



Chief's message

What a tough summer! As of the release of this newsletter, it's been 8 weeks since the first wave of our cyber incident hit us. As we stand, except for CCLS, our emails are back online and back to working with court partners. Our third-party cyber specialists are still working on our servers and all the files stored in them. Who did this to us? How did they do it? Why? All that is under investigation as of this newsletter, and the cyber security specialists will certainly guide how and how much of that information can eventually be released.

What we do know is that we are resilient and even when things get really difficult, we keep our clients as our focus — which brings me to our Ruidoso office.

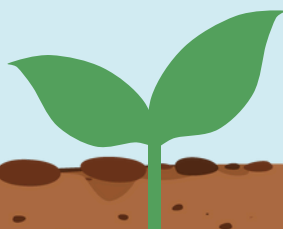
Just 10 days before our cyber incident, their village was burning between two different wildfires and then was hit -- and continued to be hit -- with destructive flooding. Each person in that office had friends or family whose homes were destroyed. Several of our employees had to evacuate their homes. Cornerstone businesses and landscapes of their community were lost. And still, they focused on our clients.

I can't tell you how moved I was when I heard that even as the town was on the brink of burning and evacuations were being ordered, our paralegal Katina Slaughter and social worker Ashely Ventura were calling our clients, including competency clients with whom they'd built trust, to encourage them to evacuate. They were talking to our clients in the jail and updating them. They were working with the court and transferring phone lines and calling clients with scheduled hearings. As the unpredictable floods came and went, our staff opened then closed then opened our office again.

And in the middle of all of this, they endured the cyber incident. Without internet and some without home offices, the team gathered at Attorney Rachael Sutherland's house, which still had internet service, to continue to help our clients. Fortunately, the office is now open and up and running, and it looks like they have come out the other side of the most difficult times.

Our thanks to all of you to those who donated to them through the GoFundMe, or directly. And thank you, my Ruidoso colleagues. Your last three months have been a defining challenge, and you all have revealed your heart and your character. Your story and many other things in this newsletter are a reminder that there is still so much good around us.

- Ben



Resilient in Ruidoso



Help Ruidoso Colleagues in Crisis

\$2,677 raised

26 donations



Cyber incident

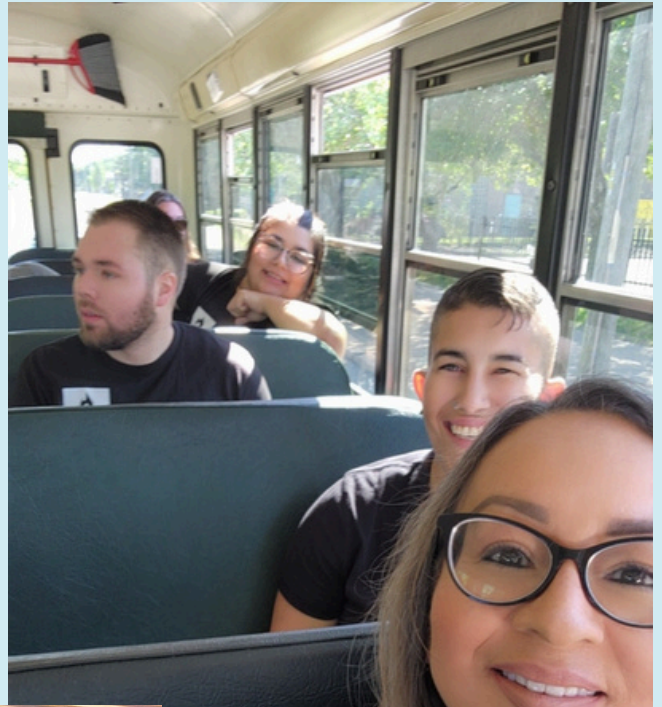


HR manually entering our paper timesheets - and managing to smile.



We The Defenders conference was much-needed fun

This annual NAPD conference is for conference for public defense investigators, mitigation specialists, social workers, paralegals, and other core staff - all roles except attorneys. LOPDers spent three days in Detroit getting some much-needed change of pace from the hard cyber incident and natural disaster summer.



From front, Hobbs' Josie Enriquez , Abq's Ash Sena, and Ruidoso's Ryan Parsons and Ashely Ventura.

From left, Social Worker Dir. KC Quirk, Ruidoso's Ashely Ventura and Ryan Parsons, and Abq's Ash Sena.

Hobbs office film premieres in Abq



A good time was had! The Let's Be Clear documentary premiered in Albuquerque in July with cosponsor and film producer Measures for Justice.





DD Ibukun Adepoju, second from left, held down a panel with NM Sentencing Commission Chair Linda Freeman, center, and 2nd DA Josh Boone. Former pd Monica Ault now with the Fines and Fees Justice Center moderated the panel. Commissioners Jackie Flores and Dan Banks, with his wife, attended the event.



2024 Annual LOPD Conference



11th DD Matt Cockman and IT Dir. Matt Bevington



Abq extern-turned LP Elena Luna volunteered to run the mic around the conference room, here to contractor Gary Mitchell.



Atty Deirdre Ewing from Abq presents.



Chief Ben Baur presents Deputy Chief Cydni Sanchez with a plaque of appreciation for serving as president of the NAPD Board of Directors.



The LOPD spirit



Attys Charlie Stoll, left, and contract attorney Jay Nair.



Gallup atty Paul Tony poses for his headshot.



Abq office leaders take a break during the conference. From left, Kate Thompson, Julpa Dave, Doug Wilbur, DD Dennica Torres and David Richter.



SF atty Jennifer Burrill and Training and Recruitment Dir. Liz Holmes hang out in the back.



12th DD Dayna Jones and MCDU boss Ray Conley hang out even further in the back.



LOPD's IT team up front and center with a visit from Deputy CFO Robert Cardon.

Defibrillator units + training coming to your office



As part of the safety and health upgrades at offices across the state, each office will receive AED units, which can treat sudden cardiac arrest by shocking the heart. Online trainings will be available through Safety and Loss Prevention Coordinator Richard Pacheco.

Fire drills continue around the state. Here is Alamogordo going through their paces.



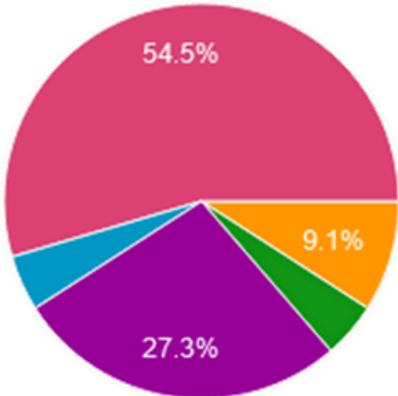
Abq Metro gets serious: Street cat gender reveal party



By popular demand, Metro gathered to celebrate attorney Elaria Youssef's stray cat gender reveal party.

It's a girl → And she might be pregnant

Party theme suggestions



- Family favorite recipes
- Something you hated as a kid that you now love
- Dragons
- Food that feels like home
- Summer BBQ
- Olympics
- Elaria's stray cat gender reveal party



Family Friendly NM designation x2

For the second year in a row, LOPD has earned the Family Friendly designation from Family Friendly New Mexico. LOPD received the highest level marks for family-friendly policies and practices.



HR Deputy Dir. Zach Olivas and Chief Ben Baur



At right, Senior HR Administrator Kortney Barker



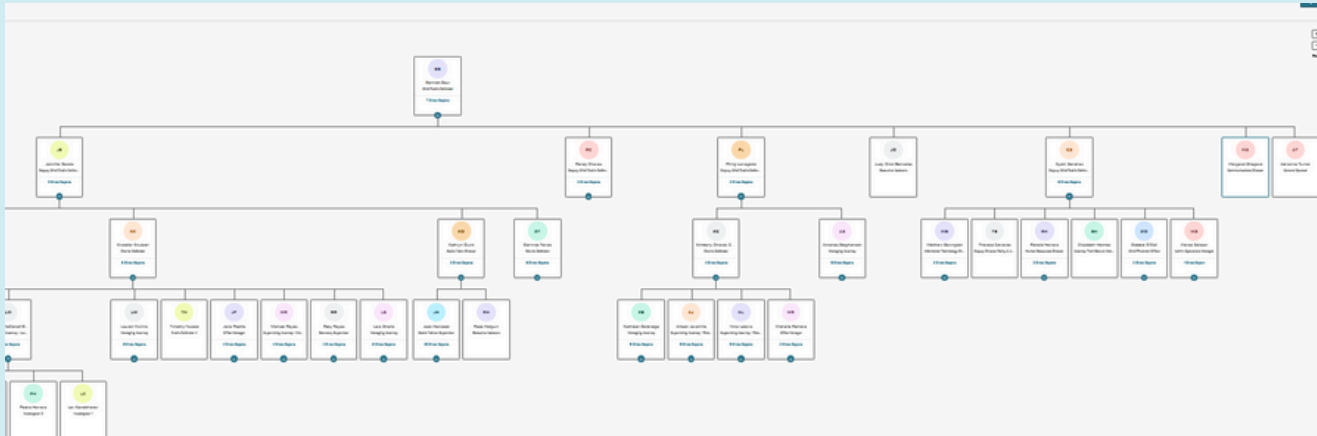
Team LOPD

LOPD Emergency Alert System to launch soon

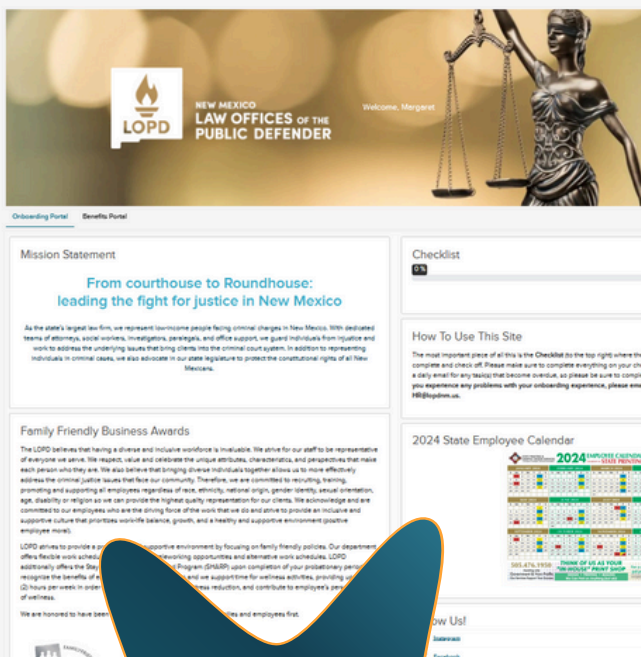


Whether it's a wildfire alert in Ruidoso, an unexpected office closure or a weather delay anywhere in the state, a new LOPD Emergency Alert System called Everbridge will be coming online soon.

Everbridge allows department leaders to send emergency alerts or updates via texts, emails, calls, social media, and the Everbridge app. The system can target specific areas, like individual offices or even specific floors. More information will be coming soon about this tool, followed by trainings.



New employee onboard - and a really neat org chart



Coming soon

Automated evaluations
- no more signing and emailing

The HR team has put together a MUCH improved new employee onboarding system with all the new hire documents and benefit resources in an easy-to-navigate website -- which also is useful to current employees.

Employees who need to sign a document with their supervisor can do so on this new website, and the supervisor is alerted electronically.

The website also includes a dropdown org chart. Very handy.

HR will be doing Zoom training for the new website, called OnBoard. Keep your eyes open for an invite from HR for your OnBoard account and the trainings.

Recruitment and client education video project completed



Two film projects that included visits to every trial office in the state wrapped up in July. Two film producers helped the department create five client-centered education videos and 10 videos aimed at recruitment. They are now available for viewing on the LOPD website.

LOPD social workers representing at national SW conference



Social Worker Eva Buchwald talking about “Digging Deep to Capture the Emotional Content” at 2024 National Association for Sentencing Advocates and Mitigation Specialists in Minneapolis.

Trial skills activated



Ten LOPD attorneys attended the recent Mountain Trial Skills program in Salt Lake City. Pictured here are attorneys, from left, Krista Bailey, Las Cruces, Ariel White, Aztec, and Randall Townes, Albuquerque.

Recruitment Roadtrip



5th District Defender Nate Banks and Las Cruces Managing Attorney Lara Smalls made a recruiting trip to Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University in Houston.



≡ Welcome ≡



Aztec rolls out a low country seafood boil for their newest addition. Welcome attorney Ellie Bond from Mississippi.



LOPD supports LEAD ceremony



Albuquerque leaders joined Bernalillo County in recognizing several city and county agents who have participated in the Metro area's LEAD program, which allows law enforcement agents to take or refer people to drug treatment instead of taking them to jail.

Limited Practitioners are starting Please welcome:

Abq



Emily Pratt

Hometown: Washington D.C.
Undergrad: Northeastern
University
Law School: American University
Washington College of Law
Fun Fact: I love to ski!

Hometown: West Mersea Island, U.K. /
Rio Rancho since 8 years old!
Undergrad: UNM bachelor of music;
Indiana University master of music
Law School: UNM
Fun Fact: I'm an opera singer and
professional face painter/children's
performer and I love belly dance!

Abq



Hannah Stephens

Abq



Camilla Allison

I was raised in Santa Fe, New Mexico. I'm a single mom, and although raising my son during law school was tough, he taught me to slow down and take things a day at a time. I quickly discovered during law school that public defenders are my favorite kind of lawyer. Mass incarceration and overpolicing tears families apart and defies the promises of freedom our country is known for. I'm excited to serve the people of New Mexico alongside the incredible, compassionate attorneys and staff at LOPD. If you listen to 5-4 podcast, we're already best friends.

I grew up in Albuquerque, New Mexico and attended UNM for both my undergraduate degree and for law school! I have a dog and spend my free time watching hockey, being outside, or reading!

Abq



Grace Kienzle

Las
Cruces

Isabella Pichler:

I was born and raised in Denver, Colorado. I recently graduated from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, and I am so excited to start my legal career with the New Mexico Law Offices of the Public Defender here in Las Cruces. My hobbies include yoga, meditation, and anything outdoors, especially hiking. I look forward to working with you all.

Born and raised in Albuquerque, I'm thrilled to be back in New Mexico after completing my education. I earned my Bachelor's degree in Psychology and History from UNM in 2019, and recently graduated from Western New England Law School in Massachusetts. Growing up as the oldest of five sisters, I share the same birthday as my youngest sister - we're exactly nine years apart. In my free time, I enjoy reading, drawing, and watching movies. My current favorite colors are green and blue, though this is subject to change as I often find a new colors to love.

Abq



Kylie Newman

Aztec



John Gillen

My name is JP Gillen and JP stands for John Parry. My hometown is Pittsburgh PA, and I attended college at Miami University in Ohio where I majored social studies education with minors in history and political science. After college I worked as a middle school teacher in northern Virginia for two years and then as a court reporter for one year before starting law school at CU Boulder. At CU I became interested in public defense and juvenile advocacy while participating in a Juvenile and Family Law Clinic and a Summer internship with the Colorado Public Defenders. Outside of my career I enjoy a mix of nerdy and outdoorsy hobbies including skiing, hiking, fishing, hunting, dungeons & dragons, and playing ukulele.

I grew up in Brookline, MA and attended Occidental College for undergrad out in Los Angeles. After graduation, I first worked for a nonprofit providing free legal services to children and families in the child welfare system, and later for a different nonprofit doing policy advocacy on behalf of youth in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. I left L.A. to attend the University of Michigan Law School before making my way back west to New Mexico to begin my career as a public defender. In my spare time I enjoy hiking, reading silly little mystery novels, and attempting (failing) to teach my dog Rhy new tricks.

Abq



Katie Walt

Abq



Mikayla Ortega-Speight

Undergrad: BAEPD from University of New Mexico

Law School: University of New Mexico School of Law

Fun Fact: I have alopecia so you'll see me wearing a headwrap & wigs

Santa Fe



Henry Emerson

I'm excited to be joining the LOPD team. After growing up on the east coast, I moved out to Santa Fe in 2015 and worked tutoring and coaching. The following years I continued working in education as a middle school humanities teacher in Seattle and then Mumbai, India. I'm thrilled to be back out under the New Mexico skies after spending three long years in the classroom. Outside of work I enjoy hiking, writing and playing sports (mainly soccer, basketball, golf and skiing these days). I'm looking forward to meeting and getting to know everyone in the office.

Abq



Isaac Pushkin

Albuquerque, NM

Undergrad: Bachelor's in Liberal Arts - St. John's College, Santa Fe

Law School: UNM School of Law

Fun Fact: I love reading and discussing philosophy and literature!

Abq



Maggie Maestas

Hometown: Taos, New Mexico
Undergrad: University of New Mexico
(Economics)
Law School: University of New
Mexico
Fun Fact: Can solve a rubix cube

I was born and raised in the Albuquerque area, and I attended UNM for undergrad and for law school. I live with my girlfriend and dog. In my time off I enjoy camping, fishing, and gardening.

Abq



Jack Hart

Abq



Diego Guerrerortiz

I was born and raised in Santa Fe but have now lived in Albuquerque for nearly a decade. I earned B.A.s in Sociology and Political Science from the University of New Mexico where I focused on systemic inequality and civil rights. I then earned my law degree from UNM School of Law. In college, I was introduced to community organizing and have been an active member of my community since. Outside of organizing, I enjoy going to the gym, spending time with friends, and going to the movie theater! My partner and I have two pets, a pitbull named Cleo and a cat named Felony.

Abq



Kelsey Neff

Hometown: Pittsburgh, PA
 Undergrad: Penn State
 Law School: Vermont Law School
 Fun Fact: I learned to swim at the age of 24.

Clovis



Jacob Lopez

I'm from Las Vegas, Nevada. I attended the University of Nevada Las Vegas where I earned a bachelor's degree in political science, and I recently earned my law degree from Texas Tech University School of Law. In my free time I enjoy watching the NBA, traveling, trying new foods, and spending time with my two dogs, Luna and Charlie. I chose to pursue a career in law to help people and I always knew that I wanted to do that as a public defender. I'm thankful to have the opportunity to continue working towards that goal with the LOPD.

Abq

Hometown: Taos, New Mexico
 Undergrad: Temple University
 Law School: University of New Mexico School of Law
 Fun Fact: Some cats are allergic to people.



Miguel Quintana

Welcome to the LOPD team!

Tara Jones	Secretary 1	Travis Weiner	Public Defender 4
Romulo Valdez	Public Defender 2	Isaac Jeantete	Public Defender 2
Niesha Esene	Public Defender 3	Mary Bond	Public Defender 2
Jessica Rogatsky	Paralegal1	Ariana Rodriguez	Legal Associate
Trishella Childress	Case Manager	Greta Smolnisky	Public Defender 5
Norma Herrera	Investigator 2	Heather Tindall	Secretary 1
Crystal Hinojos	Senior Secretary	Devin Higgins	Public Defender 2
Anne Amicarella	Public Defender 4	Wyatt Dameron	Public Defender 3
Lindsey Cerny	Public Defender 3	Tiffany Munguia	Senior Secretary
Amy Salas	Investigator 2	Anthony Green	Public Defender 5
Sandra Serrano	Case Manager	Maria Pomorski	Public Defender 3
Johanna Blasak	Public Defender 2		
Grecia Sequeira	Public Defender 2		
Grace Wilmeth	Public Defender 2		
Hope Carrasco	Legal Associate		
Sierra Felix	Secretary 1		
Stephen Hauder	Secretary 1		
Marlene Reyes	Secretary 1		
Joanna Castillo	Senior Secretary		
Tana Gallegos	Senior Secretary		

LOPD Anniversaries

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

APRIL
MAY
JUNE
JULY
AUGUST

20 years



Hilda Adame
Las Cruces
MCDU paralegal

10 years

Philip Larragoite
Cherylinn Gunning

5 years

Jacob Ort
Patricia Mata
Luz Valverde
Pedro Herrera
Leon Richter-Freund
Nicole Jones
Jennifer Smith
Loretta DelafuenteChavez

1 year

Jonathan Schildgen
Isiah Miles
Rose Rice
Janet Valdez
Maria Gonzalez
Antonia Herrera
Estrella Maestas
Maria Martinez
Angel Montoya

Linda Stranich
Samuel Wilson
James Altamirano
Jose Castro
Lena Guidi
Karl Mundt
Mark Regazzi
Ashley Reymore-Cloud

Robert Cardon
Richard Pacheco
Jana Padilla
Marisa Salazar
Betty Sedano
Sherry Whiterock
Deena Daniel
Ashley Sena
LeGina Thomas

Thank you to the HR team 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.

Farewell - enjoy retirement

Penny Salimi

Anne Keener

In memoriam



Jess Lilley, one of the original Public Defender Commission members died in early August at age 57 after battling a reoccurrence of gall bladder cancer and liver complications.

Jess, who resided in Las Cruces, committed to launching the commission, making frequent trips to meetings in Albuquerque. He was generous with his time as a resource for public defenders. He is survived by his wife Bernadine and their three children.