

HON. LORENZO F. GARCIA
Chief United States Magistrate Judge

Lorenzo F. Garcia is the Chief Magistrate Judge for the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico. He is an experienced and highly respected jurist who was appointed to the State district court as a general jurisdiction trial judge in July 1978, and, at age 30, was one of the youngest general jurisdiction trial judges ever appointed in New Mexico. He served in the First Judicial District. During his second six-year term on the State district court, he was selected by his judicial colleagues to serve as the district's Presiding Judge.

As a trial judge, he was frequently selected by the Supreme Court to sit as a designated justice on specific cases and, in that capacity, served on numerous three-judge and five-judge Supreme Court panels, authoring or participating in the authorship of numerous Supreme Court decisions and formal opinions. In 1985, he was appointed to the New Mexico Court of Appeals and served with distinction on the appellate bench until his retirement from the state judiciary.

Prior to his appointment to the U.S. District Court in 1992, he was a partner, Vice President and Director with the prestigious Jones law firm in Santa Fe, where he worked primarily in the area of complex litigation. Judge Garcia also served as Special Constitutional Counsel to the City of Albuquerque and Counsel to the New Mexico House of Representatives, and was appointed as Special Prosecutor for a historic trial conducted in the well of the House of Representatives involving the removal of a house member.

During his judicial career, Judge Garcia received numerous awards and citations for

his legal work, scholarship and contributions to the law. In 1980, he was selected by the State Bar of New Mexico as the state's "Outstanding Lawyer" and received the Edith Surgan Memorial Award for outstanding support to victims of violent crime. He received the National Hispanic Bar Association's commendation for his "commitment to the preservation of civil and constitutional rights for all Americans" and was honored by the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund with its "Justice" award. He has been honored by the bench and bar of New Mexico's 1st Judicial District for exemplary judicial service and received the District's "Dedication to Justice" award. Judge Garcia was also commended for "outstanding and distinguished service" by the New Mexico Court of Appeals and New Mexico Supreme Court.

In June 1996, while serving as a United States Magistrate Judge, he received the State Bar of New Mexico'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 also served on numerous State Supreme Court and legislative committees as chairperson or member, including the Uniform Jury Instruction Committee (Civil), the Professional Responsibility Committee, the Children's Code Task Force, The Certified Court Reporters Board, The Bar, Bench, Media Committee, The Juvenile Justice Study Committee, Judicial Personnel Grievance Committee and the State Magistrate Court Study Committee. He has also served on various federal court committees, including the Civil Justice Reform Act Advisory Group, The Federal Death Penalty Issues Committee, Federal Civil Rules

Revision Committee, the Federal Court Technology Committee, and the Consortium for Alternative Dispute Resolution Experts.

He has also been active in the teaching of law. Judge Garcia served as the clinical law program coordinator and instructor for the University of New Mexico School of Law, Judicial Extern Program from 1978 to 1988. He served on the teaching faculty of the National Judicial College at the University of Nevada, and was a charter faculty member of New Mexico's Magistrate Judicial College. He served as a trial skills instructor with the National Legal Services Training Institute. He is on the visiting faculty of the Department of Justice's National Advocacy Center at the University of South Carolina and is a frequent lecturer and presenter in continuing legal education programs and seminars.

He has served on numerous civic, charitable and educational boards, including, among others, service as a Trustee for the College of Santa Fe, Board of Directors of the New Mexico Museum Foundation Board, Board of Directors of the Northern New Mexico Legal Services Corporation and the Santa Fe Legal Aid Society.