



# JPEC

JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE  
EVALUATION COMMISSION

## 2024 Retention Report to Voters

2nd Judicial District - Bernalillo County

*The Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission makes recommendations to voters below, based on surveys with specific groups, statistics from the Administrative Office of the Courts, and interviews with each judge being evaluated.*

*For information on how these recommendations were made, visit [www.nmjpec.org](http://www.nmjpec.org). If you have questions or would like to request printed evaluations, call 1-800-687-3417.*



**Honorable Briana H. Zamora**  
Supreme Court Justice – Statewide

**RETAIN**

Justice Briana Zamora’s overall survey results were quite positive. She was rated highly by attorneys for conducting herself in a manner free from impropriety, treating all courtroom participants with respect, and maintaining professional demeanor in the courtroom. Court staff, district judges, and her fellow judges and justices at the Court of Appeals and Supreme Court gave her positive scores in all areas.



**Honorable Jennifer L. Attrep**  
Court of Appeals Judge – Statewide

**RETAIN**

Judge Jennifer Attrep was rated highly in many areas by court staff, district judges, and fellow appellate judges and justices. Lawyers rated her positively for conducting herself in a manner free from impropriety, treating all courtroom participants with respect, maintaining professional demeanor in the courtroom, and being prepared. Lawyers were concerned she did not always address legal issues clearly and there were concerns with her timeliness in writing opinions.



**Honorable Megan P. Duffy**  
Court of Appeals Judge – Statewide

**RETAIN**

Judge Megan Duffy’s survey results were somewhat mixed. Attorneys rated her positively for maintaining professional demeanor in the courtroom and providing court participants with a meaningful opportunity to be heard. Court staff rated her positively for rendering opinions without regard to outside pressure and maintaining a professional demeanor. Court staff gave her low ratings on timeliness in making rulings and rendering decisions, effectively handling her ongoing workload, and treating court employees with respect.



**Honorable Shammara H. Henderson**  
Court of Appeals Judge – Statewide

**RETAIN**

Judge Shammara Henderson received positive scores from attorneys for treating all courtroom participants with respect, maintaining professional demeanor, and being prepared. District court judges gave her generally positive ratings. Appellate court judges rated her positively in most categories, but somewhat lower in performing primary authorship responsibilities with diligence and complying with appellate time standards. Court staff rated Judge Henderson positively for maintaining a professional demeanor and treating court employees with respect, but lower in effectively handling her ongoing workload.



### **Honorable Denise Barela-Shepherd**

2nd Judicial District Court Judge – District 18 – Civil Court

**RETAIN**

Judge Denise Barela-Shepherd received positive ratings from attorneys and court staff. Attorneys rated her highly for being punctual in commencing proceedings, being prompt in scheduling hearings and trials, maintaining proper control over the proceedings, and ensuring her personal staff is professional, productive, and knowledgeable of court policies and procedures. Her scores from attorneys and court staff have continuously improved during her time on the bench. Her scores among court staff improved significantly from the 2019 evaluation cycle.



### **Honorable Cindy Leos**

2nd Judicial District Court Judge – Division 9 – Criminal Court

**RETAIN**

Judge Cindy Leos received a very positive overall evaluation. Attorneys rated her highly for being attentive to the proceedings, punctuality in commencing proceedings, displaying familiarity with court cases through prior preparation, and for ruling on motions or cases in a timely manner. The court staff, resource staff (e.g., law enforcement officers, CASA volunteers, CYFD, interpreters, etc.), and jurors rated Judge Leos positively on all attributes.



### **Honorable Victor S. Lopez**

2nd Judicial District Court Judge – Division 27 – Civil Court

**RETAIN**

Judge Victor Lopez received somewhat mixed results. Attorneys rated him highly for being attentive to the proceedings, maintaining proper control over proceedings, being punctual in commencing proceedings, and ensuring his personal staff is professional, productive, and knowledgeable of court policies and procedures. Court staff rated him positively on all attributes. He received somewhat lower scores from attorneys for not always exercising sound legal reasoning and not being thoroughly knowledgeable regarding substantive law and the rules of procedure and evidence.



### **Honorable Brett R. Loveless**

2nd Judicial District Court Judge – Division 3 – Criminal Court

**RETAIN**

Judge Brett Loveless' overall survey results were quite positive. Attorneys rated him highly for being attentive to the proceedings, demonstrating appropriate demeanor on the bench, displaying familiarity with court cases through prior preparation, and for ensuring his personal staff is professional, productive, and knowledgeable of court policies and procedures. The court staff, resource staff (e.g., law enforcement officers, probation/parole, CASA volunteers, CYFD, interpreters, etc.), and jurors rated him positively on all attributes.



### **Honorable Elaine P. Lujan**

2nd Judicial District Court Judge – District 12 – Civil Court

**RETAIN**

Judge Elaine Lujan received very positive ratings from attorneys in every category of the survey. Attorneys rated her highly for being attentive to and punctually commencing proceedings, being courteous to all participants, and demonstrating appropriate demeanor on the bench. Court staff rated her highly in all areas.



### **Honorable Judge David Allen Murphy**

2nd Judicial District Court Judge – Division 30 – Criminal Court

#### **INSUFFICIENT TIME IN CURRENT POSITION TO EVALUATE**

JPEC could not conduct an evaluation and make a recommendation to voters because of the time frame of the evaluation, the rules governing JPEC’s evaluation process, and New Mexico legislation on judicial retention terms. This is no reflection on Judge Murphy’s performance.



### **Honorable Daniel E. “Dan” Ramczyk**

2nd Judicial District Court Judge – Division 6 – Civil Court

#### **RETAIN**

Judge Daniel Ramczyk received positive ratings from attorneys and court staff. Attorneys rated him highly for displaying fairness and impartiality toward each side of the case, being attentive to the proceedings, punctuality in commencing proceedings, demonstrating appropriate demeanor on the bench, and ensuring his personal staff is professional, productive, and knowledgeable of court policies and procedures. Court staff rated him highly for respecting court employees regardless of position.



### **Honorable Emeterio L. Rudolfo**

2nd Judicial District Court Judge – Division 21 – Criminal Court

#### **INSUFFICIENT TIME IN CURRENT POSITION TO EVALUATE**

JPEC could not conduct an evaluation and make a recommendation to voters because of the time frame of the evaluation, the rules governing JPEC’s evaluation process, and New Mexico legislation on judicial retention terms. This is no reflection on Judge Rudolfo’s performance.



### **Honorable Courtney B. Weaks**

2nd Judicial District Court Judge – Division 15 – Criminal Court

#### **RETAIN**

Judge Courtney Weaks’ overall survey results were mixed. Attorneys rated her highly for being attentive to the proceedings and ensuring her personal staff is professional, productive, and knowledgeable of court policies and procedures. Attorneys rated her lower on exercising sound legal reasoning and knowledge of substantive law and the rules of procedure and evidence. Court staff, resource staff (e.g., law enforcement officers, probation/parole, CASA volunteers, CYFD, interpreters, etc.), and jurors rated the judge positively on all attributes.



### **Honorable Felicia R. Blea-Rivera**

Metropolitan Court Judge – Division 15 – Criminal Court

#### **RETAIN**

Overall, Judge Felicia Blea-Rivera’s scores were positive. Attorneys rated her highly for being attentive to the proceedings, treating all courtroom participants with respect, treating *pro se* (self-represented) parties fairly, and for being prepared for court proceedings. Court staff rated her positively in all areas. In her interview, she acknowledged a misperception among the resource staff (e.g., law enforcement officers, probation/parole, CASA volunteers, CYFD, interpreters, etc.) that she has a timeliness issue and has reordered her docket.



### **Honorable Michelle Castillo Dowler**

Metropolitan Court Judge – Division 13 – Criminal Court

**RETAIN**

Judge Michelle Castillo Dowler received positive ratings from attorneys. Attorneys rated the judge highly for being attentive to the proceedings, being prepared for court proceedings, and for ensuring that participants understand the court proceedings. Attorneys and court staff rated her positively for ensuring her personal staff is professional, productive, and knowledgeable of court policies and procedures.



### **Honorable Rosemary Cosgrove-Aguilar**

Metropolitan Court Judge – Division 7 – Criminal Court

**RETAIN**

Judge Rosemary Cosgrove-Aguilar's scores were quite positive. Attorneys rated her highly for being attentive to the proceedings, ensuring that participants understand the court proceedings, treating *pro se* (self-represented) parties fairly, and ensuring her personal staff is professional, productive, and knowledgeable of court policies and procedures. Court staff rated her highly in all areas.



### **Honorable Asra I. Elliott**

Metropolitan Court Judge – Division 1 – Criminal Court

**RETAIN**

Judge Asra Elliott's scores were somewhat mixed. Attorneys rated her positively for being attentive to the proceedings, treating *pro se* (self-represented) parties fairly, conducting proceedings without favoritism, and for ensuring her personal staff is professional, productive, and knowledgeable of court policies and procedures. Attorneys rated her somewhat lower in application and knowledge of the law and providing clear communication. Court staff rated her highly on all attributes.



### **Honorable Yvette K. Gonzales**

Metropolitan Court Judge – Division 9 – Criminal Court

**RETAIN**

Judge Yvette Gonzales received positive scores from attorneys for treating *pro se* (self-represented) parties fairly, being able to decisively rule on procedural and substantive matters, being prepared, being attentive, and ensuring her personal staff is professional, productive, and knowledgeable of court policies and procedures. Court staff rated her positively in all categories. Resource staff (e.g., law enforcement officers, probation/parole, CASA volunteers, CYFD, interpreters, etc.), and jurors rated her quite positively in all categories.



### **Honorable Nina Aviva Safier**

Metropolitan Court Judge – Division 17 – Criminal Court

**RETAIN**

Judge Nina Safier received an overall positive evaluation. Attorneys rated her positively for being attentive to the proceedings, being prepared for court proceedings, and for treating *pro se* (self-represented) parties fairly. They also rated her positively for ensuring her personal staff is professional, productive, and knowledgeable of court policies and procedures. Court staff rated her highly in all categories.



### Honorable Renée Torres

Metropolitan Court Judge – Division 3 – Criminal Court

**RETAIN**

Judge Renée Torres's scores were somewhat mixed. Attorneys rated her positively for ensuring participants understand court proceedings, treating *pro se* (self-represented) parties fairly, and ensuring her personal staff is professional, productive, and knowledgeable of court policies and procedures. Some attorneys who responded felt she was not thoroughly knowledgeable regarding substantive law and the rules of procedure and evidence, and did not always follow the legal rules that apply to the case. Court staff rated her positively on all attributes.

### ABOUT JPEC AND OUR RECOMMENDATIONS TO VOTERS

The New Mexico Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission (NMJPEC) is a nonpartisan, volunteer commission. We survey groups that have contact with each judge and analyze court statistics to make our recommendations to voters. We also rely on personal interviews with each judge standing for retention.

[www.nmjpec.org](http://www.nmjpec.org)  
**1-800-687-3417**

