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

October 28-29, 2026
State Capitol, Room 322
Santa Fe

The sixth meeting of the Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee was called to order by Representative Christine Chandler, chair, on October 28, 2026 at 9:07 a.m. in Room 322 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

Present
Rep. Christine Chandler, Chair
Sen. Joseph Cervantes, Vice Chair (10/28)
Rep. Marianna Anaya
Sen. Natalie Figueroa*
Rep. Dayan Hochman-Vigil
Sen. Micaelita Debbie O'Malley (10/29)*
Sen. Cindy Nava (10/28)
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez
Rep. Andrea Romero (10/29)
Sen. Mimi Stewart*

Absent
Rep. Janelle Anyanonu
Sen. Crystal Brantley
Rep. Nicole Chavez
Rep. William A. Hall II
Sen. Antonio Maestas
Rep. Angelica Rubio
Sen. James G. Townsend

Advisory Members
Rep. John Block (10/29)
Rep. Cynthia Borrego (10/29)
Rep. Eleanor Chávez
Sen. Katy Duhigg (10/28)
Rep. Joy Garratt
Rep. Stefani Lord
Rep. Tara L. Lujan
Sen. Linda M. Trujillo
Rep. Gail Armstrong
Sen. Heather Berghmans
Sen. Pat Boone
Rep. Yanira Gurrola
Sen. Steve D. Lanier
Rep. Alan T. Martinez
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana
Rep. Sarah Silva
Rep. Nathan P. Small
Rep. Reena Szczepanski
Sen. Peter Wirth

Guest Legislator
Rep. Anita Gonzales (10/28)

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

*Appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives or the president pro tempore of the senate as a voting member for this meeting only.

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 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.

Wednesday, October 28

Welcome and Introductions (9:07 a.m.)
Representative Chandler and Senator Cervantes welcomed committee members and members of the public.

Survivors' Justice and Compensation Fund: Core Design Decisions (9:11 a.m.)
Representative Meredith A. Dixon; Lex Garcia, PharmD, survivor advocate; and Dathan Weems, attorney, Weems Law LLC, presented on a proposal for a compensation fund for sexual assault survivors of abuse by state agencies, including estimates of potential claims and a structure for establishing the amount in the fund, and discussed the experiences of other states and jurisdictions that have had similar funds. The presentation materials can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=10/28/2026&ItemNumber=1.

Transparency in the Model: Wildfire Risk and Insurance (10:17 a.m.)
Representative Gonzales; Jordan Haedtler, climate finance policy lead, Climate Cabinet; and Christian Myers, chief actuary, Office of Superintendent of Insurance (OSI), presented on difficulties with insurance rates due to wildfire risks, how that has affected the affordability of homes, homeowner nonrenewals of home insurance and

how other states with fire risks are approaching home insurance. The presentation materials can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=10/28/2026&ItemNumber=2.

Insurance Related to Natural Disasters (11:22 a.m.)

Alice Kane, Superintendent of Insurance, OSI; Mr. Myers; and Melissa Robertson, chief, Property and Casualty Bureau, OSI, presented on New Mexico homeowners' nonrenewal activity, Fair Access to Insurance Requirements Plan growth and the major issues with wildfire-prepared homes and proposed wildfire-related legislation. The presentation materials can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=10/28/2026&ItemNumber=3.

Empowering Survivors Voices' Act (12:53 p.m.)

Valeria Garcia Tavarez, associate managing attorney, New Mexico Immigrant Law Center; Deshawnda Chaparro, legal director, Santa Fe Dreamers Project; and Paul Haugh, commander, Albuquerque Police Department, presented on the process for law enforcement to certify information regarding U-Visa applications. The presentation materials can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=10/28/2026&ItemNumber=4.

Compensating the Wrongfully Convicted: Approaches from Across the Country (1:36 p.m.)

Jon Eldan, director, After Innocence, discussed how After Innocence provides individualized help to people exonerated from crime, the assistance After Innocence provides, how exonerees qualify for assistance provided by the organization, the scope of the issue and related legislation passed in other states and described the difficulties faced by those wrongfully imprisoned.

Improving Animal Cruelty and Domestic Violence Laws (2:31 p.m.)

Grace Montaño Irwin, government affairs director, Animal Protection Voters; Jessica Shelton, chief strategy officer, Animal Protection Voters; and Kevin Carhart, detective, Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office, discussed gaps in New Mexico law regarding domestic violence applying to animals and discussed ideas for a bill to close those gaps. The presentation materials can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=10/28/2026&ItemNumber=6.

Closing a Gap in Domestic Violence Protection Orders (3:05 p.m.)

Representative Garratt and Miranda Viscoli, New Mexicans to Prevent Gun Violence, presented on House Bill 67 (2026), which was about the relinquishment of firearms in instances of domestic violence. The presentation materials can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=10/28/2026&ItemNumber=7.

Public Comment (3:32 p.m.)

The list of those making public comment is available in the meeting file.

Committee Discussion (3:48 p.m.)

The committee discussed topics for future meetings.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 3:51 p.m.

Thursday, October 29

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 9:34 a.m.

The Second Amendment and the State of the Law (9:36 a.m.)

Eric Ruben, professor of law, Dedman School of Law, Southern Methodist University (SMU); Brennan Rivas, assistant director, Clements Center for Southwest Studies, SMU; and Hayley Lawrence, executive director, Duke Center for Firearms Law, Duke University School of Law, presented on the history of the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution, United States Supreme Court cases interpreting the Second Amendment, contradictions within those cases, pending cases before the United States Supreme Court and litigating gun safety laws after recent decisions. They also discussed recent cases the United States Supreme Court has accepted but on which has yet to rule. The presentation materials can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=10/28/2026&ItemNumber=8.

Approval of Minutes (12:06 p.m.)

The committee approved the minutes of the August 25-27, 2026 and October 5-6, 2026 meetings.

Gun Smuggling and Illegal Gun Transactions (1:05 p.m.)

Ryan Burt, chief executive officer, Calibers Indoor Shooting Ranges; Marianna

Mitchem, senior industry advisor, Everytown for Gun Safety; and Greg Lickenbrock, senior firearms analyst, Everytown for Gun Safety, detailed statistics regarding firearm thefts, illegal sales and rates at which those guns are used in crimes and gun crime intelligence. They also discussed the experiences of licensed firearm dealers in the state. The presentation materials can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=10/28/2026&ItemNumber=9.

Examining the New Mexico Civil Rights Act (2:34 p.m.)

Joanna C. Schwartz, Honorable Harry Pregerson professor of law, University of California, Los Angeles School of Law; Katherine Carroll, Government Relations, New Mexico Association of Counties (NMAC); Brandon Huss, legal bureau director, NMAC; and Grace Phillips, risk management director, New Mexico County Insurance Authority, NMAC, discussed a national study regarding impacts of state civil rights acts and dove into the New Mexico-specific data. They also discussed solvency in relation to payments made pursuant to the New Mexico Civil Rights Act and discussed proposed changes to the act. The presentation materials can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=10/28/2026&ItemNumber=10.

Public Comment (4:11 p.m.)

The list of those making public comment is available in the meeting file.

Committee Discussion (4:23 p.m.)

The committee discussed the next committee meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.