

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

NEW MEXICO CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS ASSC.

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A DEFENSE ATTORNEY'S ROLE...

Anyone charged with a crime has a constitutional right to counsel

In the court system:

- Advise clients about rights
- Protect client's rights and interests
- Hold the State to its burden of proof
- Advise client of all options and possible outcomes


In the Legislature:

- Educate policy makers about effects of legislative action
- Provide anecdotal examples of the criminal justice system
- Discuss how the criminal process works and how law changes effect that process
- Provide data-driven evidence about reform initiatives




2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Goal: POSITIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

1. Expungement
 2. Decriminalization of possession of cannabis
 3. Adequate funding for the Law Office of the Public Defender
 4. Limit the use of solitary confinement
 5. Disallow use of drug possession for habitual enhancement
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ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION

NMCDLA continues to support the use of the following to reduce recidivism:

1. DRUG COURTS
 2. IN-PATIENT TREATMENT
 3. OUT-PATIENT TREATMENT
 4. COUNSELING
 5. WORKFORCE TRAINING
 6. CONTINUING EDUCATION
 7. PROBATION
 8. INCREASE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
 9. INCREASE ACCESS TO MEDICAID
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NMCDLA & NMSAFE

Does it make New Mexico SAFER for children and families?

Tougher penalties do not correlate with a decrease in crime. Serious legislation must prevent tragedies before they happen to make New Mexico safer for children and families.

Is it APOLITICAL?

Too many politicians in New Mexico use tough-on-crime proposals to prop up their political campaigns. Serious legislation must address the problem of crime and public safety, not advance a political agenda.

Is it FISCALLY-RESPONSIBLE?

New Mexico has one of the nation's most devastating budget crises. Any serious legislation must be fiscally responsible. If it doesn't actually make communities safer, it's not worth the money.

Is it EVIDENCE-BASED?

Finally, serious legislation must be supported by evidence that it actually works. We cannot afford to waste time on bills that have no proven track record of reducing crime or increasing public safety, nor bills whose implementation has shown bias or inequitable treatment.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

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