



# State of New Mexico

## *Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**  
Governor

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### **Governor Bill Richardson pitches DWI solutions Following Summit**

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson today announced he is pursuing several new initiatives, as a result of last week's DWI Summit, including opening an MVD office near Bernalillo County Metro Court, which could help streamline DWI cases in the state's busiest court.

"I want to keep up the momentum from last week's DWI Summit, which produced many good ideas" Governor Bill Richardson said. "If we are going to aggressively battle DWI, we need to work together on solutions to prevent drunk drivers from exploiting the system and avoiding punishment."

Governor Richardson outlined the recommendations in a letter sent today to New Mexico Supreme Court Chief Justice Richard Bosson, who co-hosted a DWI Summit last weekend with the Governor. The Summit, featuring members of the state's criminal justice system, was organized to develop ideas for resolving the problem of high dismissal rate of DWI cases.

Governor Richardson is pushing for 12 additional judgeships statewide, expanded drug court, and pay increases for judicial staff across the state.

The Governor today also recommended the following ideas to Chief Justice Bosson:

1. Opening an MVD office at or near Bernalillo County Metro Court to facilitate police officers' need to attend both court hearings and administrative license revocation hearings.
2. Changing Supreme Court rules for Metro and Magistrate courts to:
  - Expedite the reassignment of cases when the original judge has been disqualified
  - Streamline pre-trial interviews and paperwork needed for DWI cases
  - Make it easier for prosecutors, defense lawyers and police to present and exchange testimony and certain evidence
  - Do more to encourage or require parties to appear in court for DWI cases
3. A constitutional amendment that expedites the judicial nomination and appointment process, preventing backlogs created by vacancies. The current, lengthy process prevents many DWI cases from being heard in a timely basis.
4. Create dockets that deal only with DWI cases, and obtain federal funding to study and implement an effective shared scheduling system for all members of the criminal justice system.

While these proposals are specific to solving the dilemma of DWI dismissals in Metro Court, there are benefits to the Magistrate Courts statewide, which suffer from similar problems.