



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DEBRA RAMIREZ  
DISTRICT JUDGE

Monday, April 19, 2021

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Dear Family Law Lawyers:

Let me begin by expressing the concern of the Family Court Judges for the health and safety of the lawyers and litigants who come before us for relief in this time of the COVID pandemic. We and our staff continue to work to provide hearings and resolutions as best we can and in the most professional manner possible. The case filings remain consistent with pre-Pandemic rates and we are happy that the doors of Family Court are open to provide access to justice.

Recently, the Center for Self-Help and Dispute Resolutions asked for volunteers to help with mediation. We have had some top shelf lawyers respond to our request for help, but we need additional volunteers for our program here. As you all know, access to a lawyer familiar with litigation and the law is critical to self-represented litigants who simply want to resolve a legal problem. The Judges in Family Court know that the lawyers who practice before us can offer excellent skills for those in need of mediation services.

It is in the spirit of commitment to access to justice that all of the Judges in Family Court are asking for additional volunteers to help the Dispute Resolution program serve the people of Bernalillo County. ***Please contact the Director of the Program, Aja Brooks and sign up to volunteer.*** To those who have already volunteered, please know that we are grateful for your generosity, your commitment to the Second Judicial District Court and the people of Bernalillo County.

Let me close by again expressing our hope for your good health and safety. Please continue to practice the safety protocols that our Governor and the Center for Disease Control have asked us to follow. We will get through the pandemic and be able to share what we have learned. For me, the pandemic has been a serious reminder that difficult times and choices never outweigh the joys of personal and professional growth that make life worth living. Wishing you all the best! Please volunteer! The Court needs you!

Judge Ramirez