### 8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE MARCUS J. MONTOYA

HISTORIC TAOS PLAZA

BATON

0

Taos, Colfax and Union Counties

Main Office: 105 Albright Street, Suite L Taos, NM 87571

### 575-758-8683



OUR MISSION IS TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC'S SAFETY BY PROMOTING JUSTICE THROUGH THE FAIR AND IMPARTIAL PROSECUTION OF ALL FELONY AND MISDEMEANOR CRIMINAL CASES, AND MISCELLANEOUS CIVIL MATTERS.

> OUR VISION IS TO JUDICIOUSLY PROSECUTE CASES, PROVIDING ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE COMMUNITY, AND VICTIMS; AND TO WORK WITH THE COMMUNITY TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE CITIZENS OF THE 8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT TO PROACTIVELY WORK TOWARDS SOLUTIONS THAT MAKE US ALL SAFER.



WE VALUE PRUDENCE, ACCOUNTABILITY, KINDNESS, HARDWORK, HUMILITY AND TRANSPARENCY.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND OUTCOMES

Work Hard and Be Kind

### **Promote Justice**

### Cases:

SNM v. Ray Rivera, Guilty at Trial of 2nd Degree Murder - Sentenced to 18 years

SNM v. Christopher Privette, Guilty at Trial of Kidnapping and Felon in Possession of a Firearm -Awaiting Sentencing

SNM v. William Romero, Guilty at Trial of Arson -Awaiting Sentencing

SNM v. Precious Aguilar, Guilty at Trial of 1st Degree Murder, Kidnapping, Aggravated Battery and Tampering with evidence - Sentenced to Life in Prison

SNM v. Jeremiah Rael, Guilty at Trial of 2nd Degree Murder Awaiting Sentencing

### Community Outreach:

- Launched the Junior District Attorney Program in Taos
- Drug Take Back April and October
- Detective Academy for Law Enforcement
  - Informational Videos

### Administrative:

- Completed the implementation of Axon
- Fiber installed in Raton
- Replaced Outdated Computer/Lap tops
- Established Policy Review Committee
- Annual Training for All Staff
- Paid College Interns in Taos and Raton
- Starting the Process of Revamping website



# Junior District Attorney Program

## 8TH FUDICIAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S 077ICE

Program Description: The Junior District Attorney Program is designed to develop a range of skills, boost participants' confidence, and inspire career aspirations. By engaging youth in a proactive and meaningful way, where they observe and experience the operation of the criminal justice system firsthand and interact with attorneys, law enforcement, judges, and other criminal justice professionals, they can build relationships that will be beneficial for future job searches and career advice.

Some of the programs focus on developing critical legal skills, courtroom etiquette, public speaking, and case analysis. Participants will gain insight into, and understand the importance of the ethical and professional responsibilities involved in the criminal justice system and public service. They have met with Judges and witnessed the conclusion of a case when the verdict was delivered. They toured the detention center, observed live calls at 911 dispatch, toured the Sheriff's department and met our State Representative. Additionally, they heard from a School Safety Representative, the Office of the Medical Examiner and the Taos Police Department.

Upcoming presentations will include discussions defense counsel, a Taos News reporter covering justice issues, and other partners. Each week, participants learn about the various functions of the District Attorney's office, from case initiation to courtroom proceedings. They are currently working on their own case and will conclude the program with a mock trial.

Goals: The Junior District Attorney Program emphasizes leadership, encouraging students to be positive influences and role models in the schools by demonstrating the importance of making informed decisions and understanding the consequence of poor choices. The program allows us, and our law enforcement partners to build stronger relationship with our youth and connect them with resources outside the classroom. We aim to reinforce the message that if they see something, they should say something, and that they are the role models guiding their peers. The expected outcome is to inspire meaningful change in our youth, contributing to a safer community and a better informed public.

Student's Demographics: The first section of the new program includes fifteen students from Taos High School in 9th, 10th and 11th grades. 3

## 2026 Budget Request

Total Amount Requested: \$4,815,900 "Thank you for your commitment and investment to the Eighth Judicial District. Together we can make a positive impact on the citizens of the district and state."

- DA Marcus Montya

The request is a 5% increase of our 2025 budget. It includes a \$ 229,700 expansion for a Lead Investigator and Victim Witness Coordinator to serve the district.

### The 300 and 400 categories remain flat.

|                        | 200 CATEGORY | 300 CATEGORY | 400 CATEGORY |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| FY 2024<br>Actuals     | 3,665,431    | 189,398.34   | 331,396.93   |
| <b>2025</b><br>OP BUD  | 4,148,200    | 148,100      | 308,500      |
| <b>2026</b><br>Request | 4,359,300    | 148,100      | 308,500      |

#### Lead Investigator:

The Lead Investigator will supervise the 3 senior legal investigators and will coordinate investigations with law enforcement, assist in training and development of local LE, lead the Warrant Round-up Task Force and assist in community outreach events like drug take back.

### \$93,100 Victim Witness Coordinator:

The Victim Witness Coordinator will serve as a liaison to partner agencies, assist in the training and development of the 4 VA's, coordinate volunteer and outreach efforts in the community, and promote community efforts for education, prevention and intervention.

Paula Sisneros, Chief Financial Officer email: psisneros@da.state.nm.us

Victoria Bransford, District Office Manager email: vbransford@da.state.nm.us