

8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE MARCUS J. MONTOYA

Taos, Colfax, and Union Counties

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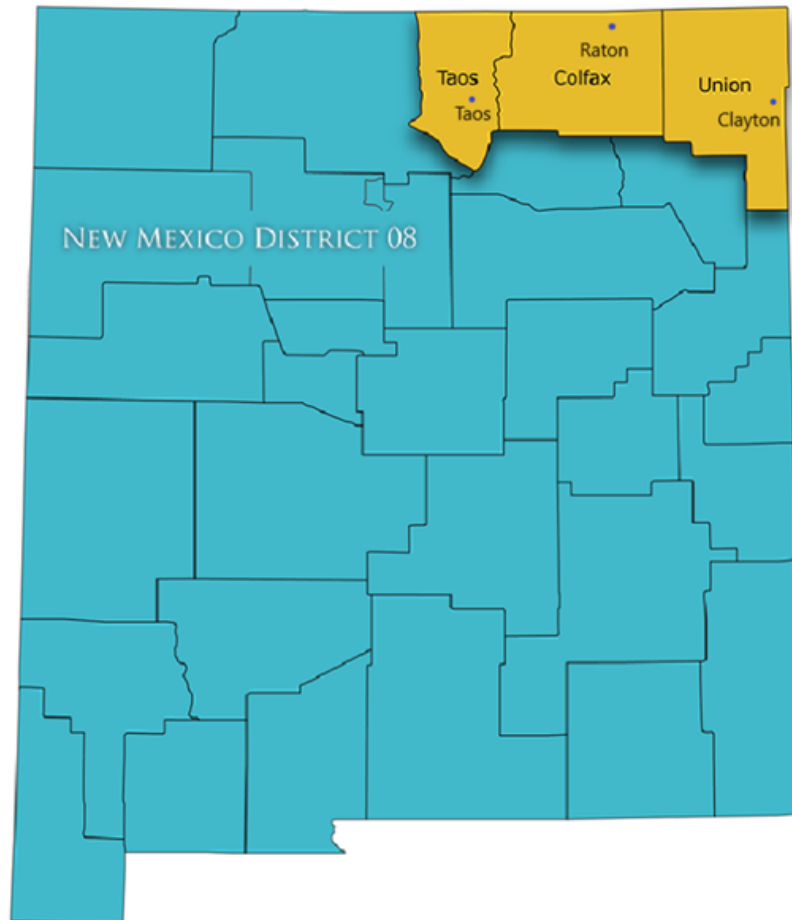
Budget Request Summary

NOVEMBER 16, 2023

MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES

OUR MISSION IS TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC'S SAFETY BY PROMOTING JUSTICE THROUGH THE FAIR AND IMPARTIAL PROSECUTION OF ALL FELONY AND MISDEMEANOR CRIMINAL CASES, AND MISCELLANEOUS CIVIL MATTERS.

OUR VISION IS TO JUDICIOUSLY PROSECUTE CASES, PROVIDING ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE COMMUNITY, AND VICTIMS; AND TO WORK WITH THE COMMUNITY TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE CITIZENS OF THE 8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT TO PROACTIVELY WORK TOWARDS SOLUTIONS THAT MAKE US ALL SAFER.



**WE VALUE PRUDENCE, ACCOUNTABILITY, KINDNESS,
HARDWORK, HUMILITY AND TRANSPARENCY.**

Outcomes and Accomplishments

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">CASES:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel Chavez – Guilty at trial on 5/15/23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ First Degree Murder·Tampering with Evidence – 39 years at DOC • Stephanie Valdez – Plea–no contest on 8/3/23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Abuse of a Child Resulting in Great Bodily Harm (Attempt) & Abuse of a Child –18 years at DOC with 9 years suspended • Cory Valdez – Plea–no contest on 11/14/22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Abuse of a Child Resulting in Great Bodily Harm (Attempt) CSP of a Child, CSC of a Minor, Abuse of a Child (3 counts) 39 years at DOC with 19 years suspended • David Morgan – Guilty at trial on 6/22/23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ First Degree Murder – Life Imprisonment • Brandon McMillan – Plea–guilty on 8/7/23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Aggravated Battery (DW), Aggravated Assault (DW), Aggravated Burglary –13 years and 6 months at DOC with 2 years and 6 months suspended • Justin Fernandez – Guilty at trial on 9/1/23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Involuntary Manslaughter w/firearm enhancement – 4 years and 6 months at DOC • Damian Herrera – Guilty at trial on 10/4/23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ First Degree Murder, Unlawful Taking of a Motor Vehicle – Life Imprisonment • Joaquin Sanchez – Guilty at trial on 10/11/23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Second Degree Murder w/firearm enhancement – 18 years at DOC
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">COMMUNITY AND LE OUTREACH:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law Enforcement Training • Warrant Roundup Task Force • Drug Take Back Event • Participated in local job fair and high school career days • Retail theft awareness training for Chamber of Commerce
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">ADMINISTRATIVE:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT Positions Hired in Taos and Raton • DEI (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion) Training for All Staff • Annual Office Training and Meeting • Replaced 1 Fleet vehicle with existing budget • CPR training for staff

2024 Budget Request

Total Amount

Requested: \$ 4,684,000



The request is an 11% increase of our 2024 budget. It includes a \$226,100 expansion to add a Lead Investigator and Victim Witness Coordinator to the district.

"Thank you for your commitment and investment to the 8th Judicial District. Together we can make a positive impact on the citizens of the district and state."

- DA Marcus Montya

	200 CATEGORY	300 CATEGORY	400 CATEGORY
FY 2023 Actuals	\$ 3,084,200	\$ 226,000	\$ 272,100
2024 OP BUD	3,837,100	146,100	237,500
2025 Request	4,227,400	148,100	308,500

***The increase in this category is attributed to Axon software making electronic discovery efficient**

EXPANSION REQUEST

LEAD INVESTIGATOR

\$133,000

VICTIM COORDINATOR

\$93,100

Lead Investigator:

The Lead Investigator will supervise the 3 senior legal investigators and will coordinate investigations with law enforcement, assist in training and development of local LE, lead the Warrant Round-up Task Force and assist in community outreach events like drug take back.

Victim Witness Coordinator:

The Victim Witness Coordinator will serve as a liaison to partner agencies, assist in the training and development of the 4 VA's, coordinate volunteer and outreach efforts in the community, and promote community efforts for education, prevention and intervention.

Paula Sisneros, Chief Finacial Officer email: psisneros@da.state.nm.us

Victoria Bransford, District Office Manager
email: vbransford@da.state.nm.us

8th JDA Updates:

Virtual Jury Selection Pilot:

- New pilot program utilizes Google Meets for initial voir dire process.
- The goal is to enable broader participation and larger panels because there is less burden on jurors time.
- The drawbacks have been technical and user difficulty and at times some jurors appear to be distracted during the process.

Recruitment Retention:

- 8th JDA Scheduled to attend National District Attorneys' Association Recruiting Event in Washington DC 1/2024
- Zero applicants from Spring and Fall UNM School of Law OCI Events
- Housing shortage and cost of living in Northern NM continues to be a hurdle

Other updates:

- Case Management Order Pilot - Initial hiccups seem to be worked out
- Taos LEAD - Funding Hurdles
- Community Against Violence - Remains a strong community partner
- Drug Court - At capacity
- Family Violence Court - 12 participants/2 pending

8th JDA

Updates Continued:

Cases in the News:

- Red River Case - Evidence still being processed and analyzed
- Juvenile Murder Cases - Transferred to NMOAG

Cases Coming to Trial:

- SNM v. Ray Rivera - Murder
- SNM v. Carlos Cordova - CSP of a minor
- SNM v. Kenneth Starns - Murder in the 2nd
- SNM v. Jacoby Stevens - Child Abuse Resulting in Death
- SNM v. Jeremiah Rael - Murder
- SNM v. Julian Sandoval - 2nd Degree Murder



Faces of the 8th JDA

