



2026 Retention Report to Voters

5th Judicial District – Chaves, Eddy, and Lea Counties

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 David E. Finger
5th Judicial District Court Judge – Division 1

RETAIN

Judge David E. Finger received an overall positive evaluation. For example, attorneys rated him positively for treating all courtroom participants with respect, treating self-represented parties fairly, and for ensuring that participants understand the court proceedings. The court staff rated Judge Finger positively in all areas. The resource staff (e.g., law enforcement, probation/parole, CASA volunteers, CYFD, interpreters, etc.) rated him positively for treating all courtroom participants with respect, maintaining professional demeanor in the courtroom, and for conducting proceedings without favoritism.



Honorable Dustin K. Hunter
5th Judicial District Court Judge – Division 10

RETAIN

Overall, Judge Dustin Hunter's results are quite positive. For example, attorneys rated him highly for being attentive to the proceedings, maintaining proper control over the proceedings, ensuring that participants understand the court proceedings, and for treating self-represented parties fairly. The court staff rated him very highly for maintaining professional demeanor with court employees, treating court employees with respect, and for treating self-represented parties fairly. The resource staff (e.g., law enforcement, probation/parole, CASA volunteers, CYFD, interpreters, etc.) and jurors rated him highly in all areas.



Honorable Michael H. Stone
5th Judicial District Court Judge – Division 7

RETAIN

Judge Michael Stone's survey results were very positive. Attorneys rated him highly for treating self-represented parties fairly, being attentive to the proceedings, being prompt in scheduling hearings and trials, and being prepared for court proceedings. Additionally, court staff, resource staff (e.g., law enforcement, probation/parole, CASA volunteers, CYFD, interpreters, etc.), and jurors rated Judge Stone highly in all areas.

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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