



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson

Governor

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Governor Bill Richardson Appoints Long-Time Public Servant Ernest Ortega as Taos County Magistrate

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson today announced the appointment of Ernest Ortega to serve as Magistrate Judge for Taos County's Division I.

"Ernest Ortega is known for his compassion, intelligence and integrity," said Governor Richardson. "His 22 years of experience as a public servant, including four years as Director of Pre-Trial Services for the Eighth Judicial District Attorney, give him the appropriate perspective for a Magistrate. I am confident that Ernest Ortega's background and work ethic will make him an excellent Magistrate Judge."

Ortega lives in Taos County and is a graduate of Taos High School and the University of New Mexico. From January 1997 to December 2000 Ortega served as Director of Pre-Trial Services for the Eighth Judicial District Attorney John Paternoster. He currently works as Public Information Officer for New Mexico Secretary of State Rebecca Vigil-Giron.

Ortega has served as President of the Taos Youth Center, as well as a member of the Santa Fe Association for Retarded Citizens and the Kiwanis Club.

Ortega replaces Judge Erminio Martinez. He stands for election in 2006.

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