

Governor Bill Richardson Announces Appointments to Judicial Standards Commission

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SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today released a bipartisan list of six New Mexicans he appointed to serve on the Judicial Standards Commission, which oversees all justices, judges, or magistrates in state courts. The Commission has eleven members, of which, six are appointed by the Governor. Commissioners are appointed to serve five-year terms.

The Judicial Standards Commission investigates all charges, complaints, or allegations regarding judicial misconduct, inability or failure to perform duties, or habitual intemperance. The commission has the authority to hold hearings and, if necessary, discipline or remove judicial officers.

Commissioners named today by Governor Richardson:

- Dan Sosa, Jr. of Las Cruces (Democrat, term expires 6/30/08). Judge Sosa is a former Chief Justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court. A native New Mexican, he served for 16 years on the state's highest court. He is a distinguished lawyer, a decorated veteran of the armed forces, and was the first graduate of the University of New Mexico Law School to serve on the New Mexico Supreme Court.
- Shirley A. Williams of Hobbs (Republican, term expires 6/30/04). A graduate of Hobbs High School, Ms. Williams attended Eastern New Mexico University and New Mexico Junior College. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of Haller-Phillips, Inc., a New Mexico corporation that distributes construction products throughout the southwest.
- Paul Sena of Clovis (Democrat, term expires 6/30/07). Currently CEO of the Clovis/Curry County Hispanic American Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Sena is a New Mexico native who holds a B.B.A. from Eastern New Mexico University.
- Charlene Rodriguez of Santa Fe (Democrat, term expires 6/30/04). Ms. Rodriguez retired in December, 2002 after 29 years of service in state government- including 9 years in the Office of the Attorney General and 17 years in the New Mexico Health and Environment Department.
- William Valentine, D.M.D. of Albuquerque (Republican, term expires 6/30/04). Dr. Valentine is a renowned dentist who has served New Mexico in a number of capacities, from his work with the United States Public Health Service as a dentist on several Indian Reservations, to his three terms as State Senator, to his tenure as Dental Director for the New Mexico Association of Community Colleges. Dr. Valentine is currently a commander in the US Public Health Service Reserve.

- Gloria Taradash, Ph.D. of Albuquerque (Democrat, term expires 6/30/06). Dr. Taradash is an independent education consultant focusing on issues of giftedness and diversity, and currently serves on the Superintendent's Council on Equity for Albuquerque Public Schools. She serves on a variety of boards and committees, including the Board of Directors of the Black Caucus of Special Educators and National Association for Gifted Children.