



Dear Legislators,

The Supreme Court's FY26 budget request is \$10,821,100. The request represents an 18.5 percent increase over FY25. The Court's budget request prioritizes compensation, operational expenses and the preservation of the State of New Mexico's Supreme Court building. In detail, the base increase request is comprised of \$256,000 for the remaining funding recognized by HB 141 Judicial salaries increase, funds for increased travel, education and training, increased utilities expenses and student externs contracts. The expansion request totals \$876,600. The request includes funding for three Appellate Attorney Associates, two Appellate Technical Legal Editors and one Appellate Paralegal. As the Court has transitioned to the Term hearing schedule, the increased workload requires additional staff to support and effectively administer the cases that come before the Court.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David K. Thomson
Chief Justice
New Mexico Supreme Court



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NEW MEXICO SUPREME COURT

Mission/Statement:

The purpose of the Supreme Court of New Mexico is to provide access to justice, independently protect the rights and liberties guaranteed by the constitutions of the United State of America and the State of New Mexico, and resolve disputes justly and timely. The Supreme Court exercises superintending control over the lower courts, and is responsible for the administration of the Judiciary and the state bar. Through the Supreme Court Building Commission, the Court retains custody and control of the Supreme Court Building and provides for the maintenance and preservation of the building and its grounds. Moreover, through the Supreme Court Law Library, the Court provides legal information for the judicial, legislative, and executive branches of New Mexico state government, the legal community, and the general public.

SPECIAL & SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION REQUESTS

- Repair, improve and upgrade plumbing and electrical at the Supreme Court - \$1,505,400
- Repair, pave and improve handicap accessibility at the Supreme Court's parking lot - \$73,800
- Supplemental to complete the installation of the generator at the Supreme Court Building - \$342,000

EMPLOYEE SALARIES

The priority of compensation is essential to the successful operations of the Supreme Court. The funding for judicial salaries as appropriated by HB 141 fell short. We are grateful funding for the passage of HB141 and the funding of GRO funds in FY25. The Supreme Court was appropriated GRO funds of \$400,000 to cover the shortfall in FY25. As we move forward, base funding for compensation is necessary for continued operations performed by the Court's staff.

GENERAL FUND BASE BUDGET REQUEST

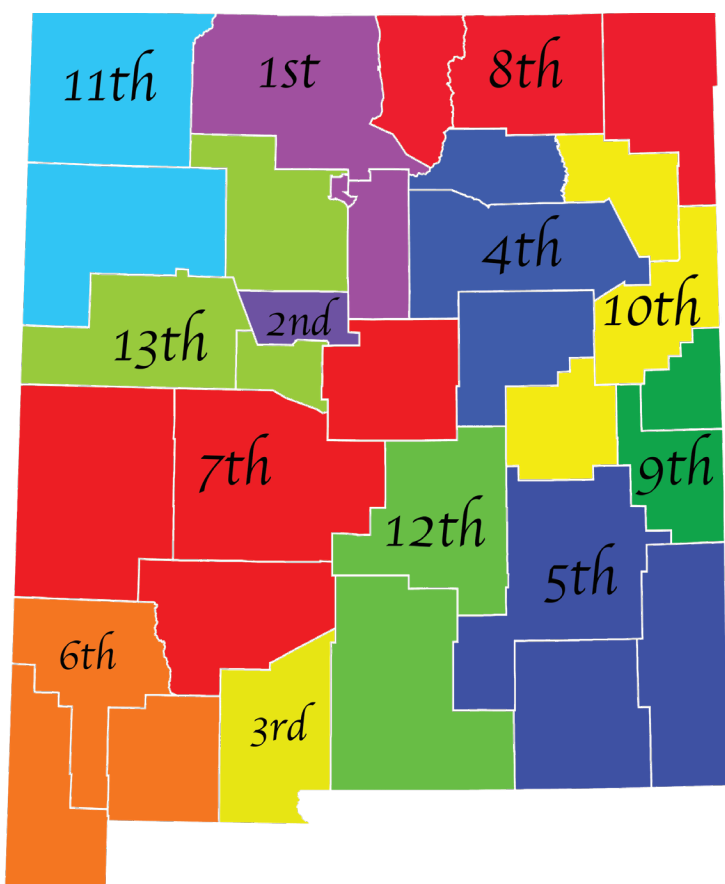
NM Supreme Court's FY26 Budget Request: \$10,821,000
18.5% increase over FY25

The New Mexico Supreme Court respectfully brings forward its FY26 general fund budget request to strengthen court operations in the following categories:

- Salaries of Justices - in accordance with HB141 - \$256,000
- Expansion of the Office of Supreme Court Counsel with the addition of three staff attorneys and two appellate technical legal editors - \$768,000.
 - Addition of two appellate paralegals in the Supreme Court Clerk's Office - \$209,700
 - Court Financial Manager 2 and a Financial Specialist Senior - \$189,900
 - Supreme Court Building Night Person Supervisor - \$55,000
 - Professional Development, Travel and Education/Training - \$100,000
 - Student Extern Contracts - \$15,000
 - Westlaw (expansion to Magistrate Judges) - \$50,000
 - Utilities, Vehicle Repair & Operational Overhead - \$45,000



NM JUDICIAL DISTRICTS



NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES BY DISTRICT

1st JD - 143.5	9th JD - 65
2nd JD - 392.5	10th JD - 19
3rd JD - 195.5	11th JD - 149.5
4th JD - 58.5	12th JD - 71
5th JD - 137	13th JD - 142
6th JD - 72	Metro - 334.5
7th JD - 53	Total - 1896
8th JD - 63	

FY24 PERFORMANCE BRIGHT SPOTS

Case Management

- The Court conducted a case flow management review in FY24 resulting in reduced case processing times. The Court had a 110% clearance rate of cases in FY24, demonstrating that the Court disposed of more cases in FY24 than were opened.

National Recognition

- The Supreme Court of New Mexico, the only appellate court selected as a pilot site for the National Center for State Courts Hybrid Hearings Improvement Initiative, successfully implemented remote and hybrid technology in the historic courtroom.

Pro Bono

- The Santa Fe County Free Legal Fair, in coordination with the Volunteer Attorney Program of New Mexico Legal Aid and the First Judicial District Court's Pro Bono Committee, was held at the Supreme Court in the Law Library on July 26, 2024, providing New Mexico residents with free, in-person consultations with an attorney for legal advice with civil and family law issues.

CAPITAL OUTLAY

The Supreme Court building is important to the architectural history of New Mexico. This facility has continuously housed the seat of New Mexico's judicial branch of government since it was completed in 1937. Its longstanding presence as one of the oldest public buildings within Santa Fe's Capitol Complex, it has provided an important and prestigious level of continuity.

The Supreme Court has completed a comprehensive facility needs assessment (FCA), conducted by Hartman and Majewski Design Group. The FCA provides a comprehensive understanding of the New Mexico Supreme Court building's current state and future needs. Identified areas for immediate and necessary repairs include mechanical, plumbing and electrical upgrades, security, energy efficiency and physical accessibility in compliance with ADA regulations and requirements.