



Ri\$e

Series of pay boosts aim to recruit, retain + say thank you



Chief's message



I particularly like this newsletter. In addition to documenting the good news of our raises, this edition celebrates our people.

It's full of so many of the wonderful things about working at LOPD, including sharing in celebrations and sadness, new beginnings and transitions. It shows what a truly great team we have throughout all the offices around our great (and big!) state. Just looking at the pictures of the important and inspiring things you do reminds me how proud I am to work with each of you. I hope the raises that are in place now communicate this pride and gratitude for all the excellent work you do for our clients and all you do to make and keep LOPD a great place to work.

- Ben

Career employee past probation

15.3% raise

Probationary employee

13.4% raise

Legislative raise

- Appears in your **July 28** check if you are an employee past probation period
- Or appears in your first check after successful probationary period ends

8% =

6% ← All permanent state employees get this

2% ← Additional money from legislators for LOPD

This raise

Chief's raise

Appears in your **June 16** check

- Probationary employee = 5%
- Past probation employee = 6.8%

with adequate annual review

+

5% or 6.8%

builds on top of this raise

Finally signing the book

Delayed by COVID, the state hosts overdue official swearing-in



Attys Joy Applewhite, top left, and Eddie Ramirez, left, and Chris Machold, celebrated at the UNM School of Law swearing in event Monday.



LOPD Annual Award winners

Presented on Zoom this year
Selected from manager and colleague nominations

Contract Defender Award - recognizing the dedication, advocacy and representation of our clients by a contract attorney

- **Kelly Golightley**

Dedicated Public Defender Awards - recognizing dedication of at least 15 years to indigent defense

- **Amanda Stephenson** Managing Attorney Habeas
- **Matt Bevington** IT Director

Innovator Award - recognizing advocacy on behalf of our clients beyond trial and celebrates the efforts of an attorney/core staff member who has shown leadership and innovation in the broader criminal justice system

- **Nate Banks** District Defender 5th JD Carlsbad

Leadership Award - recognizes leadership that demonstrates a high level of initiative, responsibility and resourcefulness, exemplifies integrity and honesty, promotes working collaboratively, inspires dedication and maintains high standards of client services while recognizing work/life balance for themselves and their team.

- **Ibukun Adepoju** District Defender 5th JD Hobbs & 9th JD Clovis
- **Ronald Herrera** HR Director

Rising Star Award - recognizes the advocacy by an outstanding “new” attorney

- **Eddie Ramirez** Attorney Hobbs

Quill Award - recognizes exceptional research or writing that deals with indigent criminal defense and that represents a significant contribution to the knowledge and practices of the bench, bar and scholarly committees and communities.

- **Shane Brill** attorney 12th JD Ruidoso

Unsung Hero Award - awarded to one LOPD core staff member from each district who goes the extra mile and inspires others.

- **Briana Gonzales** Senior Legal Secretary Aztec
- **Sarah Peretti-Rodriguez** Legal Assistant Gallup
- **Cynthia Cairns** Paralegal 2 Alamogordo
- **Ryan Parsons** Investigator Ruidoso
- **Joseph Villegas** Case Worker Santa Fe
- **Christine Gutierrez-Baca** Eligibility Albuquerque
- **Erika Croft** Social Worker Albuquerque
- **Jacinda Parker** Paralegal Supervisor Abq Felony
- **Katherine Garcia** Secretary Metro Albuquerque
- **Sabrina Tafoya** Senior Secretary Abq Juvenile
- **Celeste Barela** Legal Assistant Las Cruces
- **Cathi Ramirez** Senior Secretary Carlsbad
- **Patricia Mata** Paralegal Hobbs
- **Jose Macias** Senior Investigator Roswell
- **Jaylena Pino** Legal Assistant Clovis/Portales
- **Julie Kitch** Programs Administrator
- **Kortney Barker** Sr. HR Administrator HR
- **Louise Gurule** Legal Associate Appellate
- **Maribel Ortega** Senior Secretary Habeas
- **Valerie Franco** Office Manager MCDU



The Wellness Committee announced this month that water coolers and regular water delivery are coming to each LOPD office starting at the end of May and beginning of June.

LOPD earns highest Family Friendly designation

LOPD has been recognized with the top level Family Friendly Business award for the department's policies and practices that seek to support employees in their work-life balance.

This is the first year LOPD has received this designation. Our entire HR team and Chief Ben Baur accepted the award at a ceremony April 25.

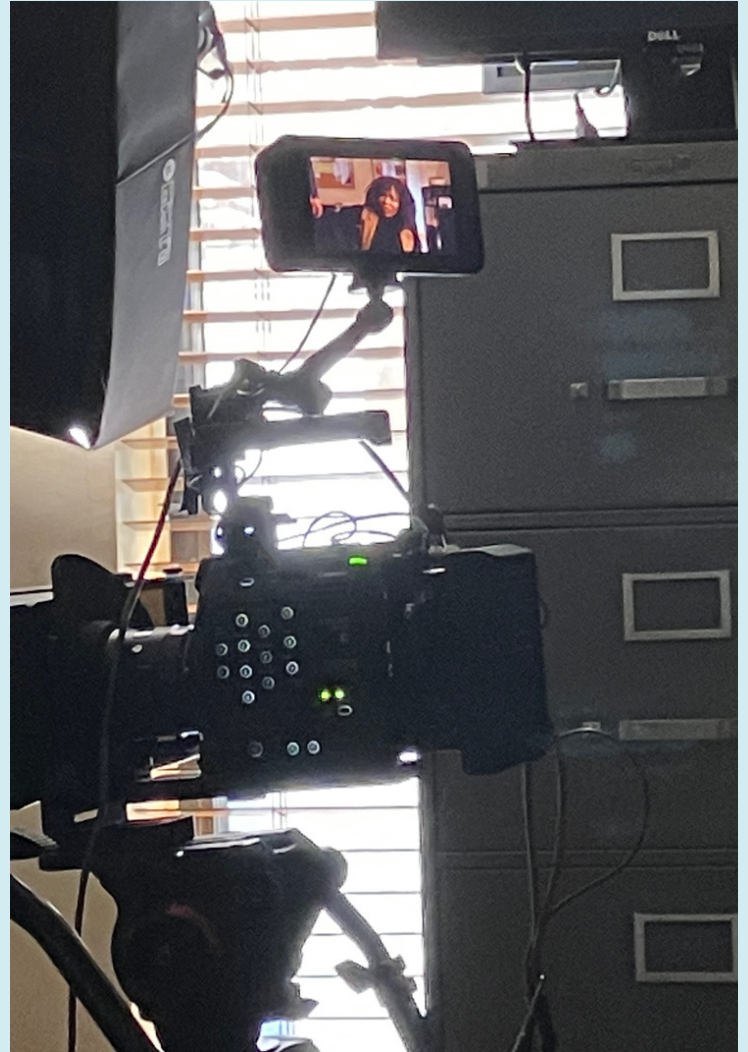


Shawn Krause, Tiffani Lopez, Justin Riley, Cristina Savery, Chief Ben Baur, Kortney Barker, Cassandra Montoya, HR Dir. Ronald Herrera and Zac Olivas.

A different audience



5th District Defender Ibukun Adepoju masterfully faces lights and documentary crew focusing on drug possession prosecution in Hobbs. Release date TBD.



Albuquerque felony attorney Griffin Hardy gets a mic before a television interview about his client's case. His client asked him to help get media attention to his actual innocence case, and Griffin stepped right up.

We the Defenders NAPD conference in Abq

Social workers, investigators, paralegals and other core staff from around the country gathered in Albuquerque this month where they contributed to panels, honed their skills and networked.



Case manager Sonnie Begaye-Rodriguez of our Aztec office listens to a session.



Investigator Irene Marquez, Abq felony office manager Juanita Maldonado and paralegal supervisor Jacinda Parker visit between sessions.



Social worker Andrea Miles and Social Work Director KC Quirk participate in a session.



LOPD leaders support the registration table. From left, General Counsel Adrienne Turner, Recruitment and Training Dir. Liz Holmes, Deputy Chief Cydni Sanchez and Deputy Chief Jennifer Barela.

Grins from LOPD-IT



Major storage upgrade

LOPD is on the cusp of a major digital storage upgrade.

IT Dir. Matt Bevington said the major upgrade positions the department as the "best we've ever been" and enables about a decade of storage before another upgrade is necessary.

The increased storage allows for more backups, discovery, and big and local drive space.

Don't be shy,
give GOOGLE a try

Just type in your exact problem and you'll be amazed by the results



If your Computer is on the Fritz!
give it a Spritz! Restart it! (Note)

Fun Fact: Restarting your Computer fixes 90% of user related computer problems.

Please save all your work, Documents, Media, Files, Etc.

Surface, Desktop and Laptop Computer Tips:

Having too many tabs open takes up valuable system resources, which means your computer has to work harder. This can lead to slower performance and decreased battery life. Google research results suggests no more than 10 tabs at one time.

Useful Email Link:

Webmail is helpful in the event you are out of office or your Outlook client is not working. See link below
<https://mail.lopdnm.us>

Defender Data

LOPD-IT offers dD trainings for all new users based on their user role. Please reach out to request a training for new users or if you would like additional user specific training. Please email Jaime Flores to schedule jaimem.flores@lopdnm.us

Instagram and LOPD social media



The department keeps a modest social media presence. This month we added an Instagram page. You can find us by looking us up here:

Facebook: New Mexico Law Offices of the Public Defender

Twitter: NMDefenders

Instagram: New Mexico Public Defenders or nmdefenders

Abq library hours



Albuquerque attorneys and social workers continue to hold monthly library office hours in the International District. Here are social workers Jennifer Smith and atty Chris Machold.

Wellness room in Hobbs



Hobbs attorney Joy Applewhite shows off the Wellness Room she set up. It includes sensory activities, such as coloring books, essential oils, and a meditative chime.

Voir dire practice



Albuquerque's Metro team welcomed volunteer "jurors" for voir dire practice to give newer attorneys a chance to practice their style and receive live feedback. Here volunteers and attorneys pose outside Metro Court.



Deliberation lunch break

Communication Director Maggie Shepard and Chief Ben Baur take a quick lunch break while a jury deliberates in a recent trial in Lovington with the Hobbs team. Those are anxious smiles over the impending verdict.

Coming to us ...

UNM School of Law recruitment table



From left, attorneys Sam Jay, Sarah Pepin and Lilia Diaz help host a recruitment table along with Programs Administrator Julie Kitch, Deputy Chief Jennifer Barela, Sam Jay, Abq Metro MA Kate Thompson, and Training + Recruitment Dir. Liz Holmes

And leaving us ...

Sending very longtime office manager Gabby Lucero, left, and attorney Sydney West to retirement



Public Defender Commission meeting

May 19

1 p.m.

Virtual - check LOPD website
for Zoom link

LOPD Conference for attorneys in June

For the first time since COVID restrictions, LOPD is hosting an in-person conference. This one is organized for attorneys to get their annual mandatory CLEs. It runs from June 7-8 at the Crowne Plaza hotel.

Welcome to the LOPD team!

Janet Valdez	Financial Specialist 3
Rose Rice	Paralegal 1
Isiah Miles	Paralegal 1
Gabriel Gabaldon	Public Defender 2
Jonathan Schildgen	Public Defender 5
Benjamin Burke	Public Defender 3
Maribel Barajas	Investigator 2
Sophia Santillan	Legal Associate
Blanca DeHaro	Secretary 1
Isamar Acosta	Senior Secretary
Demi Martinez	Senior Secretary
Mary McCleary	Public Defender 4
Amy Florez	Secretary 1
Vanessa Zamora	Senior Secretary
Nicole Rogers	Investigator 2
Leah Chavez	,Senior Secretary

LOPD Anniversaries

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

FEBRUARY
MARCH
APRIL
PART OF MAY

20 years

Chris Knight
Managing Attorney
Albuquerque

10 years

Joey Fernandez
Todd Farkas
Matthew Edge
Lindsay McDonell-Benatar
Sarah Peretti-Rodriguez
Elizabeth Holmes
Suzie Castillo

1 year

Gordon Lazar
Nancy Garcia
Sabrey Blakeney
Renee Money
Gabriel Brownlee
David Codispoti
Anthony Spaulding
Angelica Gutierrez
Jack Hancock
Erin McMullen
Eduardo Ramirez

Mallory Harwood
Arriana Herrera
Jenna Purpura
Victoria Varela
Sabrina Tafoya
Angelina Baca
Amanda Cain
Michelle Johnson
Sydnee Pollard
Stella Leitner

5 years

Patricia Patterson
Wayne Sorensen
Joanne Angel
Shaheen Rassoul
Alexandria Allen
Ashley Standifer
James Mamalis
Samuel Olmstead
Gregory Shearer

LOPD at the NM Sentencing Commission



Fiscal Director Theresa Edwards, CFO Debbie O'Dell, Deputy Chief Cydni Sanchez and Deputy Chief Jennifer Barela represented LOPD at a recent NM Sentencing Commission conference in Albuquerque.

Team run

Law student Griffin Arellano, right, joined attorneys from left Carlos Scarborough, Samuel Jay and Chris Machold for the the Cedro Peak 50K(32miles) trail race out in Tijeras.



LOPD in the Big Apple



The national Center for Justice Innovation recently brought together researchers, funders and public defenders, including LOPD's General Counsel Adrienne Turner, in New York City to explore new ways to ensure public defender clients are provided a quality defense.

New Lincoln County Courthouse



The new Lincoln County Magistrate Courthouse is a five minute walk from our Ruidoso LOPD Office. Celebrating the ribbon cutting are, from left, Sarah Habermaas, Rachael Sutherland, Katie Ruckel, Katina Slaughter, Shane Brill and Stephen Ochoa.

District Defenders in person



District Defenders traveled to Santa Fe recently to meet in person, a common event pre-COVID. This was their first full, in-person gathering in three years.

In memory of Karen Dvorak



LOPD's HR team learned Friday afternoon that former HR member Karen Dvorak, who worked as an administrator from 2016-2021, has died. Her family shared these pictures with her friends in HR who recalled her positive influence on many HR policies and recalled her as a special person.

