Administrative Office of the Courts

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Contact: Barry Massey, communications officer
bmassey@nmcourts.gov
505-827-4805
505-470-3436

FORMAL INVESTITURE CEREMONY HELD FOR NEW MEXICO SUPREME COURT JUSTICE GARY L. CLINGMAN

SANTA FE – A formal investiture ceremony was held today for New Mexico Supreme Court Justice Gary L. Clingman.

The swearing-in and robing of Justice Clingman occurred in the Supreme Court courtroom in Santa Fe.

Chief Justice Judith K. Nakamura administered the oath of office. Justice Clingman's son, Patrick Clingman, of Alpine, Texas, held the Bible during the oath and then assisted the justice in putting on his robe.

After taking the oath, Justice Clingman recalled that when he first became a judge in 1997, his father advised him to provide equal treatment to the poor and rich alike.

"I've heard those words every time I put on the robe," he said.

"My pledge to you is that those words will continue to resonate and they'll be reflected in my work and my actions on the Court," said Justice Clingman.

He is the 67th Justice since statehood and the 19th person to fill the Hanna Seat on the Court, which is named after the first Justice to hold that seat — Richard H. Hanna.

Justice Clingman served on the Fifth Judicial District Court in Lea County from 1997 until his appointment to the state's highest court. He was chief judge from 2006 to 2013.

Justice Clingman received his law degree in 1984 from Texas Tech University School of Law and a master of judicial studies from the University of Nevada in 2014. He worked as a private practice attorney with a Hobbs law firm before from 1985 to 1997.

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Editors: Photo courtesy of the Administrative Office of the Courts. Chief Justice Judith K. Nakamura (left) administers the oath of office to Justice Gary L. Clingman (center). Patrick Clingman, the justice's son, (right) holds the Bible.