

**United States District Court
District of New Mexico**

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Pete V. Domenici United States Courthouse



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE HONORABLE M. CHRISTINA ARMIJO TO TAKE SENIOR STATUS

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – The United States District Court for the District of New Mexico announces that Chief Judge M. Christina Armijo will retire to senior status in February, 2018. Her announcement coincides with the 103rd year of her late grandfather State District Judge Luis E. Armijo's admission to the Federal Bar in 1915.

Appointed by President George W. Bush in 2001 after unanimous confirmation by the United States Senate, Judge Armijo has served the Federal Court as an Article III Judge for 16 years. From 2012 until her retirement she has presided as the Chief Judge for the District of New Mexico, the twelfth judge and only the second female to have held that role. During her tenure as Chief Judge, she presided over the selection of eight new federal Magistrate Judges and a Chief Federal Probation Officer. She served with distinction on the New Mexico Court of Appeals from 1996 until her appointment to the federal bench.

As Chief Judge of a district with one of the busiest criminal caseloads in the country, she led New Mexico in supporting local and national efforts to advance the mission of the federal judiciary. She has supported and encouraged leadership training opportunities for Court staff as well as federal probation officers. During the difficult time of the partial government shutdown in 2013, she facilitated efforts to minimize disruption of court proceedings and ensured that all federal courthouses remained open and that litigants were provided full access to the services of the federal courts in New Mexico. Most recently she has been instrumental in facilitating efforts to relocate the United States Bankruptcy Court into the Pete V. Domenici United States Courthouse. This move, scheduled for completion in February 2018, is the District of New Mexico's contribution to a national space reduction initiative designed to save the Judiciary approximately \$1 million annually on rent and security costs. It is one of the largest cost-savings initiatives within the Federal Judiciary, nationally.

Born and raised in Las Vegas (the "first" Las Vegas), Chief Judge Armijo has continued a family tradition of service in the judiciary and in the legal profession. Her late uncle, Roberto L.

Armijo, served on the New Mexico Court of Appeals, and many cousins have joined her in the legal profession. She was honored with the *Henrietta Pettijohn Award* by the New Mexico Woman's Bar Association for her work and commitment to advancing women in the legal profession. This award was named in honor of the first woman to be granted a license to practice law in the Territory of New Mexico, in 1892, in Las Vegas, Territory of New Mexico. Judge Armijo was a recipient of the State Bar of New Mexico's *Outstanding Contribution Award*, the New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women's *Trailblazer Award*, and the UNM Alumni Association and Mortar Board's *Lobo Award*. She has been a featured speaker at state and federal bar sponsored programs. Her work on the Children's Code Revision Task Force earned her recognition by the New Mexico Legislature. She was an original member of the Committee on Women and the Legal Profession, established in the 1980's by the NM Supreme Court, and also recently completed two terms on the national Committee on the Administration of the Federal Magistrate Judge System. She previously served on the Supreme Court of New Mexico Disciplinary Board, the Board of Legal Specialization, the New Mexico Health Policy Commission and the New Mexico Humanities Council.

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