



For immediate release  
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## **Governor Bill Richardson Refuses to Make Judicial Appointment in 5<sup>th</sup> District**

SANTA FE -- Governor Bill Richardson announced today that he will refrain from making an appointment to the vacant judgeship in the Fifth Judicial District. The move forces the New Mexico Supreme Court to make the appointment. The governor had until today. to make an appointment.

The Governor's refusal to make an appointment follows a decision today by the Supreme Court denying the Governor's request to order the Fifth Judicial Nominating Commission to comply with the Court's recent opinion and provide him with more than one name for consideration.

The Nominating Commission voted recently – for the third time -- to not send the Governor any additional names and the Governor responded by filing suit on August 1.

“Today's ruling by the Court is a disservice to the judicial selection process,” Governor Richardson said. “It basically allows a group of people in a closed-door room to select a new judge without any outside scrutiny or accountability to the public. It leaves me with no choice. I do not believe the citizenry of New Mexico endorsed this kind of imbalance of power when they adopted the Constitution. I am deeply disappointed with this outcome and I will refrain from making an appointment to this vacancy.”

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