



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

News Release

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Governor Bill Richardson Names Members of Bipartisan Task Force on Ethics Reform

*Governor appoints diverse group to craft comprehensive ethics and
campaign-finance reform plan*

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson today announced his appointees to the Governor's Task Force on Ethics Reform. The task force is charged with studying the issues of government ethics and campaign finance reform and recommending a broad package of reforms in time for them to be considered during the 2007 legislative session that begins in January. The task force will be co-chaired by former Governor Garrey Carruthers, currently Dean of the New Mexico State University School of Business Administration and Economics, and Suellyn Scarnecchia, Dean of the University of New Mexico School of Law.

"I am grateful that this dynamic group of well-respected and knowledgeable New Mexicans has agreed to take on this critically important task," said Governor Richardson. "The diverse membership of this group will help ensure the public's best interests are being well represented."

The members of the task force will be formally introduced during a news conference at the State Capitol on Wednesday, May 3 at 10 a.m. Following the news conference the task force will hold an organizational meeting.

"I want to reiterate I have told Governor Carruthers and Dean Scarnecchia that everything is on the table," Governor Richardson said. "I want a comprehensive package of proposed laws that make sense, are enforceable, and that we can get passed in the 2007 legislative session."

The members of the **Governor's Task Force on Ethics Reform** are:

Co-Chairs

Governor Garrey Carruthers, Dean of the NMSU School of Business Administration and Economics, and
Suellyn Scarnecchia, Dean of the UNM School of Law

Task Force Members

NM Chief Deputy Attorney General Stuart Bluestone
Barbara Brazil, President, New Mexico First
Matt Brix, Executive Director, Common Cause
Marilyn Budke
John Carey, President and CEO, Association of Commerce and Industry (ACI)
State Senator Dede Feldman
Mary Graña
State Senator Gay Kernan
State Representative W. Ken Martinez
State Representative Kathy McCoy
Jim Noel, Executive Director of the NM Judicial Standards Commission
Leonard Sanchez, CPA, Moss-Adams+Neff LLP
Ron Solimon, President And CEO, Indian Pueblo Cultural Center
Stuart Udall
Brad Winter, Albuquerque City Council

Governor Richardson introduced an anti-corruption package during the 2006 legislative session in response to the allegations of corruption in the New Mexico's Treasurer's Office. The Legislature passed one piece of that package – a law requiring disclosure of campaign contributions when seeking state contracts and banning campaign contributions and any other thing of value from prospective contractors during the contracting process.

The Legislature did not pass other elements of the Governor's anti-corruption package – including more oversight of the Treasurer's investments, restrictions on public officials and their families from obtaining non-competitive contracts, prohibitions on political activities by state employees on government time, enhanced campaign contribution reporting requirements and expressly requiring reporting of independent expenditures made by "527" groups and individuals who are advocating the election or defeat of a candidate.

Following the legislative session, Governor Richardson signed an executive order increasing oversight of the Treasurer's Office. The order established a code of ethics and conduct for the office, set campaign contribution rules, established a whistleblower program and increased the oversight responsibilities of the State Board of Finance.