

State of New Mexico
Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

For Immediate Release
1/28/03

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GOVERNOR BILL RICHARDSON NAMES NEW METRO JUDGES

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson today named Loretta Lopez and J. Wayne Griego to serve as judges for the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court. Lopez and Griego will fill two vacancies on the bench.

“Our greatest strength is our diversity, I asked specifically to be given nominees who are more diverse, nominees that look like New Mexico,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “Today I am proud to appoint two Hispanic judges, and one who is female.”

Lopez, of Albuquerque, is being appointed as Judge for the Eleventh Division. Griego, also of Albuquerque, is being appointed as Judge for the Sixth Division.

Lopez and Griego are filling vacancies on the bench as the result of the resignation of Judge Keesha-Maria Ashanti and the retirement of Judge Cecelia Niemczyk.

Lopez has practiced criminal law, domestic violence and employment law for 13 years. Most recently, Lopez was the Family Law Hearing Officer and Special Commissioner for Domestic Violence at the Second Judicial District Court. Lopez is a member of several legal associations, including the Hispanic Bar Association’s Board of Directors, the New Mexico Bar Association and the Legal Aid Society of Albuquerque’s Board of Directors. She earned her law degree from the University of New Mexico School of Law. She also graduated from the UNM School of Nursing.

Griego has practiced personal injury, domestic violence and criminal law for 14 years. He owns the Law Office of J. Wayne Griego in Albuquerque. After earning his law degree from the University of New Mexico School of Law, Griego served as an advisor to first year law students. He is a member of several organizations, including American Trial Lawyers Association and the Criminal Justice Act Panel.

The Chief Judge of the Metropolitan Court, Judith Nakamura, will the docket, either criminal or civil, to the new judges.

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