%, and case dispositions grew by 12%.

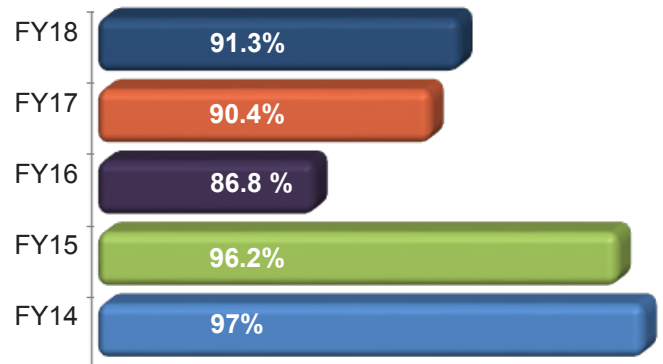
- The court held oral arguments at high schools in Los Lunas, Roswell and Taos, continuing a program that brings the judicial branch to life for students. After the oral arguments, judges hold informative discussion sessions with students about legal issues and the judicial branch.

- Judges and staff spoke to classes at the University of New Mexico School of Law and served as professors and adjunct professors, judged moot court sessions and provided externships for the students.

2018 Fiscal Year Caseload New Cases: 919



Disposition Rate

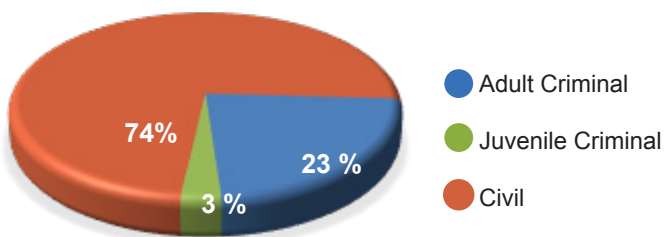


New Mexico Court of the Appeals judges and staff.

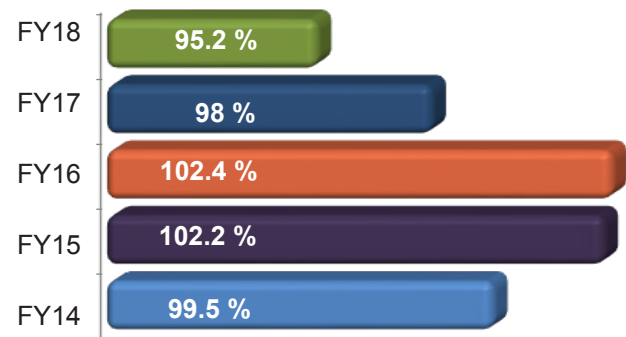
DISTRICT COURTS STATEWIDE

District courts are general jurisdiction trial 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 2018 fiscal year. Courts are serving more self-represented litigants in civil cases, which adds to demands on judges and staff as they ensure access to justice for those unfamiliar with legal procedures.

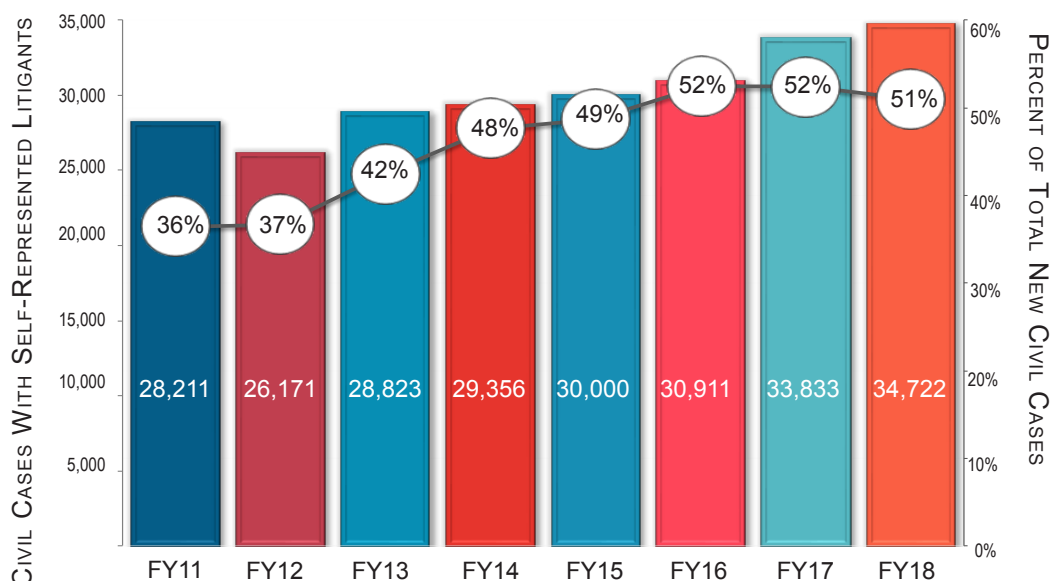
2018 FISCAL YEAR CASELOAD
NEW AND REOPENED CASES:
130,326



DISPOSITION RATE



NEW CIVIL CASES WITH SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS



Yearly totals reflect an improved methodology for identifying cases with self-represented litigants and will differ from data in previously published annual reports.

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 34 criminal jury and bench trials.
- 75 civil jury and bench trials.

9
JUDGES

90
FULL-TIME
EMPLOYEES

- 22 graduates of adult and juvenile drug courts and mental health treatment court.
- 7,953 people served by the Self-Help Center — an average of 662 people each month. About 3 percent of those served were primarily Spanish speakers. The center provides forms and

procedural information.

- Launched a program providing early court intervention in mortgage foreclosure matters. It is only the third such program in the state, and 96 cases were referred to it during the first six months. A settlement facilitator conducted 71 telephonic status conferences with borrowers and lenders to try to resolve lawsuits and avoid foreclosures for residents wanting to remain in their homes. Eighteen foreclosure settlement informational workshops were hosted and defendants in 38 cases attended.

- 206 people attended free family law orientations for self-represented litigants in divorce and parentage cases. The presentations are offered monthly in English and Spanish at the Santa Fe Community College.

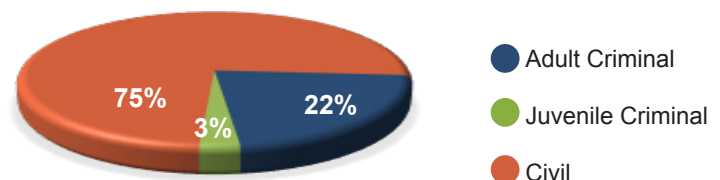
- Hosted six free Civil Legal Clinics at the courthouse. Three dozen volunteer attorneys provided free legal advice to 79 people on civil matters, including foreclosures, employee rights, probate, public benefits and landlord/tenant disputes.

- 252 cases were referred to the alternative dispute resolution (ADR) program, including 78 civil cases and 163 domestic cases.

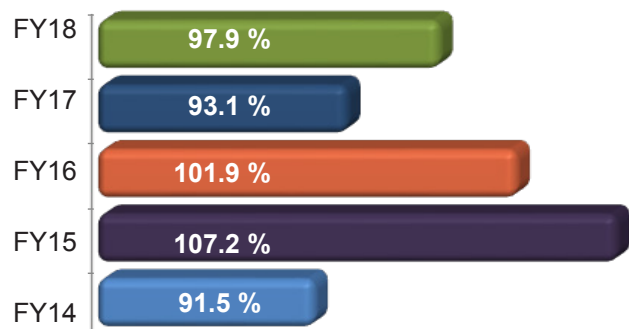
- Information technology improvements, including replacing courtroom document cameras, deploying kiosks for juror check-in and working with Los Alamos County to modernize courtroom audio at the county courthouse.

- Started monthly information sessions on children and guardianship to address growing numbers of petitions for appointment of kinship guardians. Family Court Services provides information to new guardians about issues facing their children and available community services.

2018 FISCAL YEAR CASELOAD NEW AND REOPENED CASES: 12,158



DISPOSITION RATE



Judge Jason Lidyrd takes the oath of office.

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 146 criminal jury and bench trials.
- 37 civil jury and bench trials.

27
JUDGES

356
FULL-TIME
EMPLOYEES

- The case management order (CMO) reduced the time that defendants await a verdict by 50% from 11 months to 5 months since its implementation in 2015. This time to disposition is better than the national average.

- Pretrial services supervised 2,226 defendants, completed public

safety assessments for 1,249 preventive detention hearings and 1,723 public safety assessments for felony arraignments. Defendants made 14,121 office visits.

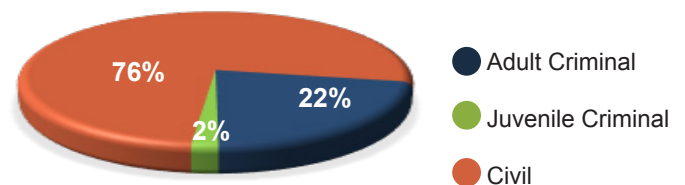
- 71 graduates from adult and juvenile drug courts and mental health treatment court. No graduates of the DWI Court have been re-arrested since it was created in 2013.



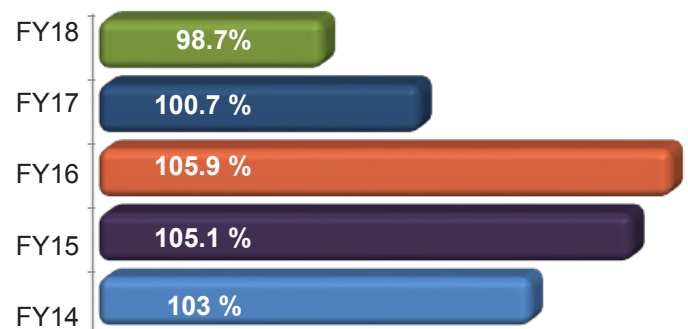
Judge Jacqueline Flores and DWI Court graduate Zachary Apodaca.

- Received federal grants to enhance services in treatment courts and start the Native American Healing to Wellness track and the Medication Assisted Treatment track.
- Foreclosure Settlement Program experienced a nearly 94% success rate among participating homeowners.
- 15,598 self-represented litigants served by the Center for Self-Help, with 468 needing interpreter assistance.
- 1,093 people received legal assistance at civil and family law clinics and quarterly Law-La-Palooza events.
- The Family Support Services Program was named the 2018 Outstanding Program of the Year by the New Mexico State Bar. It is a joint program of the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Second and Thirteenth Judicial District Courts.
- Children's Court Judge John J. Romero Jr. became president of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges in July 2018, the first president from New Mexico in the organization's 81 years.

2018 FISCAL YEAR CASELOAD NEW AND REOPENED CASES: 39,753



DISPOSITION RATE



Children's Court Presiding Judge Marie Ward and Judge John J. Romero Jr.

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 33 criminal jury and bench trials.
- 23 civil jury and bench trials.

8
JUDGES

85
FULL-TIME
EMPLOYEES

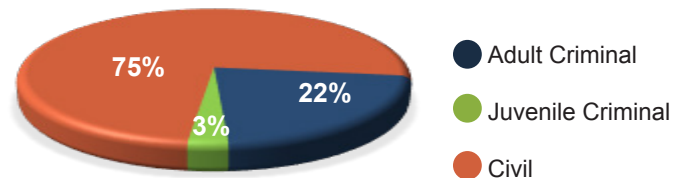
- 25 graduates of adult, juvenile and family drug courts.

- 50 current clients in the Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program for adults with serious mental conditions. A judge has heard 73 cases since the program was established in the 2017 fiscal year. Four defendants have

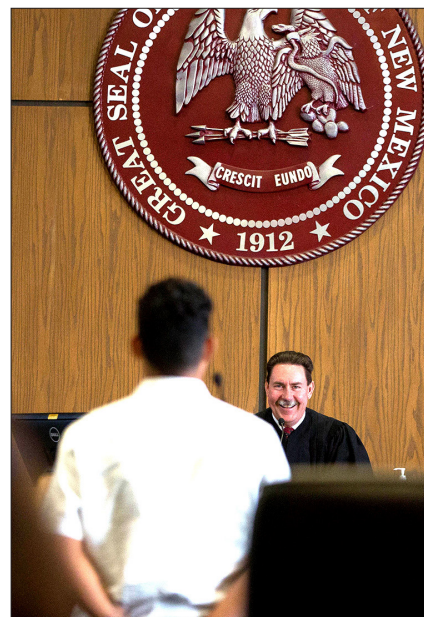
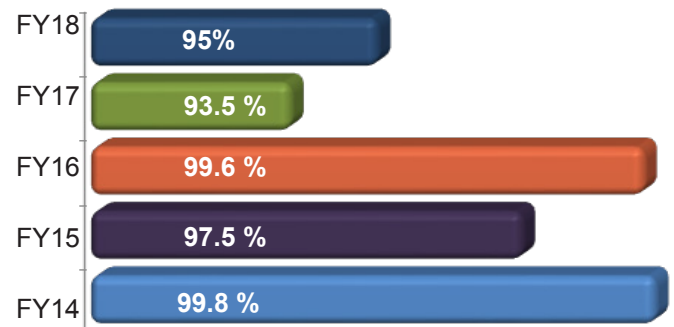
successfully completed the program, which offers treatment services as an alternative to incarceration.

- 11,319 people served by the Self-Help Division.
- 643 people attend legal advice clinics.
- 67 days of trials conducted by judges.
- Expanded grand juries to two days a week rather than one. This allows for shorter days and better attention by jurors as well as avoiding working past 5 p.m.
- Established a pilot Treatment Veterans Court. The 12-month program focuses on rehabilitation and treatment for veterans charged with a felony. The program's inaugural event was held in May 2018 with Chief Judge James Martin and Judge Manuel Arrieta presiding.
- Expanded a program providing New Mexico State University students with internships at the Court. Veterans attending NMSU now are eligible for the unpaid internships along with students majoring in criminal justice and family and consumer sciences.
- Program Coordinator Liz Vazquez received the "Shining Star Award" for her hard work with the Self-Help Division. She was recognized at the 3rd annual Volunteer Attorney Appreciation luncheon and awards ceremony.
- Judge Mary Rosner, in collaboration with the State Bar of New Mexico, agreed to serve as a mentor for new lawyers graduating from the University of New Mexico. The mentorship has a structured curriculum.

2018 FISCAL YEAR CASELOAD NEW AND REOPENED CASES: 14,087



DISPOSITION RATE



Chief Judge James Martin presiding at the first hearing of the Treatment Veterans Court.

FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 12 criminal jury and bench trials.
- 8 civil bench trials.

3
JUDGES

26
FULL-TIME
EMPLOYEES

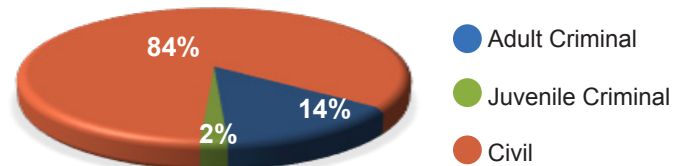
- 9 graduates from adult drug court.
- 58 children in abuse and neglect cases served by CASA volunteers.
- 294 supervised visits and safe exchanges for children in cases involving parental disputes, including divorce, custody and domestic violence.

• 1,288 people assisted by Self-Help Center, which provides forms, guidance and other assistance to self-represented litigants. The public can access electronic court records using a courthouse kiosk.

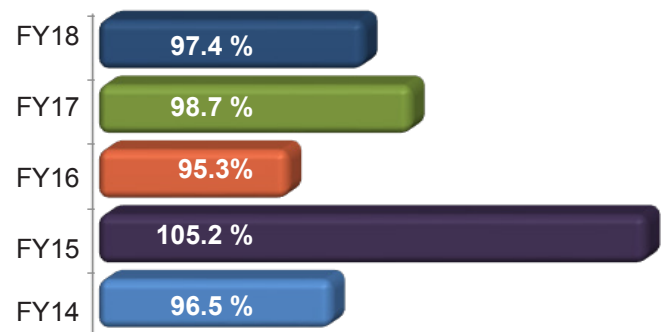
• 74 people served at 17 family law clinics for self-represented litigants.

• 100 individuals received free legal advice at a pro bono legal fair.

2018 FISCAL YEAR CASELOAD NEW AND REOPENED CASES: 14,087



DISPOSITION RATE



Court personnel honor Judge Matthew J. Sandoval (seated) on his retirement. He served as chief judge in 2009-2012 and from 2015 to December 2017.

FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 199 criminal jury and bench trials.
- 42 civil jury and bench trials.

11
JUDGES

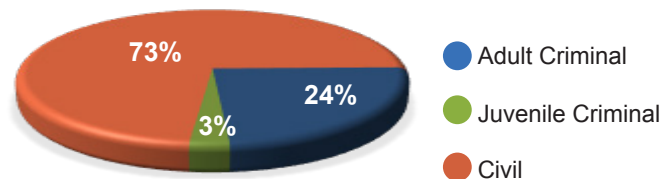
74
FULL-TIME
EMPLOYEES

- 9 graduates from juvenile and family drug courts.
- 317,287 entries docketed into the Odyssey electronic case management system by the clerk's office and court staff.
- 1,500 judgment and sentence orders produced in the courtroom immediately upon disposition of

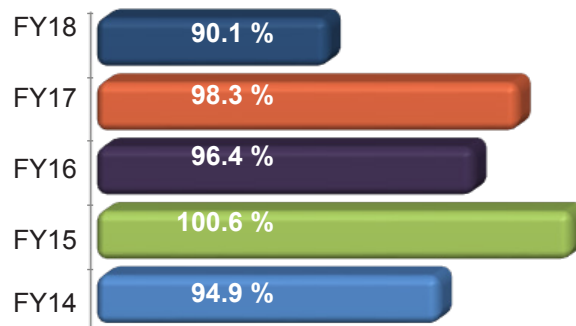
criminal cases.

- 424 children in abuse and neglect cases served by CASA volunteers.
- 2,140 supervised visits and safe exchanges for children in cases involving parental disputes, including divorce, custody and domestic violence.

2018 FISCAL YEAR CASELOAD NEW AND REOPENED CASES: 16,383



DISPOSITION RATE



Architectural rendering of the Lea County Judicial Complex.



Construction on the new Lea County Judicial Complex in Lovington, which is scheduled to open in June 2019.

SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 26 criminal jury trials and non-jury trials.
- 3 civil jury and bench trials.

4
JUDGES

34
FULL-TIME
EMPLOYEES

- Implemented a felony compliance program in Luna County that supplies information to judges for determining possible pretrial release conditions for defendants and provides supervision and support for defendants awaiting trial.

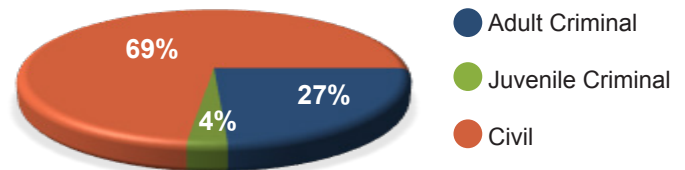
- 22 graduates from adult and juvenile drug courts.
- 73 children in abuse and neglect cases served by CASA volunteers.



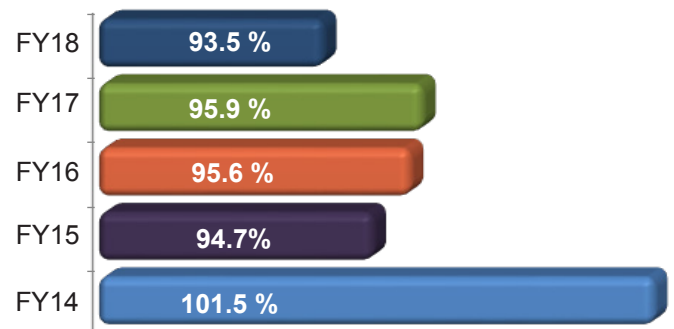
Judge Jennifer DeLaney became the District Court's first female chief judge. She takes the oath of office from Judge Jarod Hofacket.

- 3,585 supervised visits and safe exchanges for children in cases involving parental disputes, including divorce, custody and domestic violence.
- 50 people received legal advice at a pro bono legal fair in Luna County.
- Transitioned to a paperless court in January 2018 in all case categories except for criminal cases, which are not yet filed electronically.

2018 FISCAL YEAR CASELOAD NEW AND REOPENED CASES: 4,004



DISPOSITION RATE



Judge Jarod Hofacket cooking at a graduation barbecue for the Luna County Juvenile Drug Court.

SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 12 criminal jury and bench trials.
- 8 civil jury and bench trials.

3
JUDGES

31
FULL-TIME
EMPLOYEES

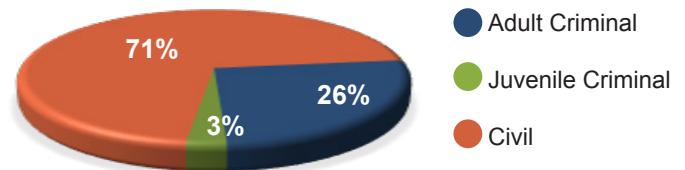
- 14 graduates from adult drug court programs in Estancia, Socorro and Truth or Consequences.
- Piloted an Adult Drug Court program in Sierra County. It was one of five pilot sites statewide. The Sierra County program is certified and aligned with statewide drug court standards.

- 102 children in abuse and neglect cases served by CASA volunteers.

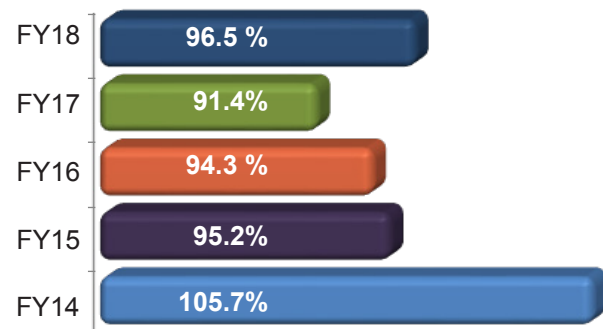


Chief Judge Matthew Reynolds presenting the court's budget request at a legislative hearing in Santa Fe.

2018 FISCAL YEAR CASELOAD NEW AND REOPENED CASES: 2,494



DISPOSITION RATE



EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 24 criminal jury and bench trials.
- 16 civil jury and bench trials.

3
JUDGES

30
FULL-TIME
EMPLOYEES

- 16 graduates of adult and juvenile drug courts.
- 172 supervised visits and safe exchanges for children in cases involving parental disputes, including divorce, custody and domestic violence.
- 50 children in abuse and neglect cases served by CASA volunteers.

• Expanded services at the Dispute Resolution Center in the Taos County Courthouse lobby by hiring a half-time contract paralegal to provide more support for self-represented litigants. The paralegal's review of petitions and fee waivers by self-represented litigants reduced document errors and improved service to the public.

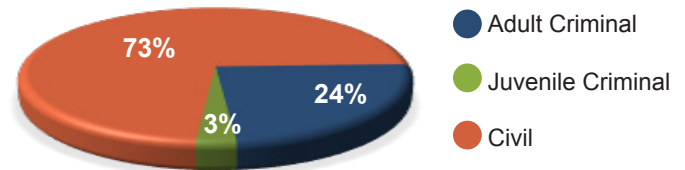
• Improved jury check-in procedures and provided public access to computers for juror questionnaires by utilizing a new self-help desk.

• Reclassified five clerk positions to lead workers, clerk seniors and clerk supervisor to improve morale and retention while building more opportunities for a career ladder within the district. These positions are responsible for newly created criminal, civil and domestic relations divisions in the clerk's office in Taos and provide leadership in the clerk's office in Raton. A clerk position in Clayton was reclassified to a court service manager to better manage court monitors, bailiffs and other courtroom assets. Assigned a senior clerk responsibility for jury management, processing appeals and improving the quality of the court's database.

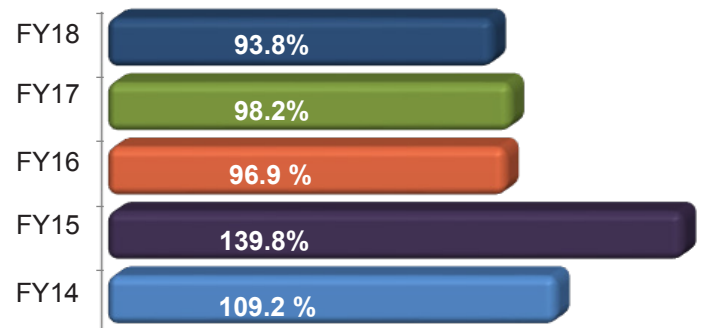


Juror check-in at the self-help desk in the Taos County Courthouse.

2018 FISCAL YEAR CASELOAD NEW AND REOPENED CASES: 3,422



DISPOSITION RATE



NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 90 criminal jury and bench trials.
- 4 civil jury and bench trials.

5
JUDGES

46
FULL-TIME
EMPLOYEES

- 12 graduates of adult drug courts in Clovis and Portales.

- More than 100 mediations by the court mediation program. Self-represented litigants accounted for the majority of the participants.

- 150 people assisted at more than two dozen free legal clinics for self-represented litigants. The clinics

offered help to a record number of individuals in FY18.

- 17 adoptions finalized at two Adoption Day events hosted by the court. Each adopted child was able gavel their adoption hearing to a close and each received a teddy bear to commemorate this special day. One event was in Portales and the other in Clovis.

- 133 people received legal help at the sixth annual Ask-A-Lawyer event in Portales, which stands as the most successful and had a 75% increase in participation.

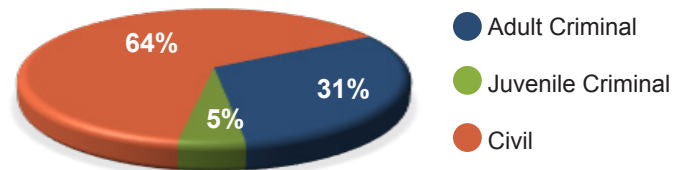
- 20 supervised visits and safe exchanges for children in cases involving parental disputes, including divorce, custody and domestic violence.

- Judges and staff appeared in local schools for Constitution Day, Character Counts, career day and other events through the Court in the Community program. Presentations were made to more than 600 students for Constitution Day.

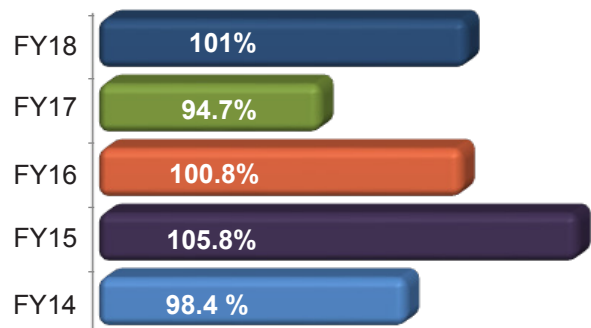
- Partnered with New Mexico Legal Aid to host a legal clinic and community fair in Clovis.

2018 FISCAL YEAR CASELOAD

NEW AND REOPENED CASES:
4,844



DISPOSITION RATE



Judge Fred Van Soelen (left), Security Bailiff Tommie Means (center) and Chief Judge Drew Tatum (front center) at an elementary school on Constitution Day.

TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 5 criminal jury and bench trials.
- Improved security with the purchase of a new metal detector for the Quay County Courthouse.
- Resumed opening the clerk's office to the public until 5 p.m. each day. A 4 p.m. closing had been imposed because of statewide funding shortages. The earlier closure allowed clerks to address work backlogs and process case filings without answering telephones or staffing customer

1
JUDGE

9
FULL-TIME
EMPLOYEES

service counters.

- Updated the courthouse jury room (pictured below), providing new lights and plumbing fixtures.

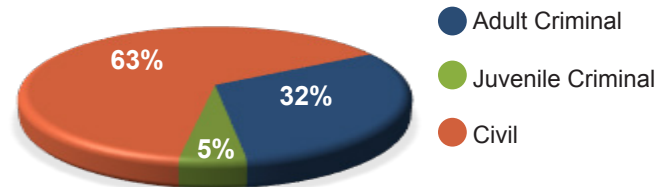
- Upgraded courtroom technology, including replacing a video conferencing system that was more than a decade old.

- No turnover in judicial specialists in the clerk's office. Each member of the staff has 10 or more years of experience with the court.

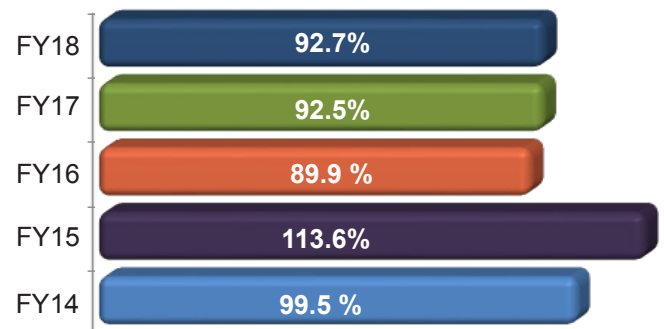


Court Executive Officer Marion Payton (right) and Financial Specialist Hallie Ferguson (left) testifying at a Legislative Finance Committee budget hearing.

2018 FISCAL YEAR CASELOAD NEW AND REOPENED CASES: 889



DISPOSITION RATE



ELEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 79 criminal jury and bench trials.
- 7 civil bench trials.

8
JUDGES

81
FULL-TIME
EMPLOYEES

- Pretrial Services staff screened 251 offenders for possible pretrial supervision and release from jail, and about 41% of the defendants were released to pretrial supervision.
- 38 graduates of adult and juvenile drug courts and mental health treatment court.

• Juvenile drug court clients performed community service, including maintenance of a community garden and packing holiday boxes of food and clothing at the Salvation Army. They also participated with Farmington Police school resource officers at an Adventure Camp that offered hiking, bicycling, fishing, canoeing and rock climbing along with community service. An equine therapy/experience offered juveniles the opportunity to work with horses.

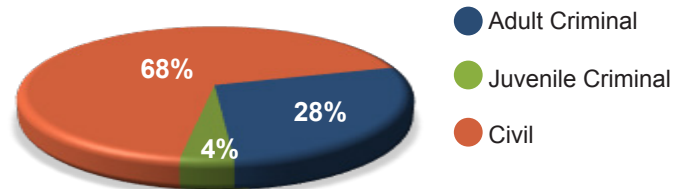
• 395 people participated in legal fairs in McKinley and San Juan counties.

• 277 people were assisted at monthly legal clinics in McKinley and San Juan counties. Two-fifths of those receiving free legal aid earned less than \$15,000 a year.

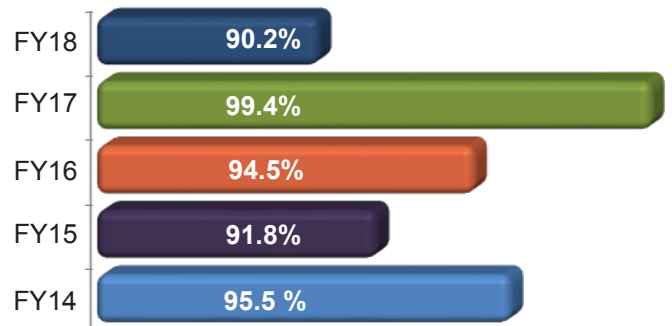


Chief Judge Karen Townsend (above left) pays tribute to Judge Sandra Price (above right), who retired after 12 years on the bench and was the first woman to serve as a district judge in the 11th Judicial District.

2018 FISCAL YEAR CASELOAD NEW AND REOPENED CASES: 10,298



DISPOSITION RATE



Judge Sarah Weaver (seated) filled the vacancy created by Judge Price's retirement. Her colleagues (left to right): Judges Bradford Dalley, John Dean Jr., Karen Townsend, Daylene Marsh and Lyndy Bennett.

TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 107 criminal jury and bench trials.
- 33 civil jury and bench trials.

4
JUDGES

41
FULL-TIME
EMPLOYEES

- 318 criminal defendants supervised by the Pre-Trial Services Division.
- 126 cases referred to the court-affiliated mediation program.
- 19 graduates of adult and juvenile drug courts, and 72 participants in the problem solving

courts.

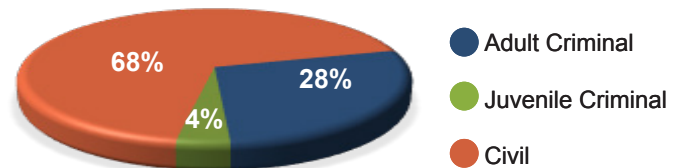
- 195 children in abuse and neglect cases served by CASA volunteers.

- Self-help center used 6,148 times by the public.

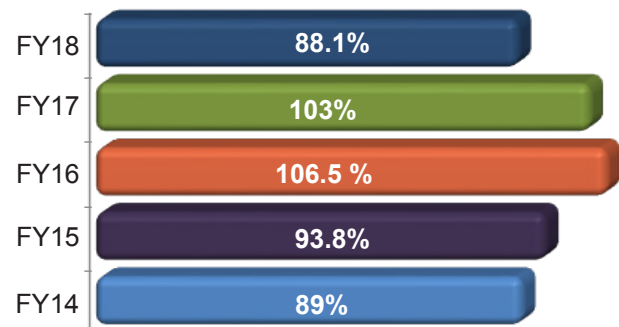
- Judge Jerry H. Ritter retired after serving 20 years on the District Court. Judge Steven Blankinship was appointed to the vacancy and won election to the position in the November general election.

- The Court partnered with Gerald Champion Regional Medical Center to establish a hearing room inside the hospital's Behavioral Health unit. Judges conduct hearings for individuals who may need a treatment guardian, involuntary commitment or appointment of a guardian or conservator. This approach provides for more timely resolution of cases and is less disruptive for individuals than transporting them from the hospital to the courthouse.

2018 FISCAL YEAR CASELOAD NEW AND REOPENED CASES: 5,264



DISPOSITION RATE



Judges, court personnel and officials of Gerald Champion Regional Medical Center after touring the hospital's hearing room. (L-R) Jeanette Borunda, director of clinical services for behavioral medicine; Zelda Skaife, director of nursing for behavioral medicine; Dr. Frank Pieri, medical director of behavioral medicine; Chief Justice Judith Nakamura; Judge Dan Bryant; Court Executive Office Katina Watson, Chief Judge James Counts; Artie Pepin, director of the Administrative Office of the Courts; and Pamela Kushmaul, attorney for the medical center.

THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 144 criminal jury and bench trials.
- 42 civil jury and bench trials.

8
JUDGES

82
FULL-TIME
EMPLOYEES

- Pre-Trial Services supervised 886 criminal defendants.

- 63 graduates of adult and juvenile drug courts, family dependency treatment court, and mental health court.

- 61 parents in abuse and neglect proceedings received social work and

case management services from the Family Support Services Program, which shortened the time to a permanent living arrangement for 86 children in the program.

- 2,532 supervised visits and safe exchanges for children in cases involving parental disputes, including divorce, custody and domestic violence.

- 172 children in abuse and neglect cases served by CASA volunteers.

- Settlement in 87% of mediation cases through the foreclosure settlement project, with 61% of participating homeowners able to remain in their home and resume mortgage payments.

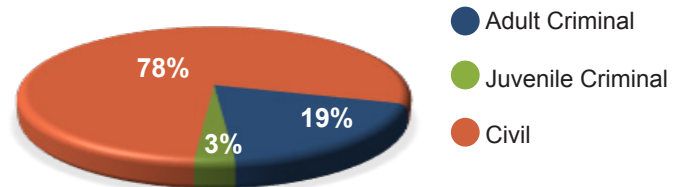
- 1,067 people assisted at three dozen clinics throughout the district for self-represented litigants.

- Family Advocacy Program received the New Mexico State Bar's 2018 Outstanding Legal Program award. It formerly was called Family Support Services.

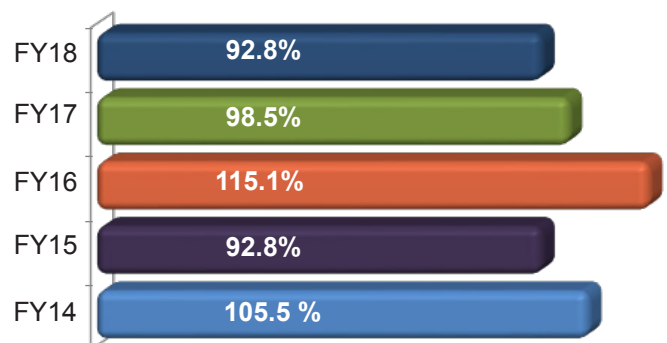


Staff and judges of the 13th and 2nd District Courts along with others from the Children, Youth and Families Department and the Administrative Office of the Courts after the New Mexico Family Advocacy Program received the State Bar's Outstanding Legal Program award.

2018 FISCAL YEAR CASELOAD NEW AND REOPENED CASES: 12,351



DISPOSITION RATE



BERNALILLO COUNTY METROPOLITAN COURT

Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court was created in 1980, consolidating responsibilities of the county's Magistrate Court, the Albuquerque Municipal Court and Small Claims Court. Judges, who serve four-year terms, must be members of the State Bar and have practiced law for at least three years. It is a limited jurisdiction court, which handles misdemeanors, DWI cases, traffic violations, civil actions up to \$10,000 and conducts first appearances for felony defendants.

19
JUDGES

318
FULL-TIME
EMPLOYEES

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 18,077 criminal bench trials and 63 jury trials.
- 12,935 civil bench and jury trials.
- 155 graduates of DWI drug court and mental health treatment court.



Chief Judge Edward Benavidez shakes hands with a graduate of the DWI Recovery Court.

- DWI Recovery Court's recidivism rate hit a record low of 4.2 % in August 2018.
- 50% reduction in the failure to appear rate in misdemeanor cases since April 2017 when a service was launched for text message reminders to defendants of upcoming court dates. The court has expanded the service to felony cases and is

considering it for civil litigants.

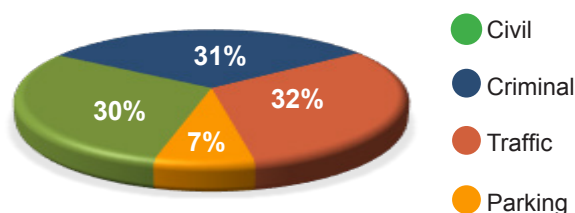
- Judges began conducting preliminary examinations in felony cases in January 2018 to help speed up the handling of more serious criminal cases in the county.

- Worked with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to pilot in several magistrate courts a release on recognizance (ROR) program operated for decades by Metro Court. AOC is seeking funding in fiscal year 2020 to expand the program to all magistrate courts statewide. People arrested for nonviolent crimes are screened through a video hookup for possible pretrial release, reducing costs from jail stays while protecting public safety.

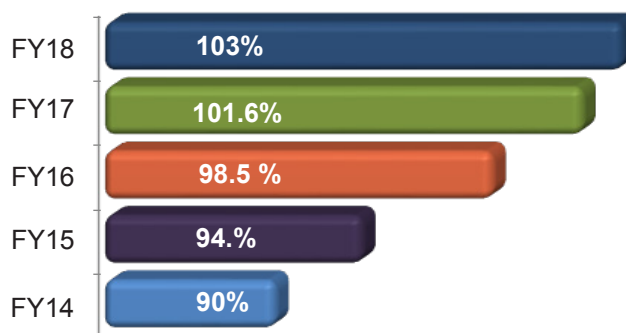
- Conducted the court's most successful "safe surrender" event, resolving 797 bench warrants.

2018 FISCAL YEAR CASELOAD

NEW AND REOPENED CASES:
69,865



DISPOSITION RATE



Judge Sharon D. Walton (left) received the prestigious Henrietta Pettijohn Award for her lifetime of work supporting women in the legal field. Court of Appeals Judge M. Monica Zamora presented the award.

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. By law, there must be at least one magistrate court in each county but some counties have more than one court.

46
COURTS
STATEWIDE

67
JUDGES

220
FULL-TIME
EMPLOYEES

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 9,171 criminal bench and jury trials.
- 823 civil bench and jury trials.
- 52 graduated from drug court programs in Doña Ana, Eddy, San Miguel, San Juan, Santa Fe, Torrance and Valencia counties.
- Collected \$8.8 million in fees and fines, of which \$2.8 million were warrant fees that helped finance court clerks, supplies, equipment

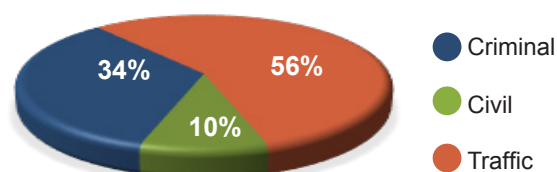
and court furniture, and to partially reimburse law enforcement for expenses of serving warrants.

- Harding County Magistrate Court Manager Kevin Elkins was selected the 2017 Magistrate Court Clerk of the Year. Regional Clerks of the Year were Trinnie Martinez of Española, Amy Hrnovich of Raton and Tara Flowers of Roswell.

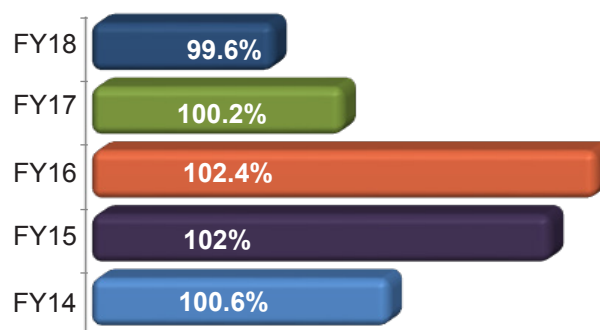
- 102 warrants cleared by the Warrant Enforcement Program during a “safe surrender” event in San Miguel County. Warrant enforcement staff assisted the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court in clearing 35 warrants during a “safe surrender” program in Albuquerque.

- Began installing cameras in courtrooms and lobbies at 22 magistrate courts along with a card access system at court entrances to ensure courts can lock down in an emergency. Completion expected in the spring of 2019.

2018 FISCAL YEAR CASELOAD NEW AND REOPENED CASES: 157,749



DISPOSITION RATE



Chief Justice Judith Nakamura (center), Los Alamos Magistrate Court Judge Pat Casados and Administrative Office of the Courts Director Artie Pepin appear at a Legislative Finance Committee budget hearing.

MAGISTRATE COURTS FACILITIES

Magistrate courts require improved facilities to accommodate the public's need for judicial services. Many magistrate court facilities have become increasingly overcrowded and are creating safety and security concerns. Because this situation will become more acute over time, certain facilities will need to be replaced. The Magistrate Court Division of the Administrative Office of the Courts has started to align projects to an initiative to streamline the Judiciary's organizational structure. The following are projects the division has been working on:

Belen Magistrate Court

The AOC is developing a plan with the Valencia County community of Belen to build a new Magistrate Court. Construction is expected to be completed in the fall of 2020.



Architectural rendering of the new Belen Magistrate Court.

Lovington Magistrate Court

The Lea County community of Lovington has purchased property for construction of a new magistrate court in the city.



Architectural rendering of the new Lovington Magistrate Court.

Ruidoso Magistrate Court

The AOC is working with the village of Ruidoso on a proposal for a new court that could house magistrate and possibly some district court operations. The proposed location is at the Horton complex, which the village in Lincoln County recently acquired.

Santa Fe Magistrate Court

The AOC is considering two possible locations for construction of a new magistrate court in the city.

Mora County Magistrate Court

The AOC finalized lease negotiations with Mora County. Construction started on the Mora County Complex in August 2018 and completion is expected in early 2019.

The 5,663-square foot Magistrate Court facility will be on the second floor of the new county building.



Architectural rendering of the Mora County Complex.

Court Consolidation Projects

The AOC is investigating options for better serving communities by having one location for all judiciary operations. Current projects include:

- Relocate the Anthony Magistrate Court to the Anthony Municipal Complex and share space with the Municipal Court.
- Relocate the Grants Magistrate Court to vacated space within the Cibola County District Court to create a judicial complex.
- Relocate the Raton Magistrate Court within the Colfax County District Court to streamline services to the community.
- Relocate the Eunice Magistrate Court to a building recently donated to the city and house the municipal court in the facility.

Adult Guardianship & Conservatorship

Legislation (Senate bill 19) enacted in 2018 significantly changed the probate code and the court process for adult guardianship and conservatorship cases. To assist the Judiciary in implementing changes required by the new law, a part-time attorney with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC):

- Participated in a steering committee that made recommendations to the Supreme Court for the use of \$1 million appropriated to the AOC for guardianship reforms and possible future revisions to the guardianship system.
 - Provided the Guardianship Rules Committee with information on court process and procedures as the committee drafted new forms and court rules for approval by the Supreme Court to comply with changes in law.
 - Created user-friendly content for the Adult Guardianship page on the court's website. The site now includes new Supreme Court approved forms and a Frequently Asked Questions section on the following topics: Access to Court Hearings and Records, Bonds, and Oversight and Audit.
- Assisted in drafting and executing a memorandum of understanding with the Office of the State Auditor to perform audits of certain adult guardianship and conservatorship cases. The agreement outlines two types of independent financial and compliance audit activities in adult guardianship and conservatorship cases:
 1. Reviewing a protected person's estate or financial affairs upon a referral from a district court, after a judge conducts a hearing on the issue. Upon completing the audit, the state auditor will submit a written report of findings and recommendations to the court and the conservators, and be available to testify about the report.
 2. Conducting financial and compliance audits of a sample of contracts with the New Mexico Developmental Disability Planning Council's Office of Guardianship. The state auditor will assess compliance, timeliness, and accuracy of required reports and may also review relevant financial transactions conducted for guardianship services.

Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission

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 2018 the commission:

- Began working with the district courts 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 the ADR Bureau of the executive branch of government to expand training opportunities in conflict resolution to the judicial branch.
- Continued statewide efforts to improve court ADR data collection and reporting.



Second Judicial District Judge Gerard Lavelle signing papers at a pro bono mediation day for couples facing family law issues.

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. Services were provided in 510 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.

*"Options were clarified and questions answered.
Helpful to speak without animosity
clouding the issues."*

—Parent comment on the value of mediation.

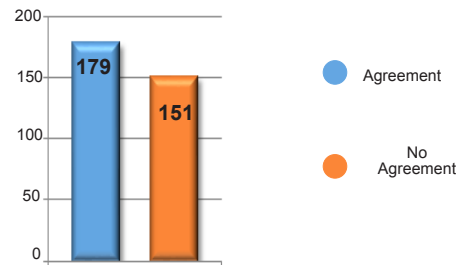
Magistrate Court Mediation Program

The program provides mediation services for general civil cases in six magistrate courts in Sandoval, Curry, Doña Ana, Taos, and Valencia counties. The program's 60 volunteers mediated 330 cases in FY18, of which 179 (54%) resulted in an agreement. Sixty-eight percent (68%) of mediated cases with an agreement did not return for enforcement.

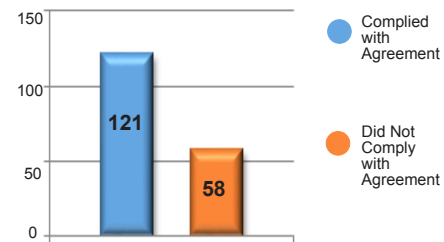
During FY18, the program:

- Contracted with three regional coordinators and one administrative coordinator to assist with program administration.
- Engaged the skills of 60 certified volunteer mediators to provide over 1,000 hours of service in the fiscal year.
- Partnered with other mediation organizations to provide continuing education for volunteer mediators and increase mediator pools.
- Added a seventh court to the program, with services in Santa Fe County at the Santa Fe Magistrate Court beginning in August 2018.

FY18 Mediated Cases



FY18 Compliance



Children's Court Improvement Project



The New Mexico Supreme Court appoints a broadly based commission to oversee Court Improvement Project federal grants for improving child welfare court systems. Under the grants, training for attorneys and judges is conducted at the Corinne Wolfe Center for

Child & Family Justice and New Mexico State University through an agreement with the Administrative Office of the Courts.

The Children's Court Improvement Commission includes judges, legislators, representatives from the protective services and juvenile justice programs of the Children, Youth and Families Department, attorneys, child and family advocates, educators, service providers, foster parents, former foster youth and other interested parties.



The Children's Court Improvement Commission is chaired by Ezra Spitzer and Judge Jennifer DeLaney of the 6th Judicial District Court.

During FY18:

- The commission's Protective Services Committee worked with the Children, Youth and Families Department on planning a project to reduce a backlog of termination of parental rights requests in several judicial districts.
- The Juvenile Justice and Behavioral Health Committees combined their initiatives to focus on case processing and delivery of services to "crossover" youth involved in juvenile justice and child welfare cases.
- The Education Committee focused on the federal Every Student Succeeds Act and is planning legislative initiatives to facilitate credit recovery and transfer in the 2019 legislative session.
- Provided monthly updates and training for all court-appointed attorneys and judges in abuse and neglect cases.
- Held the 25th annual Children's Law Institute, which drew over 1,000 registrants.
- The commission leadership team held a two-day retreat to refocus efforts for legal representation in abuse and neglect cases.

"To improve the safety, permanency and well-being of children and families in New Mexico's Children's Courts by developing innovative initiatives through court, stakeholder and agency collaboration."

*—Mission of the
Children's Court Improvement Commission*

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, increase public awareness through communication and message development, encourage more pro bono work by attorneys, and improve training and technology-based solutions to provide more access to the justice system.

About 2,200 people received free or reduced cost legal assistance during fiscal year 2018 from about 650 attorneys who participated in events organized by the State Bar and New Mexico Legal Aid in collaboration with the commission.

The commission began a “Justice for All” strategic planning process, using guidance materials developed by the National Center for State Courts. The “Justice for All” initiative is a national effort with a goal of creating viable plans to ensure 100% access to the legal system for all individuals with civil legal needs.



Second Judicial District Judge William Parnall assisting citizens at one of the court's Law-La-Polooza pro bono legal clinics.

Reform efforts include simplification of court processes and forms, development of online forms, strong court self-help centers, active pro bono representation, and access to mediation and other dispute resolution processes outside the courtroom.

Commissioners worked with a private firm on strategies to communicate with the public about the need for civil legal services and to encourage pro bono representation. The commission is working to implement the communications plan and recruit community organizations to help in expanding the capacity of civil legal services systems.

Compilation Commission

As the official legal publisher for the state of New Mexico, the New Mexico Compilation Commission compiles the laws into the New Mexico Statutes Annotated and provides copyrighted content, such as case annotations and compiler's notes.

It maintains a master database of the official laws including historical compilations of the session laws, annotated statutes, appellate court opinions, annotated court rules and forms, administrative code, attorney

general opinions and federal court opinions and federal court rules. The Commission performs customized law publishing services for the legislative and judicial branches of state government, secretary of state, attorney general and the Taxation and Revenue Department. As an enterprise agency, the Compilation Commission sells its print and online products to state agencies and local governments and to the private sector. A web site offers free public access to unannotated statutes and court rules.

Legal Publishing by the Numbers

18,975,525 Printed pages produced in official publications.

722 New and amended sections in New Mexico Statutes Annotated.

218 New, amended and recompiled rules in New Mexico Rules Annotated.

121 NM Supreme Court and Court of Appeals official opinions.

420 Unreported decisions by the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals.

100 Slip Opinions by the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals.

89 GB Master database size.

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 an attorney be appointed by a court. Among the clients served are children and parents in abuse and neglect cases.

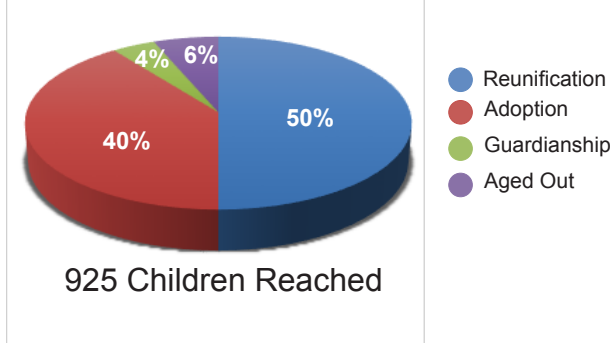
The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) provides fiscal oversight, ensures compliance with contractual obligations by attorneys, and works collaboratively with the Court Improvement Project and the Corrine Wolfe Center for Child and Family Justice to offer attorneys free or reduced cost continuing education and trial skills training.

The AOC continues its efforts to equitably allocate funds while maintaining focus on quality representation.

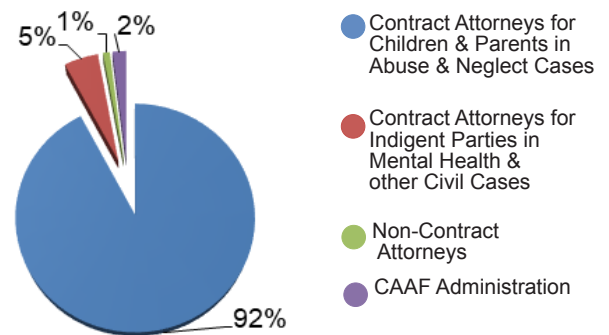
During FY18:

- 136 contract attorneys provided representation on 2,141 cases.
- 90 attorneys received support to attend the Children's Law Institute, which provides continuing education and training on child welfare cases.
- Successfully secured supplemental funding needed to compensate attorneys in abuse and neglect cases, child welfare appellate cases, and mental health proceedings involving children and adults.
- Supported expansion of the Family Advocacy Services program in the 13th and 2nd Districts, which is designed as a multidisciplinary and holistic approach to abuse and neglect cases. Preliminary data indicates that cases using the program experienced a significant decrease in the time for children to exit foster care.

FY18 Statewide Permanency Outcomes



Court Appointed Attorney Fund FY18 Expenditures



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.

New Mexico Child Advocacy Center served as the statewide CASA organization providing technical assistance to all local programs, training, quality assurance and data collection to the Administrative Office of the Courts.

CASA at a Glance

14 CASA programs in 24 counties.

823 Trained and supervised volunteers.

1,797 Children and youth supported.

975 Cases assigned a CASA.

Domestic Violence

A part-time staff attorney with the Administrative Office of the Court (AOC) worked in fiscal year 2018 on issues related to orders of protection issued under the Family Violence Protection Act:

- Assisted in the development of a form that identifies the relationship of the defendant and the victim for reporting misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence to the FBI for entry into the National Criminal Background Check System (NICS) to comply with the

federal Gun Control Act.

- Domestic violence kiosks installed at three district courts that use an electronic “interview” to help petitioners prepare a petition for an order of protection. Interactive software automatically fills in answers in the appropriate court forms.
- Provided training to over 65 judiciary staff to help identify the tools and resources available to courts to accept and process petitions for an order of protection.

Human Resources Division

The Human Resources Division serves about 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 needs of the Judiciary.

During the 2018 fiscal year, the division:

- Actively worked toward the successful long-term implementation of the Workforce Investment Plan (WIP)

including researching, analyzing, compiling, entering and validating pay data.

- Drafted and revised Judicial Branch Personnel Rules and Policies to support the operational effectiveness of the state court system.
- Provided new employee orientation training to more than 150 judicial employees statewide.
- Conducted four weeklong Supervisory Mentorship Program trainings for approximately 100 supervisors and managers statewide.
- Successfully implemented the human capital management upgrade of state government’s human resources, accounting and management reporting computer system.
- Implemented a Fair Labor Standards Act audit of all judicial positions.



Human Resources Division staff: (L-R) Nathan Hale, Ashleigh Bell, Antoinette Curran, Lynette Paulman-Rodriguez, Samantha Abeyta, Nicole Salazar, Loreen Mendiola, Tamara Roybal and Victoria Sandoval.

Judicial Information Division

The Judicial Information Division (JID) is the technology arm of the New Mexico Judiciary and is directed by the chief information 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 2018 fiscal year, JID completed the following projects:

- Upgraded the Odyssey electronic case management system used for docketing and processing court cases. The roll out provided 20 new features for courts.
- Increased the reliability and performance of the Odyssey infrastructure by moving it to a software-based, virtual computing environment. The underlying operating system also was upgraded.
- Implemented electronic filing of cases at the Court of Appeals and converted the appellate court to the Odyssey system.
- Upgraded Case Lookup, a web-based system for public access to case history and summary information about court cases. Enhancements included the addition of Court of Appeals and Supreme Court cases to the database.
- Completed the final phase of a project for the electronic scanning of paper records in the magistrate courts.
- Enhanced the flow of electronic parking citations between the city of Albuquerque's Parking Division and the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court to integrate with a new system used by the state Motor Vehicle Division.
- Re-engineered an aging system used by AOC's Fiscal Division to manage payments of court fines and fees.
- Continued expansion of e-filing of pleadings in cases in which the state enforces the collection of child support payments. Two courts are accepting the electronic filings and the remaining district courts are to go live in fiscal year 2019.
- Updated standard operating procedures with step-by-step instructions created by JID to help court users follow uniform processes in Odyssey.
- Improved security of desktop computers through technology that restricts the ability of end-users to install software packages themselves.
- Developed database reports for performance measures used by courts.
- Improved functions in Odyssey for the transfer of case records from magistrate courts to district courts for appeals, bind overs of criminal cases, competency transfers, and pre-trial detention hearings.



Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission



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 2018:

- The commission conducted final interviews and prepared final evaluations of one appellate court judge and 18 judges on the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court in time for retention elections in November 2018.

Jury Service



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.

AOC contracted for and implemented during the fiscal year a web-based statewide jury management system, known as Jury+.

The new system:

- Offers a range of convenient online services for people summoned for jury duty. Jurors can submit forms and documents to courts, request excusals and postponements, check their jury service status and print service verification letters. Jurors also can receive notifications by email, text and mail.

- Securely links to all trials courts in New Mexico. Any location can view a juror's status, upload documents and check a juror's history for any other New Mexico court. AOC can provide remote support 24/7 because the system is web-based.

- Provides real time data and statistics — allowing a court to check their jurors' status at any time and operate more efficiently in managing jurors.

- Improved the juror payroll process, which is now completed weekly. Checks are mailed within two weeks.

A contract with a separate vendor provides a web-based system for processing, printing, and mailing jury summonses. The two online systems have automated the summons data upload process and decreased user errors.

During FY18:

157,874 New Mexicans were sent a jury summons by district, metropolitan, and magistrate courts. That was a 14% decrease from FY17, and reversed a four-year trend of 10% annual increases in the number of people called for jury duty. The turnaround largely stems

from the Jury+ system, which improves the process for qualifying jurors and allows better monitoring by courts. Driver's license, registered voter and personal income tax filer databases are used to randomly summon prospective jurors.



Juror check-in at the Colfax County Courthouse in Raton.

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 main goals of the initiative are reducing the unnecessary detention of youth, lessening racial and ethnic disparities in juvenile detention and promoting youth success without sacrificing public safety. Bernalillo County has been a model JDAI site nationally for more than a decade.

Highlights in FY18 included:

- Established a coordinating team to advance implementation of juvenile detention alternatives.
- Conducted a site visit to New Jersey — a state that has successfully taken the Juvenile Detention Alternatives

Initiative statewide.

- Developed an extensive work plan with concrete steps for JDAI expansion.

- Conducted readiness surveys that identified Luna, Hidalgo, Grant, Sandoval, and Valencia counties as having particularly collaborative communities invested in juvenile justice reform.

- Led a panel discussion at the 2018 Children's Law Institute on the history of JDAI, current efforts in San Juan County and the future of JDAI statewide.

- Continued engagement with New Mexico's tribes and pueblos to identify detention alternatives for Native American youth.

Language Access Services

Language Access Services (LAS) coordinates and funds court interpreting services, and recruits, trains and qualifies interpreters to ensure equal access to the state courts for Limited English Proficient, deaf and hard of hearing individuals under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Executive Order 13166.

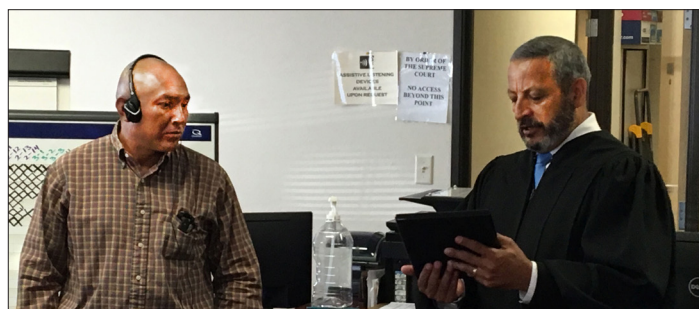
LAS also supports court staff, judges and court users by providing training, language access planning, document and website translation, signage, on-demand remote interpreting services and assistive listening equipment.

In fiscal year 2018, Language Access Services:

- Began a program to translate bilingual (English-Spanish) domestic violence and domestic relations forms, which has significantly improved access to justice for individuals with limited-English proficiency.
- Installed the second video remote interpreting station at the Santa Fe Magistrate Court and continued to expand the use of video remote interpreting. The stations allow for video remote interpreting from the Second Judicial District Court and Santa Fe Magistrate Court to other courts in the state.
- Assisted in implementing a scribing project in the

Ninth Judicial District Court to improve access to justice for court users who cannot read or complete paperwork because of limited English proficiency, disability or illiteracy.

- Offered a two-day, in-person training for Language Access Specialists and court personnel who work with domestic violence cases.
- Offered a session on Language Access at the training for new judges.
- Continued to improve the judges' portal, which includes videos, rules, standards of practice, FAQs and other useful resources related to language access.



Interpreting services during drug court proceedings at the Santa Fe Magistrate Court presided over by Judge David Segura (right).

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 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.

The AOC piloted program certification and peer review projects in fiscal year 2018 to encourage alignment with the New Mexico Drug Court Standards, which were adopted by the Supreme Court in 2016.

Certification includes an evaluation of treatment and confidentiality practices, drug testing protocols, professional development activities, team roles and responsibilities, and the application of sanctions, incentives, and therapeutic adjustments. Any areas noted for improvement are typically addressed through training and technical assistance resulting in program enhancements.

Under the peer review process, the AOC and court personnel visit programs to observe court hearings, meetings of drug court team members and to interview the team members and obtain feedback from drug court participants. The visiting team provides a formal report of their observations.

Studies have found that drug courts are two times more effective than prison in preventing re-arrest and four times less expensive than prison.

Program Type	Graduation	Graduation Rate	Recidivism (re-arrest)	Daily Cost-Per-Client
Adult Drug Court	217	47.6%	27.4%	\$20
Juvenile Drug Court	59	48.8%	28.8%	\$52.92
DWI Drug Court	162	81.4%	6.6%	\$18.43
Family Dependency	18	35.9%	32.1%	\$30.48
Mental Health Court	71	58%	25.4%	\$18.36

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.

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.

During FY18:

- The number of safe exchanges and supervised visits increased 7%.
- Hours of provided services increased 10%. The number of children utilizing SESV services grew 5%.
- New Mexico SESV providers received national Supervised Visitation Network certificate program training. Each SESV facility now has a Supervised Visitation Network trained staff member.

- The AOC developed and launched an online SES training module for court and provider staff with the help of a grant from the State Justice Institute.

Positive Impact on Families	1,329 Children Served	1,827 Adults Served
Supervised Visits and Exchanges	8,519 Supervised Visits	5,675 Safe Exchanges
Hours of Service	18,198	

New Mexico has 13 SESV providers in nine judicial districts: Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, and Santa Fe counties (1st), Bernalillo County (2nd), Doña Ana County (3rd), San Miguel County (4th), Chaves, Eddy, and Lea counties (5th), Grant, Hidalgo, and Luna counties (6th), Taos and Colfax counties (8th), San Juan County (11th), and Cibola, Sandoval and Valencia counties (13th).

Supreme Court Law Library

The Supreme Court Law Library was established in 1915 and maintains a comprehensive legal research collection in a variety of formats, including paper, microfiche, electronic, and online. The library participates in the Federal Depository Library Program and receives materials from the Government Publishing Office.

The library's website includes links to official court forms, New Mexico and federal statutes and cases, the New Mexico courts' self-help guide in English and Spanish, the library's online catalog and other resources for legal information. The library employs a staff of eight and has been housed within the Supreme Court Building in Santa Fe since 1937.

Individuals and groups often visit the Law Library because of the historic nature of the Supreme Court Building and its proximity to the Capitol. The library had over 800 visitors during fiscal year 2018, including tour groups from Lea County, the Teen Pack Leadership School, the Santa Fe Librarians Group and new appellate court law clerks.

Reference librarians received requests during the fiscal year for legal information from courts and individuals located across New Mexico, including all 13 district court jurisdictions, and from 22 other states.

Library Accomplishments

7,139 Reference Requests

77 New Card Holders Registered

1,272 Circulation Transactions

11,895 New Titles Cataloged

14,798 New Items/Volumes Added

27,659 Bibliographic Records Updates

2,321 Free Federal Documents Received

55,600 Website Hits

Tribal-State Judicial Consortium



The Tribal-State Judicial Consortium is a Supreme Court advisory body that consists of seven state and seven tribal judges. The consortium's mission is to encourage and facilitate communication and collaboration between state and tribal court judges on common issues such as child welfare, domestic relations, juvenile justice, and drug/wellness courts. Members meet quarterly to address questions of jurisdiction and sovereignty as they relate to each particular issue. The consortium also works to organize training and education for judges within both judiciaries on federal and state rules and procedures.

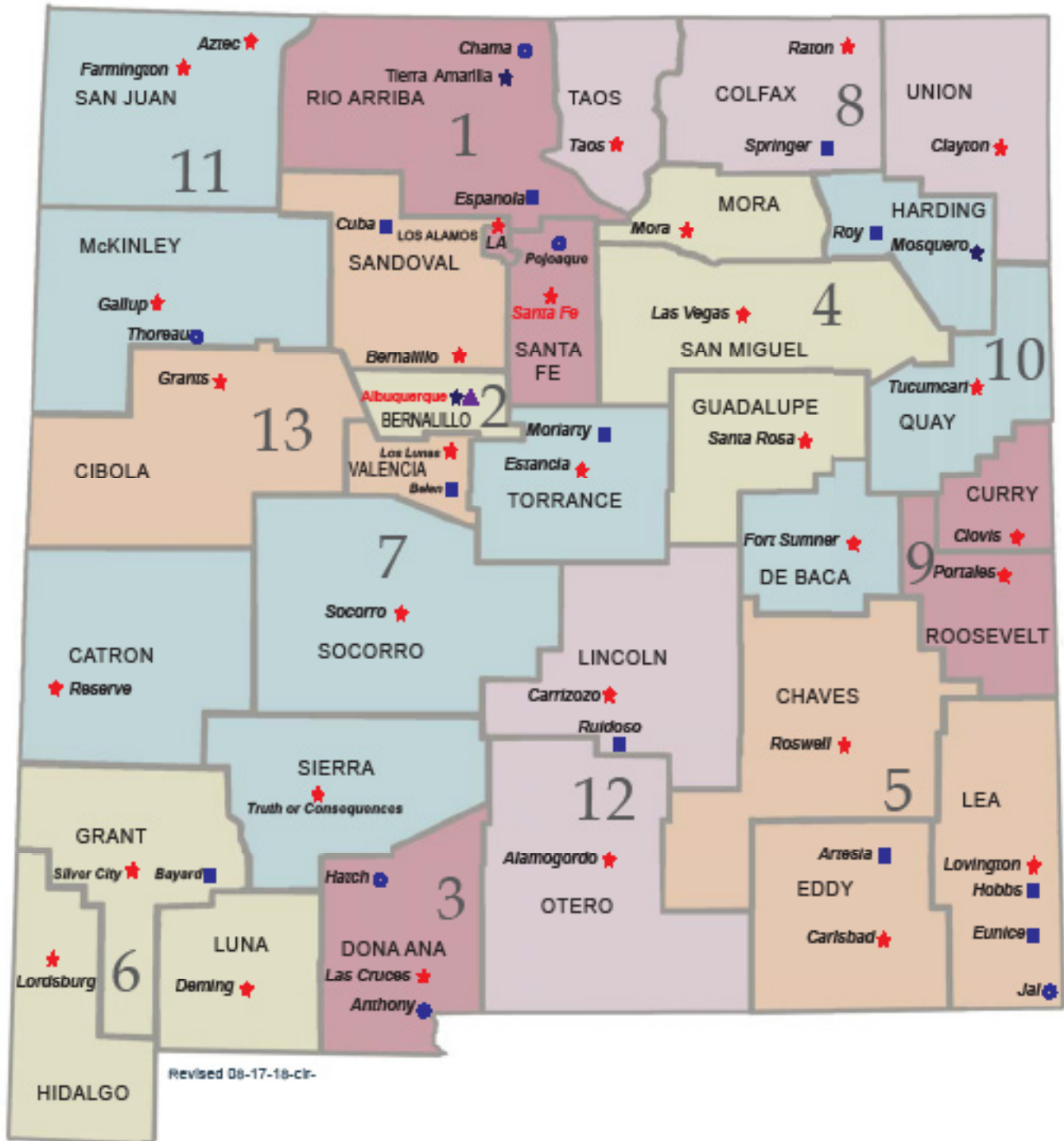
Fiscal year 2018 highlights:

- Model orders on tribal mental health and commitment orders submitted by the consortium to the New Mexico Supreme Court for approval.
- Presentations to the Legislature's Indian Affairs Committee, the Casey Family Foundation Board of Trustees and at the Tribal Law and Policy Meeting in California about the consortium's collaborative structure and work on issues related to the Indian Child Welfare Act.
- The consortium approved a proposal for changes to Children's Court Rules and a state statute to (1) ensure tribal courts receive earlier notification regarding Native American juveniles in the state system and (2) that state recognition of tribal court orders involving juveniles be done without the need for an intergovernmental agreement with the Children, Youth and Families Department.
- Continued support of Isleta Pueblo's pilot program for detention alternatives for juveniles within the tribal court system. The consortium is exploring possible expansion of the pilot to tribal courts in San Juan, Taos, Acoma, Ohkay Owingeh and Laguna Pueblos.



Members of the Tribal-State Judicial Consortium attend the June 2018 strategic planning retreat.

NEW MEXICO STATE COURTS



Supreme Court

Santa Fe

Court Of Appeals

Santa Fe & Albuquerque

- ★ District & Magistrate Courts
- ★ District Courts
- ★ Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court
- Magistrate Full Courts
- Magistrate Circuit Courts

Judicial District Courts by County:

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
Los Alamos Rio Arriba Santa Fe	Bernalillo	Dona Ana	Guadalupe Mora San Miguel	Chaves Eddy Lea	Grant Luna Hidalgo	Catron Sierra Socorro Torrance
8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	
Colfax Taos Union	Curry Roosevelt	De Baca Harding Sage	McKinley San Juan	Lincoln Otero	Cibola Sandoval Valencia	

NEW MEXICO ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

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