

MINUTES
of the
FIFTH MEETING
of the
COURTS, CORRECTIONS AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

**October 5-6, 2026
Stan Fulton Athletics Center
New Mexico State University
1815 Wells Street
Las Cruces**

The fifth meeting of the Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee was called to order by Representative Christine Chandler, chair, on October 5, 2026 at 9:44 a.m. at New Mexico State University (NMSU) in Las Cruces.

Present

Rep. Christine Chandler, Chair
Sen. Joseph Cervantes, Vice Chair
Rep. Janelle Anyanonu
Sen. Antonio Maestas (10/5)
Rep. Andrea Reeb
Rep. Andrea Romero
Rep. Angelica Rubio
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez

Advisory Members

Rep. Tara L. Lujan (10/6)
Rep. Alan T. Martinez
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana
Sen. Linda M. Trujillo

Absent

Rep. Marianna Anaya
Sen. Crystal Brantley
Rep. Nicole Chavez
Rep. William A. Hall II
Rep. Dayan Hochman-Vigil
Sen. Cindy Nava
Sen. James G. Townsend

Rep. Gail Armstrong
Sen. Heather Berghmans
Rep. John Block
Sen. Pat Boone
Rep. Cynthia Borrego
Rep. Eleanor Chávez
Sen. Katy Duhigg
Sen. Natalie Figueroa
Rep. Joy Garratt
Rep. Yanira Gurrola
Sen. Steve D. Lanier
Rep. Stefani Lord
Sen. Micaelita Debbie O'Malley
Rep. Sarah Silva
Rep. Nathan P. Small

Sen. Mimi Stewart
Rep. Reena Szczepanski
Sen. Peter Wirth

Guest Legislators

Rep. Micaela Lara Cadena
Rep. Pamela Herndon
Rep. Cristina Parajón (10/5)

(Attendance dates are noted for those members not present for the entire meeting.)

Staff

Sean Dolan, Staff Attorney, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Simon Suzuki, Staff Attorney, LCS
Domenica Nieto, Research Assistant, LCS

Guests

The guest list is in the meeting file.

Handouts

Handouts and other written testimony are in the meeting file and are posted on the legislature's website.

References to Webcast

The time reference noted next to each agenda item in this document is cross-referenced to the webcast of the committee meeting, which can be found at www.nmlegis.gov, under the "Webcast" tab. The presentations made and committee discussions for agenda items can be found on the recorded webcast for this meeting.

Monday, October 5

Welcome from NMSU (9:44 a.m.)

Valerio Ferme, Ph.D., president, NMSU, welcomed members of the committee to NMSU and provided an overview of the university.

Welcome and Introductions (10:15 a.m.)

Representative Chandler welcomed members of the committee and members of the public to the meeting.

Law Enforcement Certification Board (LECB) — What's Working and What Isn't? (10:17 a.m.)

Cody Rogers, vice chair, LECB; Ivan Ramirez-Arechiga, operations officer, LECB, Holly Agajanian, general counsel, Office of the Governor, and George Hypolite, general

counsel, Department of Finance and Administration, presented on how recent legislative changes are working and discussed issues with the LECB, particularly in relation to its being administratively attached to the Department of Public Safety. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=10/5/2026&ItemNumber=2>.

Updating the Law Enforcement Training Curriculum (12:05 p.m.)

Richard Mathews, chair, New Mexico Law Enforcement Standards and Training Council, and Jon Blum, International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training, presented on recent changes to the law enforcement curriculum and how the state's training lines up with national standards. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=10/5/2026&ItemNumber=3>.

Law Enforcement Academy (12:33 p.m.)

Fabian Valdez, director, New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy; Sylvia M. Serna, deputy secretary, Department of Public Safety; Julie M. Gallardo, acting chief legal counsel, Department of Public Safety; Mr. Mathews; and Mr. Blum presented on the implementation of the updated curriculum and discussed potential future changes. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=10/5/2026&ItemNumber=4>.

State Ethics Commission: Updates on Significant Disclosure and Nondisclosure Work (2:03 p.m.)

Jeremy Farris, executive director, State Ethics Commission, provided an update on current litigation regarding lobbyist disclosures, disclosure of personal information by the Corrections Department and disclaimers of artificial intelligence. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=10/5/2026&ItemNumber=5>.

New Mexico Association of Counties (NMAC) 2027 Legislative Priorities (3:20 p.m.)

Katherine Carroll, government relations, NMAC, and Grace Philips, risk management director, NMAC, presented potential legislation that the NMAC would like

introduced in the 2027 legislative session. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=10/5/2026&ItemNumber=6>.

Municipal League Updates (4:29 p.m.)

A.J. Forte, executive director, New Mexico Municipal League, and Rebecca Martinez, director of policy, New Mexico Municipal League, presented on municipalities' exposure in law enforcement lawsuits, tort claims, law enforcement training and the landscape of the Inspection of Public Records Act. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=10/5/2026&ItemNumber=7>.

Public Comment (4:57 p.m.)

A list of individuals making public comment is available in the meeting file.

Committee Discussion (5:15 p.m.)

The committee reflected on the day and discussed topics for future meetings.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 5:22 p.m.

Tuesday, October 6

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 8:35 a.m.

Corrections Department Highlights (8:36 a.m.)

Alisha Tafoya Lucero, secretary, Corrections Department, discussed how the Corrections Department has changed over her tenure as secretary of corrections.

A Law Enforcement Perspective on Automatic License Plate Readers (9:38 a.m.)

Jeremy Story, chief, Las Cruces Police Department, presented on how automatic license plate readers work, how they help the Las Cruces Police Department and what the department is doing to ensure data safety. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=10/5/2026&ItemNumber=9>.

Federal Water Use Related to the Border Wall (10:30 a.m.)

Nathaniel "Nat" Chakeres, general counsel, Office of the State Engineer, presented on efforts by the federal government to drill wells around the United States-Mexico border and discussed issues both legally and with the construction of the wells. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=10/5/2026&ItemNumber=10>.

Data Centers — Project Jupiter, Water Use and Power Generation (10:59 a.m.)

Mr. Chakeres; Anjali Bean, senior policy advisor, Healthy Rivers, Western Resource Advocates; McKenna Beck, Ralph Cavanagh climate solutions fellow, Natural Resources Defense Council; and Jordan Gerow, director of policy and research, Climate Xchange, presented a comprehensive overview of how much water and power different types of data centers use and what power and water use is anticipated should Project Jupiter move forward and discussed local control of the issues. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=10/5/2026&ItemNumber=11>.

Public Comment (1:14 p.m.)

A list of individuals making public comment is available in the meeting file.

Committee Discussion

There was no committee discussion.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:38 p.m.