



New Mexico Judiciary

Presentation to the
Legislative Finance Committee

November 18, 2025

The New Mexico Judiciary's Budget Committee, established by the Supreme Court, reviews and prioritizes all budget requests before submission to the Legislature

Chair	Judge John R. Chavez – Valencia County Magistrate
Member	Chief Judge Emilio Chavez - 8th Judicial District Court
Member	Judge Megan Duffy - Court of Appeals
Member	Judge Nancy Franchini - 2nd Judicial District Court
Member	Judge Curtis R. Gurley - 11th Judicial District Court
Member	Audrey Hukari - CEO, 12th Judicial District Court
Member	Judge James T. Martin - 3rd Judicial District Court
Member	Judge Francis Mathew - 1st Judicial District Court
Member	Kevin Spears - CEO, 9th Judicial District Court

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graph LR; A[Individual Courts & AOC submit requests to Budget Committee] --> B[Budget Committee reviews, vets, and recommends adjustment, approval, or denial]; B --> C[Supreme Court reviews Budget Committee recommendations and finalizes requests];
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Budget Committee
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approval, or denial

Supreme Court
reviews Budget
Committee
recommendations
and finalizes
requests

A cyclic process of Development, Execution, and Evaluation

FY 2029 and beyond

Input to Strategic Planning

FY 2028

Set conditions to respond to Legislative Decisions and Supreme Court Priorities

FY 2027

Respond to Legislative and Executive questions or concerns.

FY 2026

Monitor Current Year Execution

FY 2025

Performance Based Evaluation Feedback



New Mexico Courts - FY27 Budget Request

- Overall 4.5% base budget increase for all courts
- 2 new Judgeships
- Recurring funding for behavioral health programs
- Judiciary 2.55% of recurring GF appropriations
- Court budget growing responsibly, at a slower rate than overall recurring appropriations

FY25 Performance Highlights

- 108% clearance rate in the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals
- 101% trial court clearance rate
- 8% increase in new Metro cases
- 7% increase in new district court cases
- New Behavioral Health programs launch around the state

Administrative Office of the Courts (218)

283.5 employees in Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Las Cruces and Rio Rancho

Administrative Support (P559) - \$1,642.8

Key Investment Areas	Request	Purpose
Access to Justice	\$225.0	Modest Means Helpline - replace expiring funding to maintain affordable legal assistance
	\$554.1	Language Access: expand translation services, contractors and scheduling support
Transparency & Accountability	\$335.1	Staffing support for statewide judicial performance evaluation commission and public reporting
	\$136.4	IPRA Compliance Attorney
Statewide Core Operations	\$120.0	HR Professional
	\$84.8 (1 FTE)	Staff support for expert witness coordination and juror assistance/payment
Behavioral Health Infrastructure	\$187.4	Maintain dedicated office space for statewide behavioral health coordination

Administrative Office of the Courts (218)

Statewide Judiciary Automation (P560) - \$1,895.3

Key Investment Area	Request	Purpose
Core Judiciary IT Functions	\$788.8	Permanent funding for staff positions
	\$318.9	Increases in software licensing expenses
	\$155.6	Internet cost increase FY25
	\$632.0 (4 FTEs)	Increasing requests from Executive, Legislature and researchers, requires extensive reconciliation and analysis, will allow faster and higher-quality data analytics and reporting

Currently using fund balance to make up difference, fund exhausted end of FY27

Administrative Office of the Courts (218)

Court Operations Division (P610) - \$190.0

Security & Emergency Management Administrator (funding only)

Core Responsibilities

- Strengthen coordination with state and local law enforcement
- Lead emergency management planning
- Conduct threat assessments for judges and staff

Why this role matters

- 3 Judges are currently under protective detail
- Threats continue to increase to court personnel and judges

Administrative Office of the Courts (218)

Special Court Services (P620) - \$1,835.1

Key Investment Area	Request	Purpose
Partnering to address state's behavioral health needs	\$1,036.3	Convert pilot funding to permanent funding for diversion and AOT programs
	\$619.7	Replaces expiring GRO funding to maintain behavioral health staff
	\$57.6	Court-Appointed Attorneys in AOT Cases
	\$121.5	Sustains training, coordination and operations currently funded with one-time funding

Administrative Office of the Courts (218)

One-Time Special/GRO Requests - \$45,436.9

Key Investment Area	Request	Purpose
Core IT Functions & Updates	\$24,000.0	Continue Courtroom Modernization
	\$18,506.0 - \$100,000 received in 2nd special session - (\$18,406.0)	Statewide Security Equipment (6 yr request)
	\$900.0	SIEM Cybersecurity management system
	\$165.5	SQL Server Upgrade
	\$100.0	Data Visualization Tool
Compliance	\$500.0	Statewide electronic IPRA compliance software
Behavioral Health	\$1,265.4 - \$1 million received in 1st special special- (\$265.4)	Expand behavioral health pilot programs
FY26 Supplemental Request	\$953.6	Health Insurance Shortfall Judiciary-wide

SUPREME COURT-FY27 BUDGET REQUEST

Budget Request: **\$1,363.50 Increase from FY26**

Funding Only:

- Financial Program Manager - \$110,000
- Appellate Attorney Associate - \$175,100
- Term to Perm Appellate Paralegal - \$107,900
- Appellate Paralegal - \$107,900
- Night Watchperson Supervisor - \$55,000

New FTE:

- Appellate Atty Associate - \$175,100
- Appellate Technical Editor - \$121,700

Recurring Building Maintenance - \$100,000

SUPREME COURT-FY27 BUDGET REQUEST

Special Appropriation Request - \$640,000

ADA Compliance Renovations throughout the Supreme Court Building

Capital Outlay Requests - \$8,226,954

Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) FY27- Basement Renovation Project

- PHASE I - \$3,290,781.6 for the design and construction of the following:
 - HVAC/Mechanical (p. 73 of Facility Assessment)
 - Plumbing (p.75 of Facility Assessment);
 - Electrical Improvements (p. 80 of Facility Assessment);
 - Space optimization/energy efficient lighting (p. 114 of Facility Assessment);
 - Law Library archives for preservation (p. 128 of Facility Assessment)
- PHASE II -\$4,936,172.4 to fund final stage of the Basement Renovation Project as described in the Facility Assessment

Court of Appeals

\$11,718.2 Total Budget Request

11.8% increase from FY26



Pers. Svcs. & Benefits: \$876.6 + FTE Expansions

- ▶ **\$80.3 - Judicial Specialist 2 (1 FTE)**
 - ▶ Ensure adequate staffing for SF Clerk's Office
- ▶ **\$98.2 - Business Specialist 2 (1 FTE)**
 - ▶ To support the Court's HR Administrator Senior and provide back-up fiscal and administrative support
- ▶ **\$123.1 - Appellate Technical Legal Editor (ATLE) (1 FTE)**
 - ▶ To support the Division of Appellate Court Attorneys (DACA) with the processing and tracking of case work from the sixteen (16) attorneys
- ▶ **\$123.1 - Appellate Technical Legal Editor (ATLE) (1 FTE)**
 - ▶ To support the review of legal and record citations for all formal and memorandum opinions by the Court
- ▶ **\$80.3 - Judicial Specialist 2 (1 FTE)**
 - ▶ To support ABQ Clerk's office in proactively addressing delays in case processing
- ▶ **\$371.6 - SB 376 Health Insurance Contribution and Premium Increase, GSD Rate Increase**

Contractual: \$230.0 Mediation Program - Expansion

- ▶ To continue and expand Mediation Program - currently funded with one-time appropriations
 - ▶ 59% success rate - Piloted February 2024 : 102 cases referred, 10 cases awaiting mediation, of the 90 cases where mediation is complete, 53 have settled

Other Costs

- ▶ \$120.0 - Building Upkeep, Maintenance & Operational Expenses
- ▶ \$14.0 - Adobe Subscriptions

Court of Appeals



FY27 Special Requests

- ▶ \$65.0 – for audio and visual upgrade to 3rd floor library at ABQ courthouse
- ▶ \$114.0 – for a portion of COA's IT hardware refresh
- ▶ \$50.0 – for one state vehicle
- ▶ COA has offices located in both SF and ABQ. Frequent travel by employees between offices.

FY25 Performance:

- *Achieved a clearance rate of 108%*
- *Reduced avg. time to resolve civil cases by 17% and criminal cases by 22%*

First Judicial District Court

Los Alamos, Rio Arriba & Santa Fe Counties

- 10 District Court Judges
- 7 Magistrate Court Judges
- 6 Courthouses
- 131.5 FTEs (excluding Judges)

FY27 General Fund Base Budget Request (\$K)

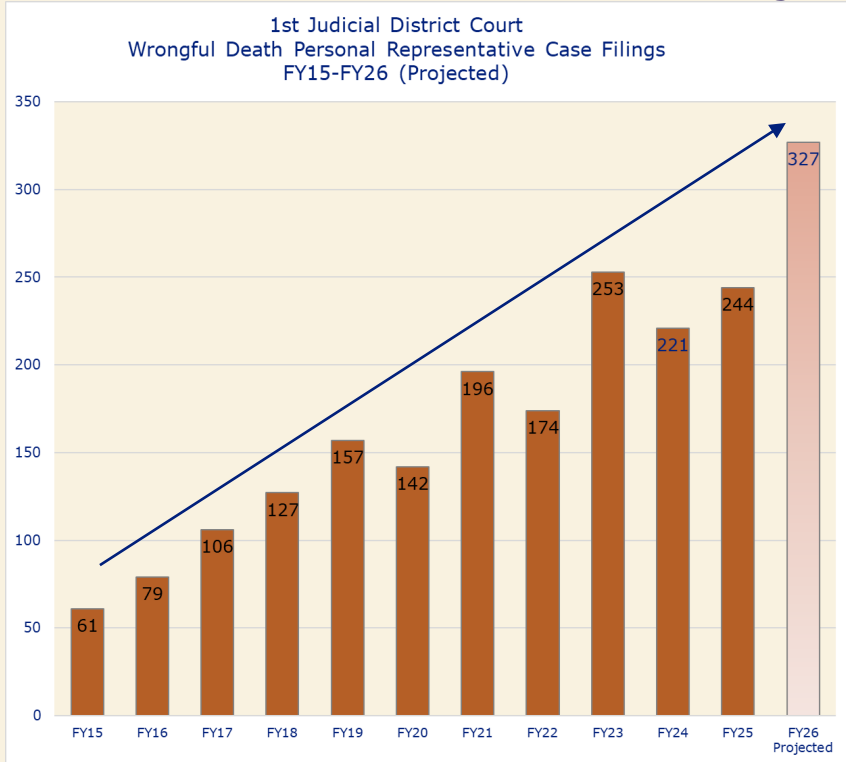
FY26 GF Approp	FY27 Request	\$ Increase	% Increase
\$14,661.7	\$15,777.4	\$1,115.7	7.6%

General Fund Request Summary

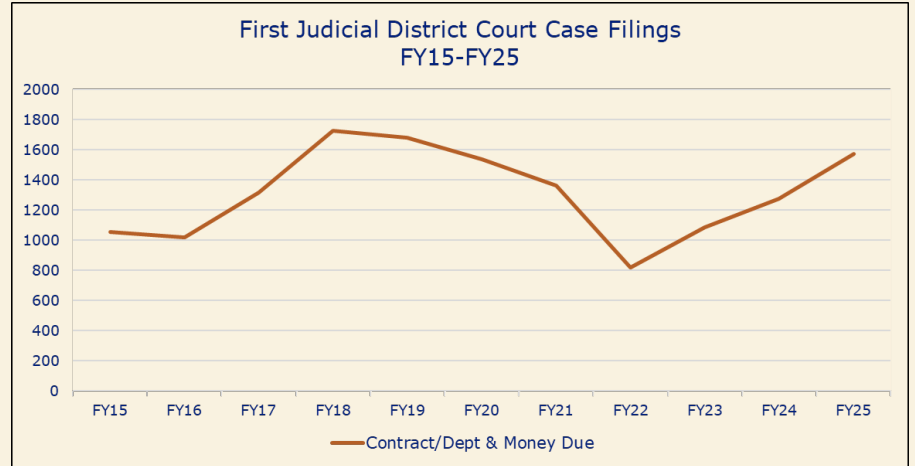
- ❖ Judgeship with associated staff, 3 FTEs:
 - To address the civil caseload, which is substantial due to filing volume and case complexity. \$451.4K
 - Wrongful death, medical malpractice and other complex claims increased significantly over the past five years.
- ❖ Financial Specialist, funding only, no FTEs:
 - To manage increased workload due to the Magistrate Court consolidation and expansion of new programs. \$ 86.6K
- ❖ GSD rates, health insurance & Health benefits funding due to implementation of SB 376 \$577.7K

First Judicial District Court

Judgeship Justification



Wrongful death cases continue to increase. In FY26, from July to October, 109 wrongful death cases have been filed. If this trend continues, we project 327 wrongful death cases will be filed in FY26.



Debt and money due cases are trending steeply higher following COVID and we expect them to return to pre-COVID levels in the near future.

Second Judicial District Court (23200)

Bernalillo County · 30 Judges · 11 Hearing Officers · 401.5 FTEs

General Fund Request

Family Court District Judge & associated staff (No. 1 Priority)

The last time a judge was added to the Family Court was 29 years ago in 1997. In FY25, the Family Court had a total of 9,128 new and reopened cases which is an average of 2,282 cases p/judge.

\$451.4

Pretrial Services Leadworker & Pretrial Services Supervisor

Supports ongoing initiative to move pretrial services to general fund.

\$219.2

Program Specialist (Interpreter Division)

Position critically needed to organize and manage the continuously changing hearing dockets of 41 judicial officers to ensure interpreters are scheduled and canceled timely.

\$88.1

Court Clinicians (2)

Court Clinicians conduct interviews & make recommendations regarding children in high-conflict family court cases related to custody, timesharing and therapeutic services for children and adults (currently there is a 6 to 9-month delay). Clinicians also facilitate a number of classes including Domestic Abuse Prevention; Co-Parenting Education; as well as Mothers and Fathers programs.

\$241.6

Inflationary & Training costs

To cover significant increases in office hardware & software agreements; parking rent; and new costs for the mandatory judicial conclave training.

\$137.0

Second Judicial District Court (23200)

Judicial Specialists Two staff to support the Court Clerk's Office	\$161.4
Administrative Assistant 1s Three staff are needed to take the official records of court proceedings. This would increase the average ratio of available staff to record proceedings from 27 to 30 for 40 judicial officers.	\$218.7
Human Resources Sr. One new staff needed to support the HR Division which has not received any new staff nearly 15 years, despite significant growth.	\$109.0
JS2, AA Supervisor & AA2 Child Support Services Division (CSSD) staff. The work of CSSD staff is very limited under the constraints of the federal grant. Not only is there concern with the long-term available of federal funds, the limitations make of the grant impede efficient operations.	\$280.2
Total Agency Operational Request	\$1,906.2
GSD Rates, WIP, Health Insurance & Health Benefits SB 376	\$1,929.3
Total General Fund Request	\$3,835.9

Second Judicial District Court (23200)

Special Appropriation/GRO Funding Request

Foreclosure Settlement Program (FSP)

FSP supports specialized settlement negotiations in the Second, Third, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Twelfth Judicial Districts. The FSP assists homeowners and lenders reach mutually agreeable solutions wherein a majority of cases result in loan modifications that enable people to keep their homes.

\$921.2

The program had been funded with non-recurring money from the Mortgage Regulatory Fund, and is now being funded from the Consumer Settlement Fund.

Community Gun Violence Intervention Program

CGVIP is a 16-week psycho-educational program which currently serves justice involved youth. The program focuses on intervention services in the form of education, engagement, treatment and peer-support.

\$138.2

The SJDC has one-time funding through FY26, and needs funding to continue the program.

Assisted Outpatient Treatment

The SJDC launched an AOT program in 2019 through a federal grant. Since the grant lapsed, the program has been funded by the City of Albuquerque. The City does not have long-term funding to support the program, and therefore the Court needs funding in FY27.

\$1,454.0

AOT is a centerpiece program for behavioral health reform in the State. It is anticipated that the recent changes in the statute will significantly increase the utilization of this program.

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT (233)

Dona Ana County

Pop. 229,366

131 Staff

9 District Court Judges

7 Magistrate Judges

FY27 GENERAL FUND BUDGET REQUEST

	FY26 OPBUD GF	FY27 Requested GF	Total Increase	Percentage Increase
General Fund (In Thousands)	15,116.0	16,375.1	1,259.1	8.3%

GENERAL FUND BASE BUDGET INCREASE REQUEST:

A. Child Support Hearing Officer Program - Term to Perm

Domestic Relations Hearing Officer **\$208.4**

- Administrative Assistant 2 **\$95.9**
- Certified Court Monitor **\$52.9**

A. GSD Rate Increases **\$733.2**

10% Health Insurance Increases
Workforce Investment Plan (WIP)
Health Benefits Funding SB 376

A. Additional FTES Requests

- Certified Court Monitor (1 FTE) **\$63.9**
- Paralegal At-Will (1 FTE) **\$104.8**

FY 25 COURT STATISTICS

District

New and Reopened: **10,812**
Cases Closed: **10,567**
Clearance Rate: **101.1%**

Magistrate

New and Reopened: **19,183**
Cases Closed: **20,816**
Clearance Rate: **103.5%**

Jury Trials Held

District: **50**

Magistrate: **14**

Self Help Center

Customers Assisted: **8,666**

Fourth Judicial District Court (Agency 23400)

San Miguel, Mora and Guadalupe Counties

3 District Court Judges

4 Magistrate Judges

47 Employees

5 Courthouses

Request	Purpose
\$68.0	1 FTE, Admin Assistant
\$224.9	GSD Rate Increases, Health Insurance, WIP



Fifth Judicial District Court

Chaves, Eddy and Lea Counties

Serving the citizens of Southeastern New Mexico - 140 Employees

12 District Judges

3 District Court facilities

13,721 District cases (new/reopened)

9 Magistrate Judges

6 Magistrate Court facilities

18,739 Mag. cases (new/reopened)

200 Category Request:

Court Services Specialist - \$ 75,100

Court Services Specialist - \$ 75,100

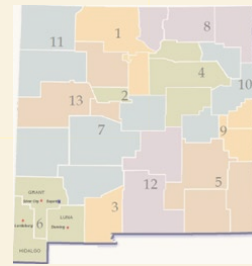
2 New FTE

\$150,200 total

- IPRA data compilation duties
2023 – 263
2024 – 545
2025 – 800 to date (averaging 4 per work day)
- Employee Training
- Report Management
- Self-Help Center
- Coordinate ADA data collection/compliance
- Coordinate safety and security trainings
- Loss Prevention and Control duties

Sixth Judicial District Court

Grant, Luna & Hidalgo Counties (23600)



- 4 District Court Judges
- 4 Magistrate Court Judges
- 7 Courthouses
- 75 Perm FTEs & 2 Term

FY27 General Fund Base Budget Request (\$K)			
FY26 GF Approp	FY27 Request	\$ Increase	% Increase
\$8,223.7	\$8,623.6	\$399.9	4.9%

General Fund Request Summary

GF request includes:

- Judicial Specialist 2
new FTE + funding \$ 53.8
- Funding for Term to Perm
Financial Specialist \$ 59.1

FY27 GF Request \$8,336.6

% change FY26 to FY27 GF Request 1.4%

Plus mandatory rates and increases

Mandatory Rates & Increases Total:

GSD Rates,
10% Health Ins. Increase,
WIP,
Health Benefits
Under SB376 & Inc. \$287.0

**Grand Total
FY27 Request \$8,623.6**

Total Request %
Change From FY26 4.9%

FY27 Special Requests:

- Computer Refresh \$ 18.0
- Record-keeping & mgmt \$ 20.0

Seventh Judicial District Court

New Mexico's most geographically expansive judicial district

Socorro, Torrance, Catron and Sierra Counties

FY27 General Fund Base Budget Request (\$K)			
FY26 GF Approp	FY27 Request	\$ Increase	% Increase
\$5,553.4	\$5,868.2	\$314.8	5.7%

General Fund Base Request

- GSD Rates Increase
- 10% Health Insurance Rate Increase
- Workforce Investment Plan (WIP)
- Health Benefits under SB 376

• **Total \$314.8**

FY25 at a glance

- 10% increase in case filings
- Implemented Pretrial Services - 268 active participants

Court Programs

- Child Support Hearing Officer Program
- Domestic Violence Program
- Domestic Relations Mediation
- Court Appointed Special Advocates
- Adult Drug Court

Eighth Judicial District Court

Taos, Colfax and Union Counties

- 3 District Court Judges
- 5 Magistrate Court Judges
- 4 Courthouses
- 53.0 FTEs (excluding Judges)



Programs & Services

Treatment Courts, Pretrial Services, Mediation, Alternative Dispute Resolution, CASA, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Help Desk, Scribing Services

FY27 General Fund Base Budget Request (\$K)

<u>FY26 GF Approp</u>	<u>FY27 Request</u>	<u>\$ Increase</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
\$7,173.3K	\$7,628.6K	\$455.3K	6.3%

General Fund Request Summary

- ❖ **\$ 67.2K** - Judicial Specialist 2
- ❖ **\$ 79.3K** - Finance Specialist Senior – funding only no FTE
- ❖ **\$ 27.2K** - GPS monitoring contract services for Pretrial Services program
- ❖ **\$281.6K** - GSD rates, health insurance & Health benefits funding due to implementation of SB 376

Eighth Judicial District Court

Taos, Colfax and Union Counties

FY27 Special Requests

Courthouse Security and Equipment

- ❖ **\$384.0K** - to purchase uninterruptible power supply equipment for courthouses in Colfax, Union and Taos counties.
- ❖ **\$ 28.7K** - to fund replacement of obsolete computers.
- ❖ **\$ 71.5K** - to install bullet resistant glass film at the security station in the Taos county courthouse.



Ninth Judicial District Court (23900)

Curry and Roosevelt Counties (71 employees)

	FY26	FY27 Request	Total Increase	Percentage Increase
General Fund (In Thousands)	7,807.5	8,404.5	597.0	7.6%

FY27 General Fund Request

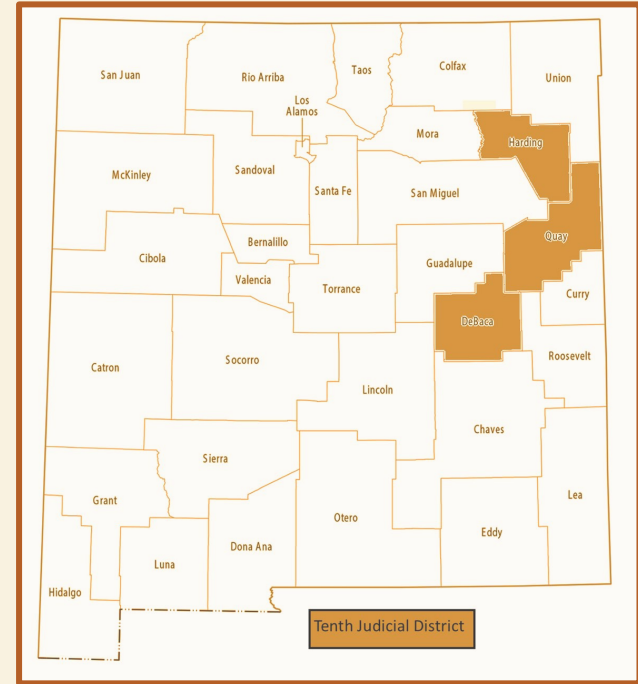
Case Manager (Adult Treatment Court) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Position currently filled through TERM funding through NMDOH (seeking permanent funding). Case Manager provides linkage to care for Treatment Court participants.	\$110.2
Pretrial Services Officer 1, Pretrial Services <ul style="list-style-type: none">To fund staff shortage for Pretrial Services Officer 1 position (per AOC). Hybrid Pretrial Services Program started in 2025 and includes the 9th and 10th Judicial Districts.	\$76.6
Pretrial Services Operational Costs <ul style="list-style-type: none">Portion of Pretrial Services operational costs currently funded through a Crime Reduction Grant, New Mexico Sentencing Commission (seeking permanent funding).	\$25.0
GSD Rate Increases, WIP (Workforce Investment Plan), and Health Insurance costs	\$385.2
Total	\$597.0

Tenth Judicial District Court

DeBaca, Harding, and Quay Counties (17 employees)

1 District Court Judge 3 Magistrate Judges

- District Courts in Fort Sumner, Mosquero, and Tucumcari
- Magistrate Courts in Fort Sumner, Roy and Tucumcari
- Providing
 - Pretrial Services
 - Language Access Services
 - ADA Service Accommodations
- \$ 99.6 - GSD Rate Increases, WIP, and Health Insurance costs



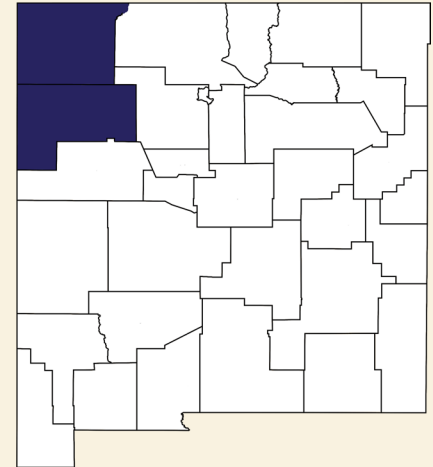
Eleventh Judicial District Court

San Juan and McKinley Counties

Six Courthouses - 150.5 employees

3 District Courthouses: 8 Judges, 1 Hearing Officer
New and Reopened Cases - 8,700; 100.3% Clearance Rate

3 Magistrate Courthouses: 9 Judges
New and Reopened Cases - 13,700; 103.5% Clearance Rate



Programs and Services

CHANGE Court
CLEAR Court
DWI Court
Juvenile Grade Court
Young Adult Court

CASA
Custody and Visitation Mediation
Civil Settlement Facilitation
Alumni & Peer Support
Justice Stations

Scribing Services
Biannual Legal Fairs
Monthly Self-Represented Clinics
Behavioral Health Clinic
New! Criminal Mediation Program

Eleventh Judicial District Court

FY27 Requests

FY27 General Fund Budget Request - \$1,151,600 (7.6% Increase)

- Attorney Supervisor - \$151,200
- Domestic Relations Hearing Officer Term to Perm - \$217,900
- Administrative Assistant 2 Term to Perm - \$85,800
- Problem Solving Courts Alumni Support Services Contract - \$59,500
- Employee Benefits and GSD Rate Increases - \$637,200

FY27 Special Requests - \$342,800

- IT Refresh - \$78,900
- Furniture for Aztec District Court Expansion - \$263,900

Twelfth Judicial District Court (24200)

Lincoln and Otero Counties

	FY26	FY27 Request	Total Increase	Percentage Increase
General Fund (In Thousands)	7,822.0	8,272.3	450.3	5.8%

FY27 General Fund Request

Legal Office Specialist (Expansion Request) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To expand self-help and mediation services 	\$77.0
Judicial Specialist 2 (Expansion Request) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide administrative support to the Pretrial Services Department 	\$68.7
GSD Rate Increases, WIP, and Health Insurance	\$304.6
Supplemental Request	
Project Support Services (300 category) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenant’s Representative for courthouse construction 	\$100.0
Special/GRO Request	
Courthouse Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment	\$450.0

Thirteenth Judicial District Court

Agency 24300

FY27 GENERAL FUND BUDGET REQUEST SUMMARY

	FY26 OPBUD GF	FY27 Requested GF	Total Increase	Percentage Increase
General Fund (In Thousands)	15,958.6	16,619.2	660.6	4.1%

GENERAL FUND BASE BUDGET INCREASE REQUEST:

A. Additional FTES Requests

Business Specialist 2 (1 FTE) \$ 77.0

GSD Rate Increases

10% Health Insurance Increases

Workforce Investment Plan (WIP)

Health Benefits Funding SB 376 Subtotal \$ 583.6

TOTAL \$ 660.6

FY27 SPECIAL/GRO REQUESTS:

A. Furn/Fixture Sandoval Jud Complex \$1,300.0

B. Project Support Services (Architect) \$ 132.3

C. IT Refresh \$ 59.2

TOTAL \$1,491.5

FY25 COURT STATISTICS

District

New and Reopened: 11,663

Cases Closed: 10,976

Clearance Rate: 98.86%

Magistrate

New and Reopened: 17,466

Cases Closed: 17,553

Clearance Rate: 101.58%

Jury Trials Held

District: 21

Magistrate: 3

ADR Program

FSP Mediation Success Rate: 95%

DM & CV Mediation Success Rate: 62%

New cases filed increased by 34% from FY22 to FY25.

The 13th JDC consists of Cibola, Sandoval and Valencia Counties, serving a population of 264,000. The 13th employs a total of 142 staff and have a total of 17 Judges - 9 District Court Judges and 8 Magistrate Judges.

Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court (244)

FY27 Budget Request

19 Metro Court Judges / 334 - FTE

(Cat. 200)

- \$72.4k - Warrant JS2 (1) Term to Perm
- \$72.4k - JS2 for Interpreter Division (1 FTE)
- \$181.0k - Paralegal for IPRA requests (2 FTE)
- \$1,307.5k - Health Benefits 80/20, Health Insurance Increase 10% & GSD/WIP Increase

(Cat. 400)

- \$151.7k - PNM Increase & Maintenance Costs

FY27 Special Appropriation Request

\$116.2k - Purchase IT equipment to refresh the systems infrastructure



New Mexico Judiciary

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here:**



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