

State of New Mexico
Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

News Advisory
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**GOVERNOR BILL RICHARDSON APPOINTS NEW SECOND JUDICIAL
DISTRICT JUDGES**

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson today appointed two Albuquerque women to serve as judges in the Second Judicial District Court in Albuquerque. Nan Gwen Nash and Judge Marie Baca are filling important seats in the Court – they will oversee the Family Court and Children’s Court.

Marie Baca, a Metro Court Judge in Albuquerque since 1989, is respected by her colleagues because she tackled some of the most important cases in the state – those involving DWI and domestic violence.

“Everyone here today should know by now that fighting domestic violence and DWI, are top priorities in my public safety agenda,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “Judge Baca expressed interest in expanding the concept of drug courts within the Children’s Court – an idea I support. We have to focus more on prevention in the court system.”

Judge Baca’s experience as a public defender also lends credibility to her reputation for being even-handed. She started her career after earning a law degree from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 1980. Judge Baca worked as an Assistant Public Defender, Special Assistant Attorney General and Children’s Court Attorney, District Defender and defense attorney in private practice. She was elected by her peers to be Chief Metro Court Judge and, later, the Presiding Metro Court Judge.

Nan Gwen Nash is absolutely committed to children and families. And she already has experience in the trenches, so to speak. She has worked as a Family Court Hearing Officer in the Second District, concentrating on domestic violence issues. Judges credit

Nan for creating the Emergency Orders of Protection, which provides for the issuance of Protection Orders outside of Court hours.

“Nan has the background to assume responsibility for resolving family conflicts on the bench,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “She expressed during her interview with the Lieutenant Governor and myself that she will focus on treating families and children early on – before conflicts deteriorate into violence.”

Nash earned her Law degree in 1989 from Indiana University School of Law. She graduated Cum Laude. After a stint as deputy city clerk in Bloomington, Indiana, Nan moved to Albuquerque, where her law career took off. She has been a director, Special Commissioner and Hearing Officer since joining the Second Judicial District in 1993. She has also been an adjunct Professor at the University of New Mexico School of Law since 1996.

Nan Nash and Judge Marie Baca are replacing The Honorable Anne M. Kass and The Honorable Michael E. Martinez, both of whom retired. Chief Judge John Brennan will assign Nash and Baca to their respective dockets.

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