

2024 Retention Report to Voters

2nd Judicial District - Bernalillo County



Honorable Briana H. Zamora
Supreme Court Justice – Statewide

RETAIN NO

Democrat
Nominated by
Gov. Lujan Grisham

Justice Briana Zamora's overall survey results were quite positive. She was rated highly by attorneys for conducting herself in a manner free from impropriety, treating all courtroom participants with respect, and maintaining professional demeanor in the courtroom. Court staff, district judges, and her fellow judges and justices at the Court of Appeals and Supreme Court gave her positive scores in all areas.



Honorable Jennifer L. Attrep
Court of Appeals Judge – Statewide

RETAIN NO

Emerge Alum 2015
Democrat
Nominated by
Gov. S. Martinez

Judge Jennifer Attrep was rated highly in many areas by court staff, district judges, and fellow appellate judges and justices. Lawyers rated her positively for conducting herself in a manner free from impropriety, treating all courtroom participants with respect, maintaining professional demeanor in the courtroom, and being prepared. Lawyers were concerned she did not always address legal issues clearly and there were concerns with her timeliness in writing opinions.



Honorable Megan P. Duffy
Court of Appeals Judge – Statewide

RETAIN NO

Emerge Alum 2018
Democrat

Judge Megan Duffy's survey results were somewhat mixed. Attorneys rated her positively for maintaining professional demeanor in the courtroom and providing court participants with a meaningful opportunity to be heard. Court staff rated her positively for rendering opinions without regard to outside pressure and maintaining a professional demeanor. Court staff gave her low ratings on timeliness in making rulings and rendering decisions, effectively handling her ongoing workload, and treating court employees with respect.



Honorable Shammara H. Henderson
Court of Appeals Judge – Statewide

RETAIN NO

Emerge Alum 2010
Democrat
Nominated by
Gov. S. Martinez

Judge Shammara Henderson received positive scores from attorneys for treating all courtroom participants with respect, maintaining professional demeanor, and being prepared. District court judges gave her generally positive ratings. Appellate court judges rated her positively in most categories, but somewhat lower in performing primary authorship responsibilities with diligence and complying with appellate time standards. Court staff rated Judge Henderson positively for maintaining a professional demeanor and treating court employees with respect, but lower in effectively handling her ongoing workload.



Honorable Denise Barela-Shepherd

2nd Judicial District Court Judge – District 18 – Civil Court

Republican
Nominated by
Gov. Bill Richardson

RETAIN Yes

Judge Denise Barela-Shepherd received positive ratings from attorneys and court staff. Attorneys rated her highly for being punctual in commencing proceedings, being prompt in scheduling hearings and trials, maintaining proper control over the proceedings, and ensuring her personal staff is professional, productive, and knowledgeable of court policies and procedures. Her scores from attorneys and court staff have continuously improved during her time on the bench. Her scores among court staff improved significantly from the 2019 evaluation cycle.



Honorable Cindy Leos

2nd Judicial District Court Judge – Division 9 – Criminal Court

Democrat
Elected

RETAIN NO

Judge Cindy Leos received a very positive overall evaluation. Attorneys rated her highly for being attentive to the proceedings, punctuality in commencing proceedings, displaying familiarity with court cases through prior preparation, and for ruling on motions or cases in a timely manner. The court staff, resource staff (e.g., law enforcement officers, CASA volunteers, CYFD, interpreters, etc.), and jurors rated Judge Leos positively on all attributes.



Honorable Victor S. Lopez

2nd Judicial District Court Judge – Division 27 – Civil Court

Democrat
Elected

RETAIN NO

Judge Victor Lopez received somewhat **mixed results**. Attorneys rated him highly for being attentive to the proceedings, maintaining proper control over proceedings, being punctual in commencing proceedings, and ensuring his personal staff is professional, productive, and knowledgeable of court policies and procedures. Court staff rated him positively on all attributes. **He received somewhat lower scores from attorneys for not always exercising sound legal reasoning and not being thoroughly knowledgeable regarding substantive law and the rules of procedure and evidence.**



Honorable Brett R. Loveless

2nd Judicial District Court Judge – Division 3 – Criminal Court

Republican
Nominated by
Gov. S Martinez

RETAIN Yes

Judge Brett Loveless' overall survey results were quite positive. Attorneys rated him highly for being attentive to the proceedings, demonstrating appropriate demeanor on the bench, displaying familiarity with court cases through prior preparation, and for ensuring his personal staff is professional, productive, and knowledgeable of court policies and procedures. The court staff, resource staff (e.g., law enforcement officers, probation/parole, CASA volunteers, CYFD, interpreters, etc.), and jurors rated him positively on all attributes.



Honorable Elaine P. Lujan

2nd Judicial District Court Judge – District 12 – Civil Court

Emerge Alum 2020
Democrat
Appointed by
Gov. Lujan Grisham

RETAIN NO

Judge Elaine Lujan received very positive ratings from attorneys in every category of the survey. Attorneys rated her highly for being attentive to and punctually commencing proceedings, being courteous to all participants, and demonstrating appropriate demeanor on the bench. Court staff rated her highly in all areas.



Honorable Judge David Allen Murphy RETAIN YES
 2nd Judicial District Court Judge – Division 30 – Criminal Court

Democrat
 Nominated by
 Gov. Lujan Grisham

INSUFFICIENT TIME IN CURRENT POSITION TO EVALUATE

JPEC could not conduct an evaluation and make a recommendation to voters because of the time frame of the evaluation, the rules governing JPEC’s evaluation process, and New Mexico legislation on judicial retention terms. This is no reflection on Judge Murphy’s performance.



Honorable Daniel E. ‘Dan’ Ramczyk
 2nd Judicial District Court Judge – Division 6 – Civil Court

Democrat
 Nominated by
 Gov. Lujan Grisham

RETAIN YES

Judge Daniel Ramczyk received positive ratings from attorneys and court staff. Attorneys rated him highly for displaying fairness and impartiality toward each side of the case, being attentive to the proceedings, punctuality in commencing proceedings, demonstrating appropriate demeanor on the bench, and ensuring his personal staff is professional, productive, and knowledgeable of court policies and procedures. Court staff rated him highly for respecting court employees regardless of position.



Honorable Emeterio L. Rudolfo RETAIN YES
 2nd Judicial District Court Judge – Division 21 – Criminal Court

Democrat
 Nominated by
 Gov. Lujan Grisham

INSUFFICIENT TIME IN CURRENT POSITION TO EVALUATE

JPEC could not conduct an evaluation and make a recommendation to voters because of the time frame of the evaluation, the rules governing JPEC’s evaluation process, and New Mexico legislation on judicial retention terms. This is no reflection on Judge Rudolfo’s performance.



Honorable Courtney B. Weaks
 2nd Judicial District Court Judge – Division 15 – Criminal Court

Emerge Alum 2013
 Democrat
 Nominated by
 Gov. Lujan Grisham

RETAIN NO

Judge Courtney Weaks’ overall survey results were mixed. Attorneys rated her highly for being attentive to the proceedings and ensuring her personal staff is professional, productive, and knowledgeable of court policies and procedures. Attorneys rated her lower on exercising sound legal reasoning and knowledge of substantive law and the rules of procedure and evidence. Court staff, resource staff (e.g., law enforcement officers, probation/parole, CASA volunteers, CYFD, interpreters, etc.), and jurors rated the judge positively on all attributes.



Honorable Felicia R. Blea-Rivera
 Metropolitan Court Judge – Division 15 – Criminal Court

Democrat
 Appointed by
 Gov. Lujan Grisham

RETAIN NO

Overall, Judge Felicia Blea-Rivera’s scores were positive. Attorneys rated her highly for being attentive to the proceedings, treating all courtroom participants with respect, treating *pro se* (self-represented) parties fairly, and for being prepared for court proceedings. Court staff rated her positively in all areas. In her interview, she acknowledged a misperception among the resource staff (e.g., law enforcement officers, probation/parole, CASA volunteers, CYFD, interpreters, etc.) that she has a timeliness issue and has reordered her docket.



Honorable Michelle Castillo Dowler
Metropolitan Court Judge – Division 13 – Criminal Court

Republican
Appointed by
Gov. S. Martinez

RETAIN YES

Judge Michelle Castillo Dowler received positive ratings from attorneys. Attorneys rated the judge highly for being attentive to the proceedings, being prepared for court proceedings, and for ensuring that participants understand the court proceedings. Attorneys and court staff rated her positively for ensuring her personal staff is professional, productive, and knowledgeable of court policies and procedures.



Honorable Rosemary Cosgrove-Aguilar
Metropolitan Court Judge – Division 7 – Criminal Court

Emerge Alum 2008
Democrat
Appointed by
Gov. S. Martinez

RETAIN NO

Judge Rosemary Cosgrove-Aguilar’s scores were quite positive. Attorneys rated her highly for being attentive to the proceedings, ensuring that participants understand the court proceedings, treating *pro se* (self-represented) parties fairly, and ensuring her personal staff is professional, productive, and knowledgeable of court policies and procedures. Court staff rated her highly in all areas.



Honorable Asra I. Elliott
Metropolitan Court Judge – Division 1 – Criminal Court

Democrat
Appointed by
Gov. Lujan Grisham

RETAIN NO

Judge Asra Elliott’s scores were **somewhat mixed**. Attorneys rated her positively for being attentive to the proceedings, treating *pro se* (self-represented) parties fairly, conducting proceedings without favoritism, and for ensuring her personal staff is professional, productive, and knowledgeable of court policies and procedures. **Attorneys rated her somewhat lower in application and knowledge of the law and providing clear communication**. Court staff rated her highly on all attributes.



Honorable Yvette K. Gonzales
Metropolitan Court Judge – Division 9 – Criminal Court

Democrat
Appointed by
Gov. Richardson

RETAIN NO

Judge Yvette Gonzales received positive scores from attorneys for treating *pro se* (self-represented) parties fairly, being able to decisively rule on procedural and substantive matters, being prepared, being attentive, and ensuring her personal staff is professional, productive, and knowledgeable of court policies and procedures. Court staff rated her positively in all categories. Resource staff (e.g., law enforcement officers, probation/parole, CASA volunteers, CYFD, interpreters, etc.), and jurors rated her quite positively in all categories.



Honorable Nina Aviva Safier
Metropolitan Court Judge – Division 17 – Criminal Court

Democrat
Appointed by
Gov. Lujan Grisham

RETAIN NO

Judge Nina Safier received an overall positive evaluation. Attorneys rated her positively for being attentive to the proceedings, being prepared for court proceedings, and for treating *pro se* (self-represented) parties fairly. They also rated her positively for ensuring her personal staff is professional, productive, and knowledgeable of court policies and procedures. Court staff rated her highly in all categories.



Honorable Renée Torres

Metropolitan Court Judge – Division 3 – Criminal Court

Democrat
Elected

RETAIN NO

Judge Renée Torres's scores were somewhat mixed. Attorneys rated her positively for ensuring participants understand court proceedings, treating *pro se* (self-represented) parties fairly, and ensuring her personal staff is professional, productive, and knowledgeable of court policies and procedures. Some attorneys who responded felt she was **not thoroughly knowledgeable regarding substantive law and the rules of procedure and evidence, and did not always follow the legal rules that apply to the case.** Court staff rated her positively on all attributes.