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## **Governor Richardson Appoints John Bigelow as Chair of the New Mexico Sentencing Commission**

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson today appointed John Bigelow to serve as Chair of the New Mexico Sentencing Commission. Bigelow will replace Joe Caldwell, who was appointed by the Governor in 2003.

“Judge Caldwell worked diligently to lead the New Mexico Sentencing Commission in ensuring the criminal justice system made the best decisions,” said Governor Richardson. “I am confident John Bigelow and the rest of the Commission members will continue to accomplish those goals.”

Joe Caldwell is stepping down to become Chief of Party candidate for a USAID Democratic Initiatives Rule of Law project in Latin America. Caldwell expects to be out of New Mexico for an extended period of time. Prior to serving as Chair of the Sentencing Commission, Caldwell was a District Court Judge in Taos. Caldwell’s resignation takes effect on June 30, 2008.

“I’d like to thank Governor Richardson for giving me the opportunity to serve the people of New Mexico as Chair of the Sentencing Commission,” said Joe Caldwell. “I am confident the Commission will continue their exemplary work based upon reliable data, expert knowledge and reasoned analysis.”

John Bigelow will take over as Chair on July 1, 2008. Bigelow has served as New Mexico Chief Public Defender since 2003 and as announced previously, will be stepping down later this month. John Bigelow also served as New Mexico Chief Public Defender from 1978 to 1982; other positions held include New Mexico Deputy Attorney General, Chief of the Trial Division of the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General and Special Assistant Attorney General in selected civil cases for New Mexico and Massachusetts. John Bigelow is chair of Governor Richardson’s Prison Reform Task Force.

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