

HONORABLE LORENZO F. GARCIA
United States Magistrate Judge

Lorenzo F. Garcia is one of New Mexico's most experienced and longest serving jurists. His judicial career began in 1978 when he was appointed to the First Judicial District Court and served the counties of Santa Fe, Rio Arriba and Los Alamos as a general jurisdiction state district judge.

Judge Garcia served two terms as a state district judge and rose to the position of the district's "Chief," overseeing the management, budget and administration of the entire District Court and serving as the district's representative with the State Legislature, all governmental entities and the public.

During his second term of office, he was appointed to New Mexico's intermediate appellate court, and served as an appellate judge on the New Mexico Court of Appeals. In that capacity, he sat in review of judgments and decisions made by judges and juries throughout the state. Judge Garcia has extensive experience on the New Mexico Supreme Court, where he frequently served as a "designated justice." Thus, Judge Garcia has served on the state district court, Court of Appeals and the New Mexico Supreme Court.

In 1992, Judge Garcia was appointed to the United States District Court, and served with distinction, ultimately becoming the district's Chief Magistrate Judge, a position he held until December 2009.

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

Judge Garcia is a frequent lecturer and presenter at local, regional and national workshops, symposia and continuing legal education programs.

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

Judge Garcia 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 reads 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 nation.

In 2005, the Albuquerque Bar Association honored his noteworthy contributions and community service by naming him as the year's "Outstanding Judge." The citation reads in part, "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 as the Outstanding Federal Jurist of 2007 for "recognition of a career spent in preserving and protecting rights under the Constitution."