



2026 Retention Report to Voters

3rd Judicial District – Doña Ana County

The New Mexico Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission makes the recommendations below to voters, based on surveys with specific groups, statistics from the Administrative Office of the Courts, interviews with each judge being evaluated, and, as time and resources allow, independent courtroom observations.

For more information or if you would like to request full printed evaluations, call 1-800-687-3417 or visit www.nmjpec.org.



Honorable C. Shannon Bacon
Supreme Court Justice - Statewide

RETAIN

Justice C. Shannon Bacon's overall results are mostly positive. For example, attorneys rated the Justice positively for being prepared for oral arguments and court proceedings, being knowledgeable regarding substantive law, following the legal rules that applied to the case at issue, and for providing court participants with a meaningful opportunity to be heard. The court staff and her fellow appellate judges/justices rated her positively in all areas.



Honorable David K. Thomson
Supreme Court Justice – Statewide

RETAIN

Justice David K. Thomson received an overall positive evaluation. For example, attorneys rated him positively for providing court participants with a meaningful opportunity to be heard, treating courtroom participants with respect, and for performing duties fairly and impartially. The court staff rated Justice Thompson very highly on every attribute.



Honorable J. Miles Hanisee
New Mexico Court of Appeals Judge – Statewide

RETAIN

Judge J. Miles Hanisee received quite positive ratings overall. For example, attorneys rated Judge Hanisee positively for treating participants with respect, maintaining professional demeanor in the courtroom, and for being prepared for oral arguments and court proceedings. The court staff and his fellow appellate judges/justices rated Judge Hanisee highly in all areas. In addition, the district judges gave him positive ratings.



Honorable Manuel I. Arrieta
3rd Judicial District Court Judge - Division 1

RETAIN

Judge Manuel Arrieta received a somewhat mixed overall evaluation. Judge Arrieta received positive scores from attorneys for maintaining professional demeanor in the courtroom, treating all courtroom participants with respect, and for treating self-represented parties fairly. Judge Arrieta received positive scores from attorneys and court staff for ensuring his personal staff is professional, productive, and knowledgeable of court policies and procedures. However, attorneys rated him somewhat lower for not always decisively ruling on procedural and substantive matters and for not being thoroughly knowledgeable regarding substantive law and the rules of procedure and evidence.



Honorable Douglas R. Driggers
3rd Judicial District Court Judge - Division 7

RETAIN

Overall, Judge Douglas Driggers' scores were somewhat mixed. For example, attorneys rated him highly for being punctual in commencing proceedings, being prompt in scheduling hearings and trials, for rulings on motions or cases in a timely manner, and for his ability to decisively rule on procedural and substantive matters. However, attorneys gave him somewhat lower ratings when it comes to treating all courtroom participants with respect and maintaining professional demeanor in the courtroom. His scores among resource staff (e.g., law enforcement, probation/parole, CASA volunteers, CYFD, interpreters, etc.) are low and have declined since his previous evaluation in 2023. The court staff gave him generally positive ratings, and the jurors rated him highly in all areas. In addition, observers in Judge Driggers' courtroom noted his professionalism and measured approach to courtroom management.

ABOUT JPEC

The New Mexico Judicial Evaluation Commission (JPEC) is a nonpartisan volunteer commission. JPEC surveys groups that have contact with each judge and analyzes court statistics and, as time and resources allow, conducts independent courtroom evaluations. We also interview each judge standing for retention.

www.nmjpec.org
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