



Supreme Court of New Mexico

CHIEF JUSTICE
MICHAEL E. VIGIL
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BARBARA J. VIGIL
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CLERK OF COURT
JOEY D. MOYA, ESQ.

November 13, 2020

Dear Governor Lujan Grisham and Members of the Legislative Finance Committee,

It is my pleasure to provide you with the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) Unified Budget and Legislative Agenda Book, as well as a pamphlet highlighting the Judiciary's Pretrial Services Program. As stated on the front page of the Book, "If we are to keep our democracy, there must be one commandment. Thou shalt not ration justice." This maxim applies today as much as it did when Judge Learned Hand delivered this quote to the New York Legal Aid Society in 1951.

The COVID-19 public health emergency amplifies the need for keeping all courts open and properly funded, even during difficult economic times. The Judiciary's budget advances a responsible balance of disciplined spending, while covering the operational needs of the courts in FY22.

I want to say a special thanks to the Legislators and the Governor for their budgetary support, to the citizens of New Mexicans who serve on juries, and to the judges and other court personnel on the front lines answering the call to serve justice during this difficult time. I look forward to meeting and working with you in the months ahead.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael E. Vigil".

Michael E. Vigil
Chief Justice