



El Morro National Monument, Cibola County



Valles Caldera National Monument, Sandoval County



Manzano Mountains, Valencia County



## Thirteenth Judicial District Court

Cibola, Sandoval, and Valencia Counties

### **Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget Request**

Presented to the  
Legislative Finance Committee

November 19, 2021

Chief Judge George P. Eichwald

Karl W. Reifsteck, CEO

Christopher S. Wolf, CFO

## District Facts

- District is geographically large, stretching from the Arizona border to the slopes of the Sandias.
- **Eight** court locations in five cities: Cuba, Bernalillo (2), Grants (2), Los Lunas (2), and Belen
- District covers municipalities such as Grants and Milan in Cibola County; Cuba, Jemez Springs, Placitas, Bernalillo, Corrales, and Rio Rancho in Sandoval County; Bosque Farms, Peralta, Los Lunas, and Belen in Valencia County.
- District includes **10 pueblos** and large parts of the Navajo Nation and Jicarilla Apache Reservation.
- Population: **252,211** (2020 Census), second most populous judicial district.
- Growth: **7.14%** (16,817 people) since 2010 – over 2.5 times faster than NM as a whole.
- In the past decade the Thirteenth added more people than the current total population of 12 different NM counties
- **28.8%** of state pop. growth since 2010 happened in the Thirteenth
- National Center for State Courts study shows need for **34% more** judicial specialist, equal to **18.73 new** positions.
- Same study shows a need for **44% more** district judges, equal to **3.5 more** judges.
- Major recent investments by Intel and Facebook in Rio Rancho and Los Lunas suggest a high potential for continued growth.

## Requests

- **349.3 for new District Judge and staff**
  - Current need for 3.5 new district judges
  - Funding for one judge and staff (TCAA, court monitor, bailiff)
  - To be based in Sandoval Co. handling primarily civil cases.
  - Last new judge position added in July, 2014
  - Since then the district's population increased by 11,442 people
  - From FY14 to FY19 the district's caseload grew 17.1%
  - During this time civil cases increased 37%
- **158.8 for 3 new Judicial Specialists**
  - Need for 18.73 more judicial specialist
  - No new judicial specialist position added since FY08, despite yearly requests.
  - Lack of judicial specialist negatively impacts document filing, entering judgements, and case processing speed
- **113.3 to move 2.0 judicial specialist FTEs to General Fund from Warrant Enforcement Fund.**
  - Warrant enforcement fund balance dwindling.
  - Without funding, staff needs will increase further.
  - Positions located in Grants and Bernalillo Magistrate Courts.
- **131.4 to move two Pretrial Services Officers to General Fund**
  - Positions currently funded by AOC
  - Providing GF to Thirteenth would allow AOC to grow pretrial programs elsewhere in the state
- **44.3 for Judge Compensation initially appropriated to AOC**
  - initially appropriated as one-time funding to AOC for FY22
  - without funding the Thirteenth suffers an effective cut
- **17.4 security system maintenance**
  - Provides funding for ongoing annual maintenance cost of security system in Los Lunas Magistrate Court, includes cameras and access controls.