

HON. LORENZO F. GARCIA
Chief United States Magistrate Judge

In 1978, Lorenzo F. Garcia was appointed to the First Judicial District State Court and was twice elected to that court. In 1985, he was named to the New Mexico Court of Appeals and served as an appellate judge until his retirement from the state judiciary. He often served as a Designated Justice of the State Supreme Court, and, thus, over the years, served on every level of the state court system.

Garcia was appointed to the U.S. District Court in November 1992. He now serves as the district's Chief Magistrate Judge. He is one of the longest-serving judges in the State, and in July 2008, will celebrate the 30th anniversary from his initial appointment to the bench.

In addition to his judicial responsibilities, Judge Garcia served on the teaching faculty of the National Judicial College at the University of Nevada in Reno and the Magistrate Judicial College. He served as an adjunct professor with the Clinical Law Program at the University of New Mexico School of Law. He currently serves as a member of the visiting faculty at the University of South Carolina National Advocacy Center in Columbia, South Carolina.

He's received numerous awards and honors for his legal scholarship and courtroom work, including the Edith Sorgan Memorial Award for outstanding support for victims of violent crime; the National Hispanic Bar Association's award for preserving and protecting civil and constitutional rights for all Americans. He is the recipient of the "Justice for All" award presented by the National Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, and in 1988, received the Hispanic Bar Association Award for "Judicial Excellence."

He was selected by the State Bar of New Mexico as the "State's Outstanding Lawyer," and in 1996, received the State Bar's "Outstanding Judicial Service Award," which read in part, "Judge Garcia is known throughout the State for his integrity, intellect, compassion and productivity." He has frequently been honored by the bench and bar in New Mexico for his dedicated service to the state and country.

In 2005, the Albuquerque Bar Association honored Judge Garcia for his noteworthy contribution to the bar and his community service by naming him as the year's "Outstanding Judge." His citation reads: "A leader in the legal community exhibiting personal integrity, legal skill and professional competence."

Again in 2007, he was honored by the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) as the Outstanding Federal Jurist of 2007.