



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Contact: Gilbert Gallegos
Santa Fe: 505-476-2217

Governor Bill Richardson Appoints Long-Time Law Enforcement Officer David Valdez as Rio Arriba County Magistrate

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson today announced the appointment of David Valdez to serve as Magistrate Judge for Rio Arriba County's Division I.

"David Valdez is known throughout the county for his integrity, fairness and his dedication to Rio Arriba and its people," said Governor Richardson. "His 12 years of experience as a probation/parole officer make him very familiar with New Mexico's court system. He also shares my goals of getting tougher on DWI, domestic violence and crimes against children. I am confident that David Valdez's work ethic and his sterling reputation will make him an excellent Magistrate Judge."

Valdez is a native of Rio Arriba County and received a degree in Criminal Justice, Accounting and Finance from Eastern New Mexico University. Valdez served for 12 years with the New Mexico Department of Corrections as a Probation/Parole Officer. He is currently retired and serves on the Board of Directors of the Hoy Recovery Program, a nonprofit focused on promoting the health and well-being of people in Northern New Mexico who suffer from alcoholism, substance abuse, and addictive dependencies.

Valdez was one of five candidates recommended to Governor Richardson by his Rio Arriba Magistrate Advisory Panel named in September. The panel consisted of three members: Susan Herrera, a 15-year resident of the county and Executive Director of the Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation, Sigfredo Maestas, past-President of Northern New Mexico Community College, and Manuel Valdez, Superintendent of Chama Valley Schools. Ms. Herrera chaired the group, which submitted its list of five recommended candidates for the position to the Governor earlier this fall.

"I want to thank this panel for their hard work and applaud them for their commitment to finding the best possible candidates for this position" said Governor Richardson. "A magistrate judge is a 'people's judge' and this advisory panel gave the Rio Arriba community a clear voice in this important appointment."

Valdez stands for election in 2006.