

BARBARA J. VIGIL

BJV PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, LLC

Professional Summary

Honorable Barbara J. Vigil (Ret.) served as a judge and justice for over 22 years in the New Mexico state judiciary. First serving as a district court judge deciding over 16,000 cases over 12 years, then serving as an Associate Justice, Chief Justice and Senior Justice on the New Mexico Supreme Court. Barbara has presided over and decided thousands of cases involving complex legal and constitutional issues impacting all segments of society.

In 2021, Barbara was named and served as Cabinet Secretary of New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department. She brought extensive insight and commitment to improving the public child welfare system in New Mexico.

Since 2024, Barbara has owned and operated a successful mediation and arbitration firm assisting parties in settlement negotiation to resolve matters in dispute.

A tenacious, dedicated and respected leader developing and implementing improvements to the administration of justice and public child welfare system. As a statewide leader has earned a solid reputation of integrity and dedicated leadership amongst government officials, stakeholders and cross-cultural groups. Envisioned, developed and implemented numerous systems of care and as a trial court judge a continuum-of-care model to serve the needs of vulnerable youth based upon sustained collaboration between various sectors in communities including education, law enforcement, inter-faith communities, public officials, the courts and treatment providers.

A key negotiator at the highest levels of State government between the political branches of government for resources necessary to meet the needs of Children, Youth and Families Department. Delivers presentations to political, professional, educational, cultural, and civic organizations. Has convened numerous meetings and hosted countless number of delegations of national and international officials. Was fortunate to host a member of the Supreme Court of the United States to a gathering to share divergent perspectives on prevailing legal issues and best practices in Court operations. Presented lectures on family law and the importance of cultural sensitivity at the Madrid Summer Law Institute, at Universidad Rey Juan Carlos in Madrid, Spain

Skills

- Extensive legal, judicial, and mediation experience
- Stable leadership and strong negotiation skills
- Creating & sustaining critical social programs
- Developing and fostering key relationships at the highest level of state government and local communities
- Ability to analyze complex issues and form actionable opinions
- Developing collaborative frameworks to optimize solutions
- Strong verbal and written communication
- Ability to bring together cross-cultural and governmental leaders
- Valuing the importance of differing views in decision-making
- Ability to listen and consider differing views into decision-making
- Bilingual English & Spanish communication

Work History

BJV Professional Services, LLC 1/24 – Present

- Owner and operator of private mediation and professional consulting services firm.
- Mediation of dozens of civil cases involving individuals and institutional parties.
- Consultation services to assist in the preservation and focused repurpose of historical property in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Cabinet Secretary, Children, Youth and Families Department 10/2021-5/2023

- Leading New Mexico's Public Child Welfare System.
- Administer a \$350 million dollar budget and oversee a workforce of 2000 employees.
- Engage in negotiations at the highest level of state government.
- Implement system transformation for children and families with greatest needs.

Senior Justice, Chief Justice and Associate Justice the New Mexico Supreme Court --- 2012 to 2021

- Joining the Supreme Court as an Associate Justice, serving as Chief Justice and as Senior Justice.
- Creating comprehensive improvements to Court operations with emphasis on Children's Court and Juvenile Justice.
- Leveraging judicial position to advocate for vulnerable children with emphasis on disadvantaged youth.
- Unanimously elected as Chief Justice from 04/2014 to 04/2016 to serve as the administrative authority of the state court system.
- Oversaw budget development and negotiation at the highest level of State government
- Successfully developed and implemented a comprehensive statewide Workforce Investment Plan, to secure wage increases for all judicial employees.
- Directly oversaw the implementation of a new Jury Management System to better manage jury service in all courts across New Mexico and saving the Judiciary millions of dollars.
- Leading the Court in the reorganization of the Judicial Education Center at University of New Mexico School of Law; developing a comprehensive core competencies curriculum for the education of all State judges and implementing a new and comprehensive approach to judicial education.

Trial Court Judge, 05/2000 to 12/2012

The First Judicial District Court – Santa Fe, Rio Arriba & Los Alamos Counties in northern New Mexico

- Expertly and fairly presided over 16K cases in areas of child abuse and neglect, juvenile delinquency, family and domestic relations, complex commercial cases and appeals of administrative decisions.
- Instituted and presided over two Juvenile Drug Court Programs designed to provide effective drug treatment for youth charged with drug offenses in Santa Fe and Rio Arriba counties.
- Leveraged Judicial role to bring community leaders together from across NM in the areas of education, law enforcement, juvenile probation services, treatment providers, inter-faith community, and local government officials to garner resources for the supervision, educational and support of vulnerable youth. This statewide continuum-of-care system is an established approach to facilitate collaboration amongst community stakeholders; and allocates \$2m+ to programs serving vulnerable youth.
- Presided over the Civil Docket between 2010 and 12/2012; deciding complex commercial cases, general civil matters and implemented best practices in court management and case processing.
- Ensured the Court was an efficient, effective and welcoming institution, treating every person with dignity and respect regardless of their status as a litigant, witness, juror, observer, or lawyer.
- Unanimously elected to serve as Chief Judge in 04/2011; serving as the Administrative Authority over all First Judicial District Court operations including personnel, fiscal and

budgetary matters; and oversaw the successful construction of a new multi-million-dollar courthouse in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

- Effectively monitored and oversaw the implementation of the Odyssey Case Management Program and new e-filing system in the First Judicial District Court to comply with statewide comprehensive case management and case filing requirements.

Previous Work History

Owner & Operator, of Law Firm Engaged in Federal & State Court Litigation – Barbara J. Vigil, P.C. Law Firm, Santa Fe, New Mexico – 1992 to 2000

Legal Advice & Defense Litigation on Behalf of the State of New Mexico – New Mexico Risk Management, Legal Bureau – 1990 to 1992

Instructor, Real Estate Law & Probate Administration – Santa Fe Community College, Paralegal Certification Program – 1990 to 1992

Assistant Attorney General, Civil Litigation & Administrative Prosecutions – New Mexico Office of the Attorney General – 1989 to 1990

Associate Attorney, Civil Litigation – Weinbrenner, Richards, Paulowsky, Sandenaw & Ramirez, P.C. – 1985 to 1989

Law Clerk – Rothstein, Bennett, Daly & Donatelli, P.A. – 1985

Law Clerk, Tax & Estate Planning – Schlenker & Lebeck, P.C. – 1983 to 1985

Tax Research Assistant – University of New Mexico School of Law, Albuquerque, New Mexico – 1983

Honors & Awards

- 25th Anniversary Recognition for Outstanding Contribution to Foster Children from Court Appointed Special Advocates – 2020
- Juvenile Justice Award – Children's Law Institute Children's Court Improvement Commission – 2018
- ZIA Award – University of New Mexico – 2013
- Court Appointed Special Advocate Award – 2011
- Recognition for Outstanding Service to the Santa Fe Sister City Committee – City of Santa Fe – 2000

- Nominee – Santa Fe Business Women of Year – 1997
- Volunteer of the Year Award – State Bar Association – 1989

Professional Training

- Mediation: The Art of Facilitating Settlement, Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution Pepperdine/*Caruso* School of Law, Malibu, CA – 2023
- Mediation. The University School of Law, 2023
- Emerge New Mexico Graduate – 2012
- National Judicial College International Judicial Studies – 2007
- National Judicial College Judicial Education Program – 2000

Education

University of New Mexico School of Law – Juris Doctorate, Albuquerque, NM – 08/1981 to 05/1985

New Mexico State University – Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Las Cruces, NM – 08/1977 to 12/1981

St. Catherine's Indian School – High School Diploma; Valedictorian, Santa Fe, NM – 08/1973 to 05/1977

Hobbies & Interests

Extensive international travel for over 25 years. Serving as a goodwill ambassador and cultural liaison between public officials in Spain and Santa Fe, New Mexico. Engaging in a longstanding voluntary endeavor to create educational and cultural exchange opportunities designed to foster a better understanding of New Mexico's unique Indigenous and European history and mixed-cultural heritage. I also raise livestock in northern New Mexico with my siblings. I reside with my husband, Ian in Santa Fe, New Mexico and share part-time residency with him in Los Angeles, California.

Elections

- Statewide Partisan Election for Justice on New Mexico Supreme Court – 2012
- Statewide Retention Election for Justice on New Mexico Supreme Court – 2016
- First Judicial District Court Partisan Election for Santa Fe, Los Alamos & Rio Arriba

counties in northern New Mexico – 2000

- District Retention Elections for First Judicial District Court – 2002 and 2008.

Boards & Commissions – Professional & Legal Organizations

- Foundation for Open Government – 2024 to present
- Carter Foundation’s Observe New Mexico Elections ONME– 2024 to present
- Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation – 2025 to present
- International Women’s Forum – New Mexico Chapter – 2007 to present
- Children's Court Improvement Commission – 2019 to 2021
- Tribal State Judicial Consortium – 2000 to 2010 & 2012
- New Mexico Board of Bar Examiners – 2018, 2020
- New Mexico State Bar Association Wellness Committee – 2020 to 2021
- Oliver Seth Inn of Court – 2000 to 2021
- Judicial Education & Training Advisory Committee – 2012 to 2021
- Judicial Conclave Planning Committee – 2012 to 2021
- Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative Leadership Team – 2012 to 2021
- New Mexico Disciplinary Board – 2017 to 2019, 2020 to 2021
- Committee on the Improvement of Jury Service in New Mexico – 2012 to 2019, 2020 to Present
- Chief Judges Council – 2011 to 2012, 2014 to 2016
- Council of Chief Justices – 2014 to 2016
- Juvenile Justice Continuum Boards, Santa Fe, Rio Arriba & Los Alamos Counties – 2000 to 2010
- Disproportionate Minority Blue Ribbon Task Force – 2006 to 2008
- Board of Directors – Open Hands – 1998 to 2000
- Chair of Santa Fe/Santa Fe de la Vega, Granada, Spain – Sister City Committee – 1998 to 2005
- Board of Directors – Museum of Spanish Colonial Arts – 2007 to 2012
- Santa Fe/Spain Cuatro Centenario Committee – 1998
- Santa Fe County Development Review Committee – 1995 to 2000
- Santa Fe County & Mountain West Region – American Red Cross – 1992 to 1998
- Board of Directors – St. Catherine's Indian School – 1994 to 1996
- Small Business Development Committee – 1992 to 1994
- New Mexico Women’s Bar Association – 1998 to 2000, 2012 to Present
- Mexican American Law Students Association – 1982 to 1985
- Women's Law Caucus – 1981 to 1984
- Beta Alpha Psi Honorary Academic Business Fraternity – 1978 to 1981
- Phi Gamma Nu Professional Business Fraternity – 1978 to 1981

Lectures & Presentations

For over thirty years the Honorable Barbara J. Vigil has given dozens of presentations, lectures, and speeches to professional, educational, and cultural organizations. A sample of such presentations are set forth below.

- Keynote Speaker – Native American Policy Institute – 2021
- Keynote Speaker – Teach America – 2020
- Guest Lecturer on Legal Ethics – University of New Mexico School of Law – 2013 to 2020
- Guest Lecturer, College of Business & Administration – New Mexico State University – 2019
- Presenter at Faculty Symposium – University of New Mexico School of Law – 2019
- Commencement Address – Western New Mexico University – 2019
- Guest Lecturer – Madrid Summer Law Institute, Madrid, Spain – 2019
- Commencement Address – University of New Mexico School of Law – 2018
- Keynote Presenter – Madrid Summer Law Institute, Madrid, Spain – 2018
- International Women's Forum: A Conversation with Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Santa Fe, NM – 2016
- State of the Judiciary Address – New Mexico State Legislative Session – 2015