

**Court and Criminal Justice Legislative Subcommittee**  
**Bernalillo Commission Chambers**  
**Wednesday, September 24, 2025**  
**9:00am**

**Update on Child Advocate Selection Committee**

**1. Presenters**

- a. Billy Jimenez, Chief of Civil Affairs, New Mexico Department of Justice
- b. Rebecca Guay, Deputy Director, Government Counsel and Accountability, NMDOJ

**2. Summary of completed events**

- a. August 5, 2025 – Kickoff meeting and adoption of bylaws
- b. August 22, 2025 – Discussion of desired qualifications and job description
- c. August 29, 2025 – Finalized draft job description/posting
- d. September 5, 2025 – Received public comment on draft job description and approved final application
- e. Webpage for Office of the Child Advocate was created: <https://nmdoj.gov/new-mexico-office-of-the-child-advocate/>
- f. Job post and application were posted to the Child Advocate webpage

**3. Summary of upcoming events**

- a. **October 31, 2025** – Deadline to apply
- b. **November 14, 2025** – Meeting to review applications
- c. **December 3-5, 2025** – Meeting to interview selected applicants
- d. **December 5, 2025 or TBD** – Recommend final selection(s) to the Governor

**4. Postings**

- a. Announcement of the Job Post was sent to:
  - Media advisory sent to local media outlets
- b. Posted to career pages of the following organizations:
  - National Association of Social Workers (emailed to 107,000)
  - American Psychological Association (emailed to 120,000)
  - ABA – Career Website (emailed to 35,000)
  - Indeed
  - National Association of Attorneys General
- c. Working on obtaining coverage in the following publications:
  - The Imprint
  - Youth Today
- d. Working on circulating to the following organizations:
  - National Indian Child Welfare Association
  - NM Board of Psychology
  - State Bar of New Mexico
  - NM Social Work Board

## Members of the Child Advocate Selection Committee

SELECTION CMTE. APPOINTEE	NOMINATED SELECTION CMTE. MEMBER	TITLE/POSITION OF SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBER	SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBER EMAIL
Honorable Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham	Diego Arencon	Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor	diego.arencon@exec.nm.gov
Senator Mimi Stewart, President Pro Tempore of the Senate	Therese Yanan	Executive Director, Native American Disability Law Center, Inc.	tyanan@natedisabilitylaw.org
Senator William Sharer, Minority Floor Leader of the Senate	Monique Jacobson	Former Secretary of CYFD	monique@moniquejacobson.com
Representative Javier Martinez, Speaker of the House of Representatives	Rep. Michelle Paulene Abeyta	Member of the House of Representative, House District 69	Michelle.abeyta@nmlegis.gov
Representative Gail Armstrong, Minority Floor Leader of the House of Representatives	Maralyn Beck	Founder & Executive Director, New Mexico Child First Network	maralyn@nmchildfirst.org
Chief Justice David K Thomson, New Mexico Supreme Court	Hon. Alma Roberson	Children's Court Judge, Second Judicial District Court	albdacr@nmcourts.gov
Chief Justice David K Thomson, New Mexico Supreme Court	Hon. Jennifer Delaney	District Court Judge, Sixth Judicial District Court	demdjed@nmcourts.gov