

The Defender: Coronavirus Edition

A mini
newsletter



Corona week 19
July 24, 2020

ICE fight years in the making

2017 Albuquerque Metro Court attorneys and staff started responding to increases in Immigration and Customs Enforcement aggressive action inside and right outside Metro Court and other places around the state.

2018 Immigrant groups, the ACLU and LOPD continue to work to keep ICE out of courthouses.

2019

The state Supreme Court denies a petition from advocacy groups to block ICE from courthouses.

Meanwhile, a federal judge in Massachusetts ruled that ICE could not grab people from or around courthouses in that state.

Days later, LOPD joined this press conference calling for some solution in New Mexico.



The event and pic were featured in LOPD's very first newsletter.

2020, this week

LOPD joined as a plaintiff in a lawsuit, similar to the one that succeeded in Massachusetts, along with the 1st Judicial District Attorney in Santa Fe, the state Attorney General and several community groups. The lawsuit aims to block ICE from detaining people in and around courthouses.



Chief Ben Baur speaking at the virtual press conference on Wednesday.

ICE fight years in the making



Over and over we've seen men in plain clothes, with no gun or badge, literally grab people from the court halls or nab them right outside the courthouse doors. This is really a moral and human rights issue. It's about protecting our clients.

Chief Ben Baur



This has been a three and a half year fight. I am so grateful to the leadership of LOPD for stepping up and standing up for ALL people to attend court without being accosted by plain clothes officers, thrown into unmarked vans, and ripped away from their American children just because they attended a court hearing.

Abq Metro Managing Attorney
Kelly Villanueva



I was very taken aback when I heard the violent arrests stories that our Metro attorneys told me last year, and how much they looked like kidnappings. It was a real helplessness that our attorneys felt. It's been exciting and important to look at how I can help LOPD, as my client, engage this systemic policy and advocacy work to help our clients.

General Counsel
Adrienne Turner

Hello from Clovis



District Defender Ibukun Adepoju took this pic of, from left, Chief Ben Baur with Clovis some of the Clovis crew, Tiffany Cornelius and Melisa Fondrick.

Women in Public Defense August 13 - 15, 2020

NAPD says this about this virtual conference:
In this unparalleled time, the pressures on women have never been greater - and the importance of developing and advancing women has never been more critical.

To register, contact Training and Recruitment Director Liz Holmes at elizabeth.holmes@lopdnm.us

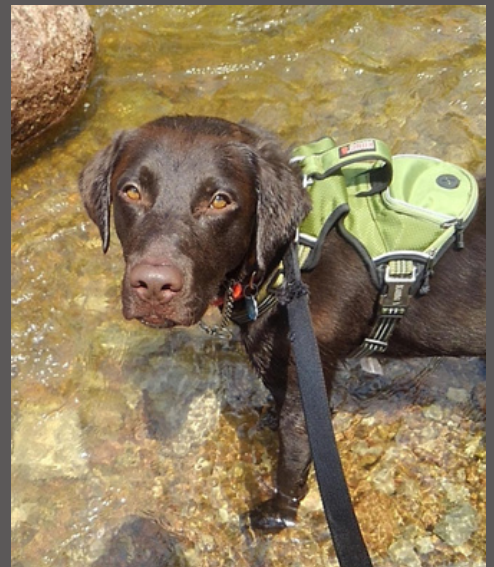
Kawaii from home

Research shows cuteness helps us

A 2015 study by Japanese scientists at Hiroshima University found that "participants performed tasks requiring focused attention more carefully after viewing cute, or kawaii, images." The researchers wrote that "cuteness-triggered" positivity helped the subjects perform better on physical and mental tasks, such as driving and office work. This batch is from Las Cruces.



Legal assistant Celeste Barela's crew: Arrow and Sadie, and Chicken Nugget the horse



Legal assistant Cheyenne Burton's dog Bolt loves the water.



Deputy Chief Jennifer Birmingham and her snake, Angrboda.



Case manager Lisa Jenkins's birdies Senorita Azul and Senor Verde sing in the morning.

LOPD Anniversaries

Celebrating 1, 5, 10
15, 20+ years

** some anniversary dates include years at other state agencies. It's difficult to separate.

20 Years



Robert Work
attorney

5 Years

Katrina Bilal, attorney Albuquerque
Briana Gonzales, secretary
Claudia Ortiz, secretary

1 Year

Jeffrey Ball, attorney
Tiffany Corenius, attorney
Ileea Jaramillo, secretary
Sarah Parker, attorney
Kaitlin Ruckel, legal associate
Winston Shaw, attorney

David Woodstock, attorney
Loretta Delafuente Chavez,
financial specialist
Nicole Jones, secretary
Yoheani Lujan, paralegal
Ashley Smith, attorney
Jennifer Smith, social worker

Team changes



Hello and welcome to:

Angelica Rodriguez, clerk
Khadijah Fox, attorney
Francesca DeAguero, secretary
Jason Dunn, attorney
Evan Ferguson, attorney
Arthur Kostanian, attorney

Liliana Ornelas, financial assistant
Nathan Graff, attorney
Loni Hodge, attorney
Griffin Hardy, law clerk
Evan Stivers, law clerk
Celeste Barela, legal associate
Carolyn McKinley, secretary



Farewell retiree!

Gloria Seifert, secretary in Alamogordo

Thank you to Cassandra Montoya for compiling these lists.

If your name was somehow left off a list, please know it was not on purpose. Just let Maggie Shepard know and she'll make it right in the next newsletter.

Las Cruces

has a bit of fun with their social distancing reminders.



Attorney Sarah Parker



Attorney Tyler McCormick



District Defender Kris Knutson



Let's have some fun

Contests, prizes, good-spirited competition

Which office can make the funniest zoom theme group picture? How about most interesting (and work appropriate) PPE personalization? Office joke contest? Paper hat folding? Oldest work from home pet? Trivia?

Please send contest ideas to me, Maggie Shepard, at maggie.shepard@lopdm.us. Once I gather enough ideas, I will send out a contest theme, rules, and prize options. Stay tuned.

Prizes include gift cards and other goodies.

Virtual recovery

NM DEFENDERS IN RECOVERY, a virtual recovery meeting, will be held every Friday at 6 p.m. via Zoom. For the Zoom link, more information or for links to other virtual recovery resources, you can contact Craig Acorn at craig.acorn@gmail.com or 650-283-0694; Jennifer Birmingham at Jbirmingham2112@gmail.com or 575-288-7958. This is not a department-sponsored effort. Anonymity is strictly honored.