

2026 Retention Report to Voters

9th Judicial District – Curry and Roosevelt 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 Benjamin S. Cross
9th Judicial District Court Judge, Division 1

RETAIN

Overall, Judge Benjamin S. Cross' evaluation was quite positive. Attorneys rated him highly for being attentive to the proceedings, being prepared for court proceedings, treating self-represented parties fairly, and for oral decisions/communications being clear and thorough. In addition, court staff and resource staff (e.g., law enforcement officers, CASA volunteers, CYFD, interpreters, etc.) rated him positively in all areas.



Honorable Donna J. Mowrer
9th Judicial District Court Judge, Division 4

RETAIN

Overall, Judge Donna Mowrer's evaluation was very positive. For example, attorneys rated her highly for performing duties fairly and impartially, conducting herself in a manner free from impropriety or the appearance of impropriety, for punctuality in commencing proceedings, attentiveness to proceedings, and for ensuring her personal staff is professional, productive, and knowledgeable of court policies and procedures. The court staff, resource staff (e.g., law enforcement, probation/parole, CASA volunteers, CYFD, interpreters, etc.), and jurors rated her highly on all attributes.

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.

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