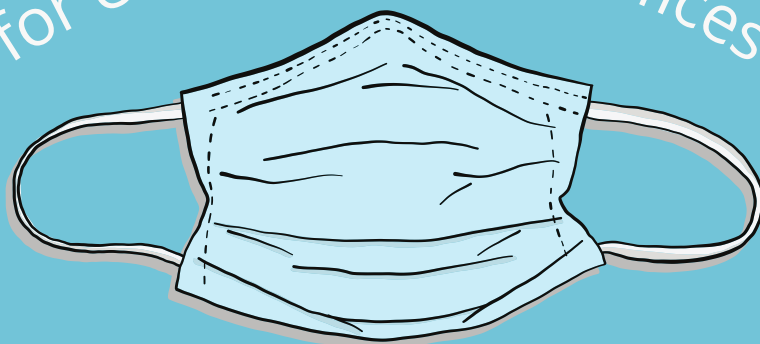




THE DEFENDER

*Newsletter of the
New Mexico Law Offices of the Public Defender*

Masks are back
for everyone in our offices



89%

Of LOPD employees
have reported full
vaccination

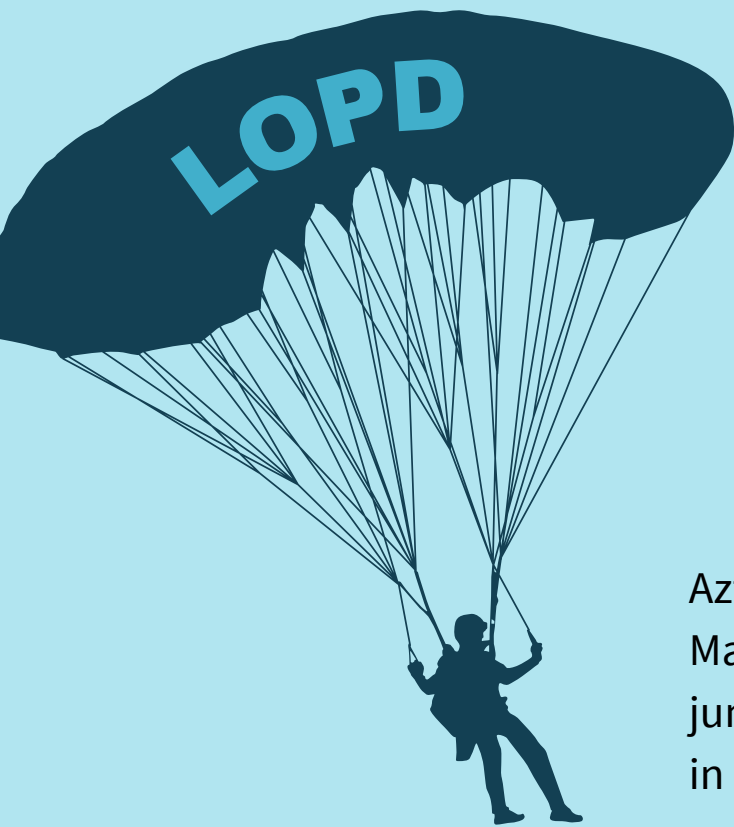
Weekly testing
required for those
without vaccination
or proof of
vaccination

Message from the Chief

So, we're back! Back in the office, back in the courthouses, back in the jails, back meeting with judges and law enforcement and DAs. I was hoping for a more solid landing, especially with such a good vaccination rate (about 89% of LOPD employees!), but COVID keeps throwing us curveballs and challenges.

[More](#)





Aztec attorney
Mary Stubberud
jumped out of a plane
in New Hampshire
wearing her LOPD t-
shirt.



Message from the Chief cont.

Some of the challenges and changes have been good and others still preset problems. Technology is saving us time and it's helping our clients show up in court more. It's shown us that we can do some of our client services from home, and even be more efficient in some ways. Video hearings on procedural matters can save hours of travel time that we can devote to more client-centered tasks. I think we're talking with our clients more, too, and they are showing up more in virtual court and drawing fewer bench warrants. But trials are slow to return, and many of us are more and more concerned about speedy trial issues and about those clients who remain in custody. And it's sometimes difficult to keep the human touch with our limited in-person contacts.

I've been visiting some of you at your offices this last month, and it is always motivating to watch how much you all care about our clients and each other, and to hear your ideas about how we can best move forward. Please continue to reach out with ideas; and don't forget to enjoy yourself too - even when enjoying yourself means jumping out of a plane.

- Ben

Albuquerque Crime Initiative



Deputy Chief
Cydni Sanchez

Managing Atty.
Chris Knight

Comm. Director
Maggie Shepard

Chief Ben Baur

General Counsel
Adrianne Turner

The City of Albuquerque convened a gathering of major criminal justice players -- including LOPD -- to figure out the weaknesses and malfunctions in the criminal justice system.

This picture was taken the first day of the initiative, which included a press conference and introductions from some of the groups represented. Several Albuquerque leaders are attending the weekly meetings to make sure the defense perspective is part of the conversation.

Great grants - \$ for LOPD



CFO Christina Keyes

Chief Financial Officer Christina Keyes has been researching and seeking out grant funding for LOPD. In FY2020, a grant was secured for FEMA funding through the Department of Homeland Security that reimburses LOPD \$18,000 for COVID related expenses. Christina worked to secure a sizable grant award for over \$200,000 from the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding grant for use in FY2022.

LOPD Anniversaries

Celebrating 1, 5, 10,
15, 20+ years

20 Years



Tony Garcia
Social Worker

15 years



Nina Lalevic



Kathy Apodaca



Roderick Juárez

10 years

Todd Olmos
Angela Vasquez
Caroline Velarde
Bradford Kerwin
Courtney Aronowsky

1 year

Celeste Barela
Conrad Friedly
Newby Burns
Lilia Diaz
Joelle Gonzales
Jacob Jones
Loni Hodge

Molly Mahoney
Jessica Martinez
Mark Peralta-Silva
Cathi Ramirez
Kortney Barker
Heather Gonzales
Nathan Graff

Cassie King
Sarah Gallegos
Bailey McGowan
Arthur Kostanian
Evan Ferguson
Liliana Ornelas
Justin Reilly

5 years

Karen Dvorak
Randy Chavez
James Plummer

Retirement

Lawrence Neal

Welcome to the LOPD team!

Monica Gautreaux	Laura Chavez
Mitchell Mender	Brent Herrera
Valeria Sanchez - Guevara	Michael Reeves
Vanessa Griego	Paola Vega
Anna Moser	Jacqueline Martinez
Brianna Perez	Karina Rodriguez
	Ted Barney
	Estevan Flores

Welcome limited practitioners

Karina Rodriguez - Alamo
 Ariel E. White - Aztec
 Grey Robinson - Carlsbad
 Kaitlyn Cochran - Clovis
 Michael Abraham - Gallup
 Joy Applewhite - Hobbs
 Quincy Ferrill - Hobbs
 Jessica Insurriaga - Las Cruces
 Anna Nassiff - Abq Metro
 Jessica Arreola - Abq Metro

Nikki Berry - Abq Metro
 Sabrey Blakeney - Metro
 Colin O'Neil - Abq Metro
 Vanessa Hidalgo - Abq Metro
 Brooke Jordy - Abq Metro
 Julia Adams - Abq Metro
 Jenna Dee Purpura - Abq Metro
 Hailey Zock - Abq Metro
 Rachel Sutherland - Ruidoso
 Gordon Lazar - Santa Fe

Some new leaders

- **Ramsey Younis**
Managing Attorney, Gallup
- **Dennica Torres**
Managing Attorney, Abq Juvenile
- **Jacqueline Martinez**
Budget Director, Fiscal Services
- **Veronica Rosales**
Abq Admin Operations Manager
- **Aubreigh Ford**
Office Manager, ABQ Metro

Welcome Commissioner Flores

The Hon. Jacqueline Flores has joined the Public Defender Commission, returning to serve the department at which she started her legal career 35 years ago.



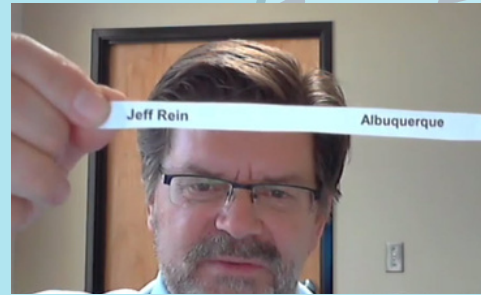
Flores retired from Bernalillo County District Court in December after 11 years on the bench. Before that she worked in private practice for about 13 years. But she started as a public defender in the Albuquerque office.

"I'm very strongly committed to indigent defense," Flores said.

Winners



LOPD's Santa Fe paralegal Sandie Herrera, right, receives her cards for FREE GAS FOR A YEAR from Allsup's after winning the Fuel-Up Your Summer contest.



Doing a live drawing on Zoom, Chief Baur and the executive team gave away six sets of tickets, which had been donated, to see the Isotopes baseball team in Albuquerque.

Ace the Baby

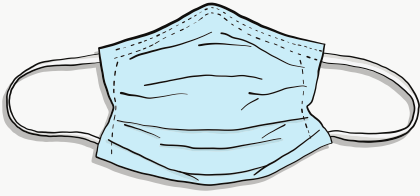


Ruidoso paralegal Katina Slaughter shares these pictures of her son, Ace.

"We joke that this is the face we made when we told him he was born during a pandemic. The bright eyed strawberry blonde baby is still Ace, just at 7 months old. He was much happier after everyone started getting the vaccine," she said.

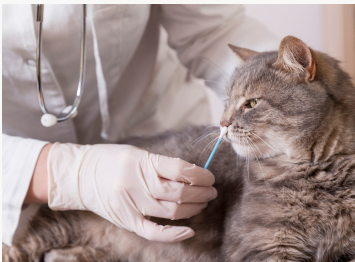


Mask and Test



Masks or multilayered cloth face covering are required in all of our buildings, except at these times:

- if you have an office and the door is closed
- when you are inside your office and working
- when you are eating/drinking.



For those who are not vaccinated or who are not providing proof of vaccination:

Weekly COVID-19 testing requirement began August 24. That means you'll need to have results as of August 31 and then again as of September 7 - so every week. You will not be required to submit the results of your COVID-19 test(s) unless

you have a positive test or are part of an audit.

- You will be required to maintain records of the tests in case you are part of an audit. Please take special care to maintain your records;
- Testing must occur outside of working hours and with minimal disruption to LOPD operations;
- If you are unable to schedule the test outside of LOPD operation hours, up to an hour of administrative leave per week will be provided for purposes of all aspects of administration of the COVID-19 testing. The correct TRC-code to utilize for taking this time is ADMLV. Any time that testing takes place outside of this time is on the employee's time (i.e. off-work time or utilizing some type of leave of absence). In no event shall COVID-19 testing cause an employee to have extra hours worked or to accrue overtime. Please plan in advance and coordinate with your supervisor concerning your testing if this applies to you.

Annual case law update Sept. 27

Our popular annual update on recent state legislation and a discussion of notable criminal cases from the New Mexico Court of Appeals and the New Mexico Supreme Court. Recommended for criminal defense attorneys of all levels of practice. The training is put on by LOPD appellate attorneys Kim Chavez Cook and Mary Barket. Go [HERE](#) or contact Training and Recruitment Director Liz Holmes to register.

Party in the park



Commission Chairman Thomas Clear III and new Juvenile Managing Attorney Dennica Torres.



Metro attorneys, from left, Amy Lattori, Lily Rowland, Yimin Jiao, Jessica Alsup, Robert Zamora, and Alix Fields, joined the party.

About 60 employees and family members gathered at Roosevelt Park in Albuquerque for a mid-summer barbecue on August 6.

