# Administrative Office of the Courts

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**Belen Magistrate Court Judge John Chavez to chair judiciary's Budget Committee**

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Supreme Court has named Belen Magistrate Court Judge John Chavez to lead a committee that develops funding proposals for the state court system.

Judge Chavez will serve as chair of the Budget Committee, which consists of eight voting members from courts across the state. The chair votes only when there is a tie vote of the members.

The Supreme Court issued an order earlier this month appointing the committee members and chair.

The committee members are: Eighth Judicial District Court Chief Judge Emilio Chavez; Court of Appeals Judge Megan Duffy; Eleventh Judicial District Court Chief Judge Curtis Gurley; Third Judicial Court Judge James Martin; First Judicial District Court Judge Francis Mathew; Pam Nay, chief financial officer for the Eighth Judicial District Court; Robert Padilla, court executive officer for the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court; and Katina Watson, court executive officer for the Second Judicial District Court.

The Budget Committee holds hearings each year to review budget requests made by state courts, the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Compilation Commission. The committee then recommends funding proposals to the Supreme Court, which makes the final decision on a unified judicial budget request submitted to the Legislature and Department of Finance and Administration.

"It is vital for our democracy that courts are properly funded to carry out their mission of ensuring equal access to justice for all, resolving legal disputes fairly, and protecting the rights and liberties of New Mexicans," said Judge Chavez, the committee chair.

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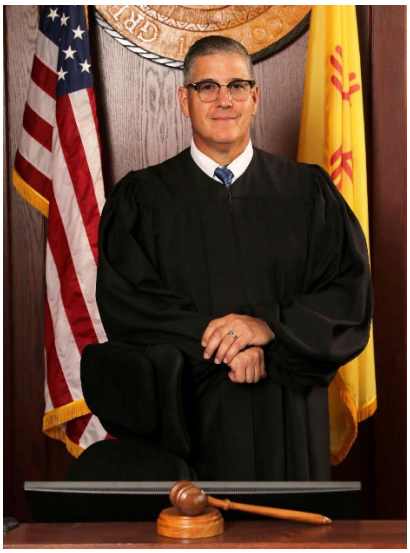

Magistrate Court Judge John Chavez
(Photo Courtesy the Belen Magistrate Court)