



State of New Mexico

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Governor Bill Richardson Appoints Lemma White as Magistrate Judge for Lea County

Santa Fe- Governor Bill Richardson announced today he has appointed Lemma J. White of Hobbs, New Mexico to the position of Magistrate Judge for Lea County, filling the vacancy created when Judge Tony Knott resigned to become a member of the New Mexico Gaming Control Board.

Governor Richardson made the following remarks:

“I am proud to announce today my decision to appoint Ms. Lemma J. White to the position of Magistrate Judge for Lea County.

This is a historical appointment for Lea County. Lemma is the first African American to sit on the bench in Lea County.

This reflects my strong commitment to diversity in the Judiciary. Lemma will be the eighth female and second African American that I have appointed to the Judiciary during my administration.

Ms. White brings to the bench true leadership, charisma, and the heartfelt belief that she will make a difference.

As a teacher in her home town of Hobbs for over 30 years, Lemma has devoted her life to the education of youth. She also has served her community as a volunteer and is a

member of numerous civic organizations. She also currently serves on the Utilities Board for the City of Hobbs.

Lemma White has a reputation for being a fair, honest, and strong-willed individual. She is well-equipped for the job of magistrate judge.

This experience has prepared her for serving as an arbiter of disputes in the courtroom.

I am greatly pleased that Lemma has accepted this nomination to the bench.”

“I am honored and thrilled to be appointed to this position. I am looking forward to representing the state and Lea County as Magistrate Judge,” said Lemma White.

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