



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

For immediate release
January 26, 2007

Contact: Jon Goldstein
(Santa Fe) 505-476-2248

Governor Bill Richardson Appoints Carolyn Abeita as University of New Mexico Regent

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson today appointed Albuquerque attorney Carolyn Abeita to the University of New Mexico Board of Regents.

“Carolyn Abeita brings a strong background in tribal law and a diverse perspective to the UNM Board of Regents,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “I am confident that her experience will help continue to expand UNM’s tribal programs as well as make her an excellent Regent.”

Abeita earned a Bachelor of Arts from UNM in 1984 and Juris Doctorate degree from the UNM School of Law in 1988. She is currently a partner in the Van Amberg, Rogers, Yepa & Abeita law firm in Albuquerque specializing in Indian law matters and tribal representation including tribal gasoline tax, gaming and tribal/state relation issues. She was formerly an associate attorney with the Chestnut Law Offices, an Associate Court of Appeals Judge with the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona and a Tribal Government Specialist with the U.S. Department of Interior, Southern Pueblos Agency.

Abeita serves on the Board of Directors of Equal Access to Justice, and is an Isleta Pueblo Tribal Member.

She replaces Sandra Begay Campbell, whose term expired at the end of last year.

“I want to thank Sandra for her excellent service as a regent,” said Governor Richardson. “She is a true leader and a great example for Native American women across New Mexico. I hope she can continue to serve the state in some capacity in the near future.”

#30#