



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

News Release

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Governor Bill Richardson Appoints DFA Secretary James Jimenez as Chief of Staff

Governor nominates Katherine Miller to replace Jimenez at DFA

SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today announced he has appointed James Jimenez, currently Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA), as his new Chief of Staff. Jimenez replaces Dave Contarino, who left the position to Chair the Governor's reelection campaign and work with campaign manager Amanda Cooper.

"As DFA Secretary and throughout his career James has earned the respect of his fellow employees, state agencies, and legislators from both sides of the aisle," said Governor Richardson. "He has demonstrated a true ability to work in a bi-partisan way, putting the needs of New Mexico first, and he'll make an excellent Chief of Staff."

Governor Richardson also announced he has nominated Katherine Miller to replace James Jimenez as Secretary of DFA. She is currently the Executive Director of the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority.

"Katherine is a tireless public servant who has extensive experience in local, state, and federal government finance and policy and has also worked in the private sector managing finance programs and government contracts," said the Governor. "She has been instrumental in helping to pass legislation and implement statewide initiatives to further the availability of affordable housing for New Mexicans, and helped drive some of my administration's early initiatives that have resulted in New Mexico moving forward."

James Jimenez

A native New Mexican, James Jimenez began his career in government in 1986 as an economic analyst for the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration (DFA). He served in that position until 1989 when he left to accept a similar position with the Legislative Finance Committee. Jimenez returned to DFA in 1995 and served as Deputy Cabinet Secretary of the Department for one year.

In 1995, he accepted a position with the City of Rio Rancho as Finance Director, which he held for 3 1/2 years. He was promoted to the position of city Administrator for the City of Rio Rancho in 1999 and held that position until January 2003. In January, he was named Secretary of Finance and Administration by Governor Bill Richardson.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from the University of New Mexico and a Master of Public Administration degree also from UNM

Katherine Miller

Katherine Miller joined the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority (MFA) in June 2004 as Executive Director. Prior to joining the MFA she served as the Deputy Chief of Staff of Policy & Projects under Governor Richardson in 2003 and 2004 and as Finance Director and Purchasing Manager for Santa Fe County from 1997 to 2003. Katherine has extensive experience in local, state and federal government finance and policy and has worked in the private sector managing finance programs and government contracts.

Katherine received her Bachelor of Science degree in Business from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio where she graduated Magna Cum Laude. She has been active with numerous community organizations and belongs to the Governor's Finance Council, The New Mexico Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative, the Fannie Mae Advisory Committee, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas Advisory Committee, the Government Finance Officers Association, the New Mexico Community Development Council, and the Santa Fe County Affordable Housing Task Force.