



ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.—The New Mexico Hispanic Bar Association (NMHBA) endorsed the judicial candidacy of Michael E. Vigil for New Mexico Supreme Court Justice and Julie Vargas for New Mexico Court of Appeals Judge.

The endorsements were made after careful review of each candidate's qualifications, experience and demonstrated commitment to the Hispanic community. As part of its advocacy efforts, the NMHBA endorses qualified judicial candidates in their elections. Each candidate is required to submit an application packet before being interviewed by NMHBA's Judicial Endorsement Sub-Committee. The board of Directors discussed each candidate at length at the October 4, 2016, board meeting.

Judge Michael E. Vigil is the Democratic nominee for New Mexico Supreme Court Justice in the 2016 General Election. He is currently the Chief Judge of the New Mexico Court of Appeals, on which he has served since 2003. He is also a member of the Chief Judges Council and the Budget Committee for the New Mexico Courts.

Judge Vigil has twice been recommended as qualified for the NM Supreme Court by the bi-partisan Appellate Judges Nominating Commission. Judge Vigil has written over 1,000 appellate opinions, and he has sat on over 3,000 appellate cases. He is an elected member of the prestigious American Law Institute.

Judge Vigil was a New Mexico attorney for 27 years before appointment to the Court, and was appellate counsel in over 50 precedent-setting, published cases. He appeared in every judicial district in New Mexico in jury and non-jury trials in civil and criminal cases.

Julie Vargas is running for the New Mexico Court of Appeals. Julie, a life-long Democrat and New Mexico Native, was born and raised in Old Town, Albuquerque, where she continues to live.

Julie received her law degree from the UNM School of Law in 1993 and has spent the last 22 years protecting the rights of New Mexican families and small businesses. She is well-respected for her professional temperament and dedication to hard work, as well as her commitment to legal ethics and fairness in our justice system.

Julie is well known and respected throughout the legal community for her work training lawyers to act ethically and holding her fellow attorneys to the highest ethical standards. Julie is Chair of the NM State Bar's Ethics Advisory Committee, Member of the Disciplinary Board of the NM Supreme Court and a former adjunct ethics professor at the UNM School of Law.

The NMHBA began endorsement of Judicial Candidates in 2010 and has made several endorsements over the years. Among the endorsements have been Chief Judge Henry A. Alaniz, Judge Vidalia Chavez, Judge Cristina T. Jaramillo, Judge Marie Ward, Judge Briana Zamora and Judge Monica Zamora among others.

The NMHBA is the state-wide association for Hispanic attorneys, and is currently composed of around 300 members. The NMHBA's mission is to promote the education and development of Hispanic legal professionals, and it currently works to fulfill this mission through judicial endorsements, community mentorship programs, and continuing legal education programs. For more information on the NM Hispanic Bar Association and its initiatives, visit NMHBA.net