

JUSTICE EDWARD L. CHÁVEZ (Retired)
Chair, Citizen Redistricting Committee

I am a native New Mexican, born in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and the product of New Mexico's public schools. I grew up working weekends and summers on small family cattle ranches in Torrance and San Miguel counties. My wife Sandra, from Jemez Springs, New Mexico, and I have been married since 1977. We have three adult children, Augustine, Divina and Armando, and eight grandchildren.

I went to college back east where I received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Eastern New Mexico University in 1978. I graduated from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 1981.

I have been a licensed attorney since October 1981. While I was an attorney I served as President of the Legal Aide Society of Albuquerque, Inc., President of the UNM Mental Health Center Board of Trustees, President of the New Mexico Trial Lawyers Association, and Chair of the New Mexico Lawyer Disciplinary Board. I taught Evidence and Trial Practice at UNMSOL as an adjunct instructor. I was elected as a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers and the International Academy of Trial Lawyers. The American College is by invitation only and is limited to not more than one percent of attorneys practicing in any given state. The International Academy is also by invitation only and is limited to not more than 500 attorneys from the United States. I am an elected member of the American Law Institute and serve on the Members Consultative Group for the Restatement of the Law Third, Torts, Liability for Physical and Emotional Harm and am also an Adviser to the Restatement of the Law 3rd: Intentional Torts to Persons.

I served as a Justice on the New Mexico Supreme Court from March 7, 2003, until my retirement on March 9, 2018. I was the Chief Justice on the New Mexico Supreme Court during four legislative sessions from January 10, 2007, until April 7, 2010. In addition to being the Supreme Court liaison to several other committees, boards, and commissions, I was the Court's representative on the Disciplinary Board, Board of Bar Examiners, Language Access Advisory Committee, Lawyer Succession and Transition Committee, Client Protection Fund, Commission on Professionalism, and the Code of Judicial Conduct Committee. I was elected in 2008-2009 to serve as Second Vice President to the Conference of Chief Justices, which represents the Chief Justices throughout the United States. I

served as Liaison to the Conference of Chief Justices Board of Directors for the CCJ/COSCA Public Trust and Confidence in the Judiciary Committee, 2009. As an elected member of the Advanced Science and Technology Adjudication Resource Center, I organized a Judge's Science School in New Mexico for judges from throughout the United States and helped start a Judge's Science School at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

I wrote a little more than two hundred opinions as a Justice on the NMSC. The most relevant opinion for purposes of redistricting is *Maestas v. Hall*, 2012-NMSC-006, a majority opinion regarding the 2011 House redistricting litigation in New Mexico.

During my first year of retirement, I was a contract attorney for the NM Human Services Department and settled longstanding litigation with Behavioral Health Providers and helped develop a Corrective Action Plan approved by the federal court, which if properly executed, will conclude a more than thirty-year-old lawsuit against the Department. I have a Professional Services Contract with the NM State Ethics Commission to serve as a hearing officer.

Volunteer work. Since my retirement, in addition to volunteering at the Roadrunner foodbank, I have served as a volunteer for the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government. I have served on the New Mexico Supreme Court as a *pro tem* Justice. I served on the New Mexico Court of Appeals to help reduce the backlog. I have Chaired a Criminal Justice and Public Safety Task Force created by the legislature in HJM16. The purpose of the Task Force was to identify issues of primary concern within the State's Criminal Justice and Public Safety System and to develop a strategic plan to ameliorate the concerns. The work of the Task Force resulted in HB267, which unanimously passed the House and Senate and was signed into law by the Governor. I Chaired the Department of Corrections Transition Team. I also Chaired the NM Supreme Court (NMSC) Ad Hoc Committee to Review Pretrial Release and Detention Procedures, which was charged with the responsibility "to review and make any recommendations the committee deems advisable for improving the pretrial detention procedure based on data-driven input." The Ad Hoc Committee submitted a report to the NMSC with recommendations including proposed rules changes, the majority of which were adopted by the Court. I was a member of the Board of the New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty. I also started and continue to serve on a JWell committee to assist judges with the stress of being a judge.

I also co-Chaired along with retired Court of Appeals Chief Judge Roderick Kennedy, the NM First Redistricting Task Force. The Task Force introduced legislation to create a citizen redistricting committee with clearly identified standards and responsibilities. Although the original proposed legislation was amended the Citizen Redistricting Committee was adopted with only two legislators dissenting.

In addition to Chairing the Citizen Redistricting Committee I currently Chair the New Mexico Sentencing Commission and serve as the Vice-Chair of the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission (JPEC). The Sentencing Commission has numerous duties relating to the Criminal Justice System and is currently charged with reviewing and redrafting the criminal code in New Mexico. JPEC evaluates Metropolitan Court, District Court and Appellate Judges and makes recommendations to the public whether to retain those judges who are evaluated.

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