

The background of the cover features a photograph of a building with a series of thick, orange-painted columns supporting a white overhang. The building has a modern, somewhat industrial feel. A large white circle is positioned in the upper right, containing the main title. The right side of the cover is decorated with abstract, overlapping orange and white curved shapes.

NEW MEXICO

# Municipal Court

Annual Report

NEW MEXICO  
MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

NEW MEXICO  
MUNICIPAL  
LEAGUE

2024



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Los Alamos Court

## About Us

New Mexico is home to 79 Municipal Courts, each serving the specific needs of their communities. These courts operate under limited jurisdiction, handling ordinances enacted by city councils.

Municipal Courts vary in size and complexity; some are open daily, while others may only hold night court sessions. Their greatest strength lies in their responsiveness to community needs, addressing matters such as traffic citations, criminal complaints for petty misdemeanors, and violations related to animal control or zoning ordinances.

# Municipal Court Introduction

Carlsbad Court

## What we do:

**Traffic Infractions and Parking Tickets** ✓

**Zoning/Code Enforcement** ✓

**Criminal Petty Misdemeanors** ✓

**Animal Control** ✓

**DWIs - 1st-3rd Offense** ✓

## Our Mission

Municipal courts are an integral part of local government. Representing the third branch of government, cities and villages utilize their municipal court to best meet the direct needs of their community.

Municipal courts are also aware of local needs, analyzing gaps in the community to ensure access to justice.



## Value Statement



Municipal Courts prioritize judicial excellence by delivering fair, impartial, and efficient justice. They are dedicated to treating individuals with respect and dignity.

**JUDGE JANELL GRIEGO**  
**PRESIDENT, MUNICIPAL JUDGE**  
**ASSOCIATION**

# A WORD FROM THE MUNICIPAL JUDGE ASSOCIATION



I am extremely happy to present our 2024 Annual Report. As we reflect on 2024, we continue to face both challenges and significant achievements as we work toward advancing justice across New Mexico's communities. This year has been marked by ongoing efforts to innovate and adapt, with a steadfast commitment to ensuring fairness and access for all individuals who come before our courts.

Throughout the year, municipal courts have remained a critical resource for local communities, addressing emerging needs and ensuring continued access to justice.

In May, we were pleased to attend our first training provided by CEI and gather over 100 judges for our annual training in Albuquerque. This event provided invaluable opportunities for professional development, fostering a spirit of collaboration and learning.

In December, we welcomed a number of new faces to the bench following the elections. These new members have already proven to be an invaluable part of our community as they embark on their journey to uphold the law with integrity and fairness.

Looking forward, our focus remains on closing the gaps in our justice system, working hand-in-hand with local governments, law enforcement, and community organizations to tackle the issues that most affect our citizens. We are committed to ensuring that every judge in New Mexico is equipped with the tools, knowledge, and support needed to serve their communities effectively and with compassion.

As we move into 2025, we remain dedicated to advancing our profession and enhancing the public's trust in the judicial system. I look forward to continuing our work together and to the positive impact we will make in the coming year.



# A WORD FROM THE COURT CLERK ASSOCIATION

**RENEE MARTINEZ**  
**PRESIDENT, NEW MEXICO MUNICIPAL**  
**COURT CLERK ASSOCIATION**



As we look back on the past year, I am pleased to share some of the progress of the New Mexico Municipal Court Clerks Association (NMMCCA). It has been a year of change as we continue our mission to support the role of court clerks throughout the state.

The NMMCCA held a meeting on August 14, 2024 at the New Mexico Municipal League Annual Conference in Clovis. The agenda included a review of the financial report, bylaw amendments as well as election of officers. Discussions regarding legal updates and scheduling professional development and annual training were discussed.

As we start a new year, the NMCCA is committed to continuing our mission of education, advocacy, and professional excellence.

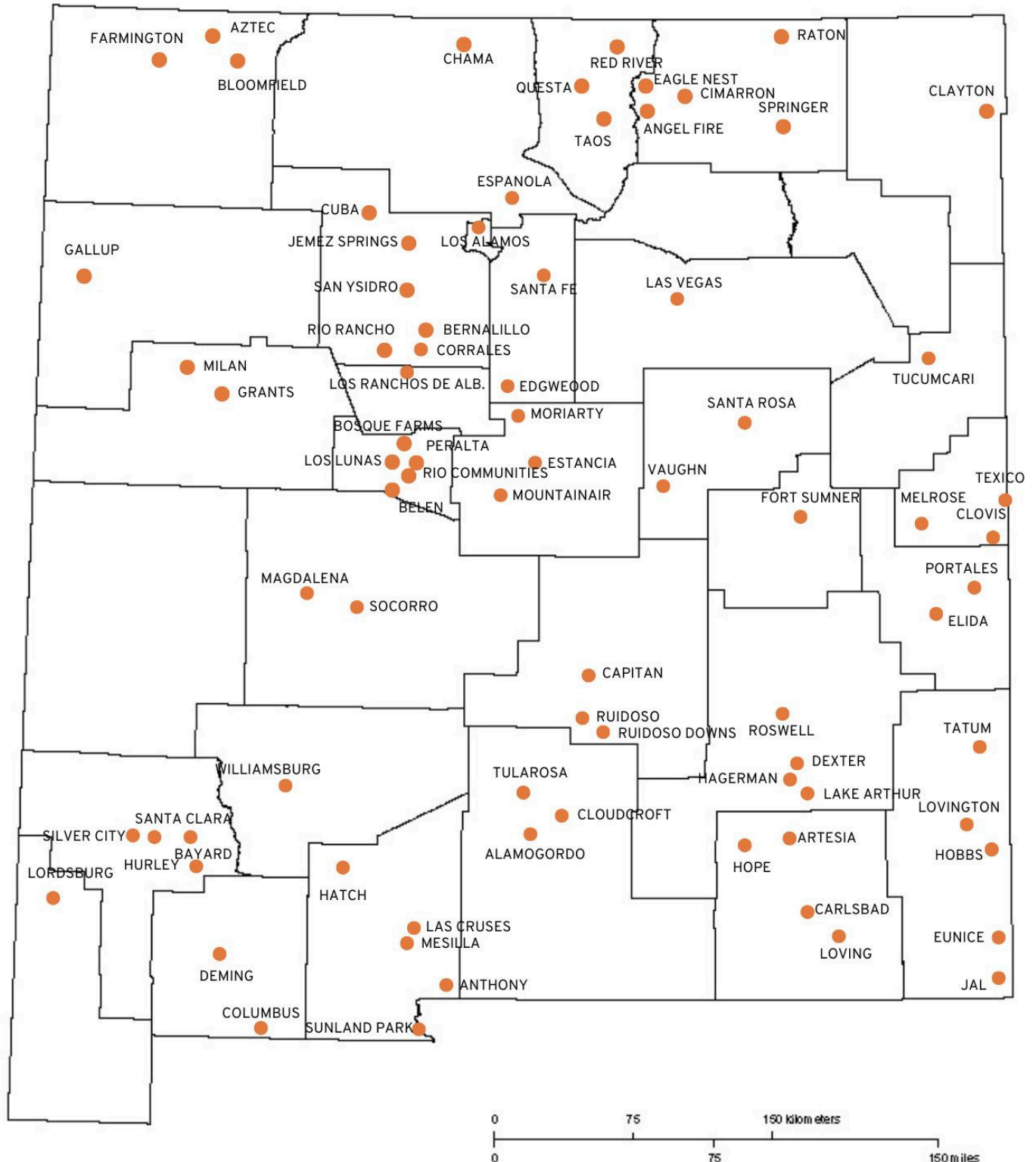
Our focus will include collaborating and expanding training opportunities to ensure that clerks have the resources and training necessary to meet changes, strengthening partnerships with state agencies to improve court processes, enhancing communication among members through networking, and continuing our initiative to recognize outstanding clerks for their hard work and dedication.

Thank you all for your dedication and hard work in upholding the integrity of our court system.

We look forward to a successful year together!

# NEW MEXICO

## MUNICIPAL COURTS



# 121,151 cases were filed in Municipal Court in 2024

## 2024 Summary



93,181

**TRAFFIC CITATIONS**

25,258

**CRIMINAL MISDEMEANOR,  
CODE, AND ANIMAL  
CONTROL CITATIONS**

1,303

**DRIVING WHILE UNDER  
THE INFLUENCE OF  
INTOXICATING LIQUORE  
AND/OR DRUGS (DWI)**

1,836

**PARKING TICKETS**



# HOW COURTS BENEFIT THE MUNICIPALITY

Municipal Courts function as the third branch of local government, offering crucial support to their communities through fines, community service, employment and career opportunities, weddings, swearing-ins, and a variety of other services.



## **\$ 5,263,967 fines**

Fines are collected pursuant to local ordinances and are deposited in municipal general funds to help cities with programs and other needs.



## **30,445 Community Service Hours**

Courts may mandate community service as a sanction or to offset fines, benefiting municipalities directly.



## **276 Jobs**

The Municipal Courts have a total of 204 full-time employees and 72 part-time employees.



## **540 Weddings**

Municipal judges conduct weddings within their municipality, often attracting those who travel to avoid long lines and wait times at other venues.



**CENTRAL**

**17,917 Cases Filed**



**CRIMINAL, CODE AND  
ANIMAL CONTROL**



**TRAFFIC  
CITATIONS**



**PARKING  
CITATIONS**

**15 COURTS - 46 STAFF:**

**BERNALILLO  
COUNTY**

Los Ranchos de  
Albuquerque

**TORRANCE COUNTY**

Estancia  
Moriarty  
Mountainair

**VALENCIA COUNTY**

Belen  
Bosque Farms  
Los Lunas  
Peralta  
Rio Communities

**SANDOVAL COUNTY**

Bernalillo  
Corrales  
Cuba  
Jemez Springs  
Rio Rancho  
San Ysidro



# NORTH CENTRAL/EAST

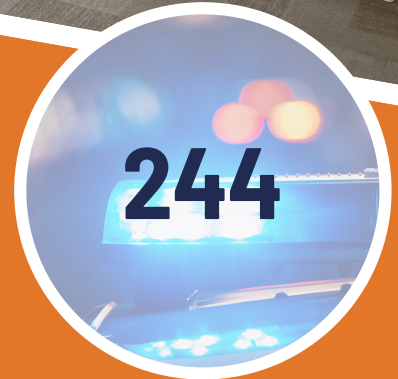
20,244 Cases Filed



**CRIMINAL, CODE AND  
ANIMAL CONTROL**



**TRAFFIC/PARKING  
CITATIONS**



**DWI CASES**

**18 COURTS - 60 STAFF:**

**SANTA FE COUNTY**

Santa Fe  
Edgewood

**LOS ALAMOS COUNTY**

**RIO ARriba COUNTY**

Chama  
Espanola

**COLFAX COUNTY**

Angel Fire  
Cimarron  
Eagle Nest  
Raton  
Springer

**UNION COUNTY**

Clayton

**GUADALUPE COUNTY**

Santa Rosa  
Vaughn

**TAOS COUNTY**

Red River  
Taos  
Questa

**SAN MIGUEL COUNTY**

Las Vegas

**QUAY COUNTY**

Tucumcari



**NORTHWEST**  
**29,524 Cases Filed**



**CRIMINAL, CODE AND  
ANIMAL CONTROL**



**TRAFFIC/PARKING  
CITATIONS**



**DWI CASES**

**6 COURTS - 36 STAFF:**

**SAN JUAN COUNTY**

Aztec  
Bloomfield  
Farmington

**MCKINLEY COUNTY**

Gallup

**CIBOLA COUNTY**

Grants  
Milan

# SOUTHEAST

**34,345 Cases Filed**



**CRIMINAL, CODE AND  
ANIMAL CONTROL**



**TRAFFIC/PARKING  
CITATIONS**



**DWI CASES**

## 25 COURTS - 74 STAFF

### CURRY COUNTY

Clovis  
Melrose  
Texico

### CHAVES COUNTY

Dexter  
Hagerman  
Lake Arthur  
Roswell'

### LINCOLN COUNTY

Capitan  
Ruidoso  
Ruidoso Downs

### LEA COUNTY

Eunice  
Hobbs  
Jal  
Lovington  
Tatum

### ROOSEVELT COUNTY

Elida  
Portales

### EDDY COUNTY

Artesia  
Carlsbad  
Hope  
Loving

### OTERO COUNTY

Alamogordo  
Cloudcroft  
Tularosa

### DE BACCA COUNTY

Fort Sumner



**SOUTHWEST**

**34,345 Cases Filed**



**5,144**

**CRIMINAL, CODE AND  
ANIMAL CONTROL**



**14,261**

**TRAFFIC/PARKING  
CITATIONS**



**143**

**DWI CASES**

**15 COURTS - 61 STAFF**

**DONA ANA COUNTY**

Anthony  
Hatch  
Las Cruces  
Mesilla  
Sunland Park

**SIERRA COUNTY**

Williamsburg

**LUNA COUNTY**

Columbus  
Deming

**SOCORRO COUNTY**

Socorro  
Magdalena

**GRANT COUNTY**

Bayard  
Hurley  
Santa Clara  
Silver City

**HILDAGO COUNTY**

Lordsburg



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## Artesia

### HOMESCHOOL CO-OP CELEBRATES NATIONAL LAW DAY

The event was our very first National Law Day celebration. We welcomed a homeschool cooperative group of children from Artesia and Roswell, representing various age groups. The event commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance by the flagpole, followed by a comprehensive tour of the courthouse. Participants watched a brief video, produced by students, titled "The Case of the Stolen Candy Bar." This was followed by a discussion, and the children had the opportunity to don judicial robes and role-play as judges on the bench.





CLOVIS

## MUNICIPAL LEAGUE CONFERENCE 2024

Clovis hosted the New Mexico Municipal League conference this year - and were welcomed by the Municipal Court Staff - Court Clerk Karlie Tavasci, Court Administrator Margarita Smith and Judge Vicki Kelley



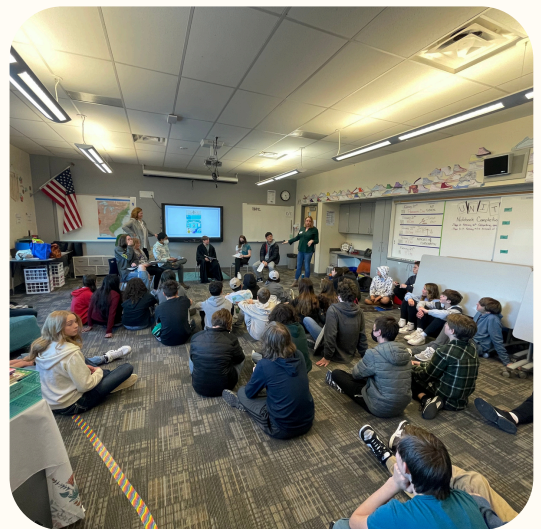
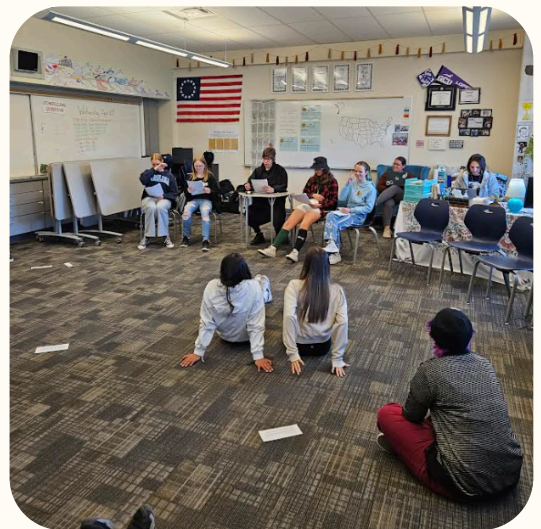
# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## Los Alamos

### THE 8TH GRADE COURT VISIT BENEFITS 300 TEENS IN LOS ALAMOS COUNTY

Judge Allen from the Los Alamos Municipal Court and Judge Taylor from the Los Alamos Magistrate Court prioritize visiting every 8th grade social studies class to discuss the judiciary and the government's role.

This 1.5-hour interactive presentation, offered over two days, covers significant court cases that affect young people, fosters discussions on constitutional rights, and concludes with a mock trial. The case used is adapted from a situation in Southern New Mexico, emphasizing biases and preconceived notions while analyzing evidence and proof beyond a reasonable doubt.





## SANTA FE

# **SANTA FE DWI/DRUG COURT RECEIVES CERTIFICATION FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF COURTS**

The Santa Re Municipal Court serves as a valuable resource for the community by being officially certified as a DWI/Drug Court.

Pictured from left to right: Judge Chad Chittum, SFPD Officer Erik Ramirez, Prosecutor Kyle Hibner, Coordinator Valerie Myatt, Court Clerk Cynthia Hagman, and Clinician Tod DiCecco from Mesa Vista Wellness. Public Defender David Thomas is not present.



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

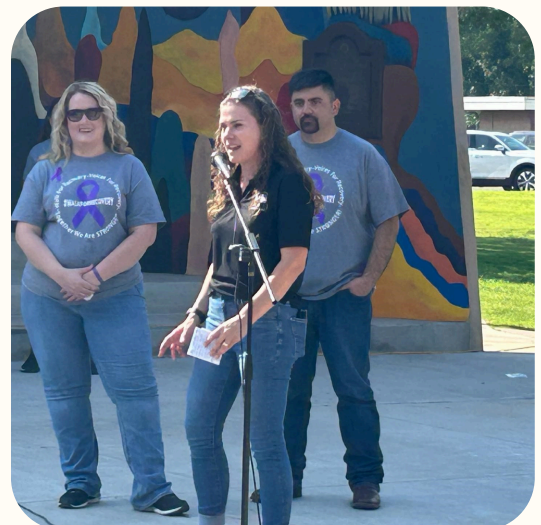


## EDDY COUNTY NEW MEXICO

This annual all-day event brings together families for a community celebration. Local leaders attend to show their support for the program and its achievements. Notable speakers included District Attorney Diana Luce, House Representative Cathrynn Brown, and the Mayor of Carlsbad. Additionally, Judge Gallegos from Artesia was invited by the Honorable Jimmy Foster, Artesia Magistrate Judge and presiding judge of the DWI Treatment Program, to speak alongside him and another Magistrate Judge regarding the Artesia Municipal Court's commitment to supporting recovery efforts in Eddy County.

## Eddy County

### Eddy County Recovery Walk with County-Wide Collaboration





## Ruidoso



Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs faced tremendous devastation due to wildfires and subsequent flooding. As members of the community, residents not only witnessed heroic efforts but also contributed in any way they could. For weeks, staff dedicated their evenings to volunteering at shelters and distribution centers. The community is profoundly grateful to neighboring areas for their support, efforts, and generous donations.

## Ruidoso Downs



## ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT BRINGS COMMUNITY PARTNERS TOGETHER

In the fall, the city started to regain a sense of normalcy, despite the challenges our community had faced. We united with local organizations to take part in the annual trunk or treat event held at the Billy the Kid Racetrack and Casino. As anticipated, the Halloween celebration was a great success!

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

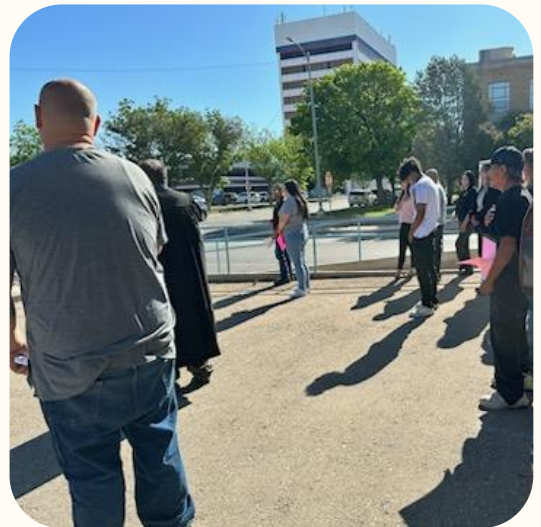
## Roswell

### REFLECTING ON THE PURPOSE.

The Roswell Court commemorated Law Day with a poignant ceremony held outside the courthouse. Community members gathered to listen to a discussion led by Judge Seskey on the significance of the law, culminating in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

*"Respect for Law, in essence that is the meaning of Law Day - and every day must be Law Day or else our society will collapse..."*

Robert F. Kennedy - 1961 Address  
at University of Georgia Law  
School







## COURT STAFF CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN WITH THE COMMUNITY

Carlsbad Municipal Staff and Mayor Richard Lopez are pictured from left to right: Richard Lopez, Judge Collis Johnson, Ruby Ahrens, Tammy Carrigan, Nickole Simpkins, Hailey Digby (BPA), Liz Lopez, Imy Parraz, and JoAnna Chavez.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## Hobbs

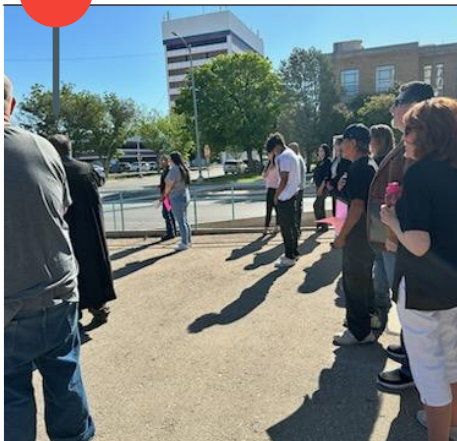
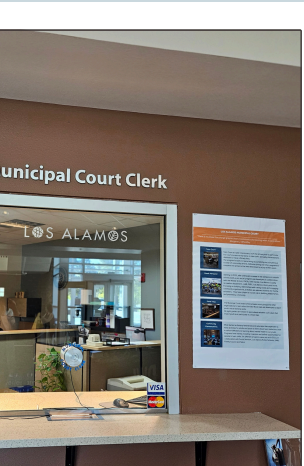
### REMODELING AND SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS MADE AT HOBBS COURT

The City of Hobbs and the Municipal Court have allocated approximately \$500,000 for a comprehensive security assessment and subsequent upgrades to the Court facilities. This initiative encompasses the installation of key card access systems, the incorporation of ballistic glass at the clerks' window, the judge's office, witness rooms, and other critical locations within the building. Moreover, ballistic walls have been constructed in several strategic areas, and a new temporary holding cell has been established for transported inmates. A magnetometer has also been installed at the entrance. These enhancements significantly improve the safety of the working environment for employees and facilitate more efficient service to the community.





# Law Day May 1, 2024



Municipal courts across the state celebrated Law Day, a special occasion focused on acknowledging the essential role of law in the foundation of our nation and its importance in society. Community members had the chance to tour courthouses, providing them with valuable insights into the justice system.



# Municipal Court Conference



In May, over 100 municipal judges and alternate judges convened for the annual Municipal Judge Conference organized by the Court Education Institute. The conference featured educational sessions covering topics such as traffic citations, driving while intoxicated (DWI) cases, budgeting, and court security. This event serves as a significant highlight for judges, who typically meet only once a year. It provides an invaluable opportunity for them to reconnect with mentors and peers, seek guidance, and foster a sense of community among colleagues.



# New Courthouses

New courthouses were built this year in Gallup and Ruidoso



## Gallup



## Ruidoso



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The New Mexico Municipal Judge Association, a segment of the New Mexico Municipal League, was initially proposed in 1915 with 34 municipalities. An official association was established in 1928, and by 1934, the League was functioning from the Albuquerque City Hall. Renamed in 1961, the League currently comprises 106 municipalities that pay dues, with the Municipal Judge Association serving as one of its subdivisions.



## Acknowledgements

We extend our gratitude to the municipal courts for supplying the data needed by the Municipal Judge Association to develop the report.



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<https://www.nmml.org>



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