

Fifth Judicial District Attorney

We desperately need more staff – both attorneys and support staff.

According to a report prepared by the New Mexico Sentencing Commission, our agency is understaffed in attorney positions by almost half! Once again, we are the most understaffed district in the state. Caseloads are extremely high.

As a result, we are having difficulty recruiting and retaining employees. We currently have five vacancies out of twenty-four positions. One attorney, with over ten years of experience, stayed with us less than a year. In an exit interview, when asked why she was leaving, she told us "I don't want to work this hard."

If we do not receive a surge in resources, we will fall so far behind that we may never be able to stem the flood of violent crime in the district.

New Mexico Sentencing Commission Personnel Needs Assessment			
FY 2015 Data			
District	FY 2015 Authorized FTEs	FY 2015 NMSC Needs Assessment	% Staff Needs Met
1	73.0	127.3	57.3%
2	292.0	347.2	84.1%
3	81.0	77.2	104.9%
5	63.0	114.2	55.2%
13	82.0	80.9	101.4%

Even with our very limited resources, we work very hard for the people of the Fifth Judicial District. In a recent article in the Albuquerque Journal, the reporter cited trial statistics from the Administrative Office of the Courts. With increasing caseloads, we still prosecuted 122 trials - more cases than any other district in the state.

