

2026 NMDAA Spring Conference

April 14–16, 2026

Marriott Uptown — 2101 Louisiana Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110

*** For this years conference, sessions are organized by room rather than by track. Participants are encouraged to register for any sessions they find valuable. Attorneys should note the sessions designated for CLE credit, and Investigators should refer to the classes that include the NM certification numbers**

April 14, 2026

Salon E

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 AM Join us for Buffet style Breakfast, Mingle Meet and Greet, Registration and Check In

8:00–8:30 AM Presentation of Colors, Pledge of Allegiance & National Anthem; Welcome by District Attorney Marcus Montoya and District Attorney Dianna Luce; Sponsor Acknowledgments

8:30–9:30 AM District & Statewide Award Presentation

9:30-10:30 AM Nelson Bunn Director of the National District Attorney Association

CLE: 1.0 General

10:30 AM–12:30 PM Keynote: Two New Initiatives for the State Bar & Legal Practice

Speakers: Chief Justice David Thompson; Justice Julie Vargas

CLE: 2.0 General

12:30–1:30 PM Lunch Break

1:30–3:00 PM AI in Practice

Speakers: Dan Driscoll

CLE: 1.5 General

3:15–5:15PM Civil Rights & Sexual Harassment

Speakers: Linda Strauss

CLE: 2.0 General

5:15 – 7:00 PM. Social Hour and Meet & Greet Hosted by the 2nd Judicial District Attorneys Office
District Attorney Bregman

7:00 – 10:00 PM. Come join Party; Sing and dance the night away with Karaoke !!!!!

Salons A–D

1:00–5:00 PM Handling a Crisis **NM240016**

Speakers: Sabrina Slauson

April 15, 2026

Salon E

8:00–10:00 AM Ethics & Professionalism

Speakers: Anne Kelly

CLE: 2.0 Ethics/Professionalism **MANDATORY CLE**

10:00–10:15 AM Break

10:15 AM–12:15 PM The Impact of HB8 on Competency to Stand Trial Evaluations in New Mexico

Speakers: Dr. Leah Crabb

CLE: 2.0 General

12:15–1:30 PM Lunch (on your own)

1:30–2:30 PM Enhancements: Playing the Hand You're Dealt to Maximize Public Safety

Speakers: Johnathon Gardner

CLE: 1.0 General

2:30–2:45 PM Break

2:45–3:45 PM Considerations for Expanding Equity & Access in Rural Communities

Speakers: Aja Brooks; Johnny Osborn

CLE: 1.0 EIJ **MANDATORY CLE**

3:45–4:00 PM Break

4:00–5:00 PM MMIW/MMIP

Speakers: Mark Probasco

CLE: 1.0 General

5:00–5:30 PM Legislative Update

Speakers: Rachel Grudgel

CLE: 0.5 General

Salon F

8:15–8:30 AM Welcome — Inspiration Speaker

Speakers: Barbara J. Rivera, AODA, Former/Retired Program Director & Victim Advocate Administrator, 1st DA's Office

8:30–9:15 AM The Biggest Benefit: Retirement

Speakers: Christina Gauthier, Outreach Bureau Chief, PERA

9:15–10:00 AM From Probable Cause to Proof Beyond a Reasonable Doubt

Speakers: Captain Eric Threlkeld, Eddy County Sheriff's Office, Carlsbad

10:00–10:15 AM Break

10:15–11:00 AM Can We Truly Juggle It All? Time & Stress Management

Speakers: Sarah Jacobs, Deputy Director, New Mexico Administrative Office of the Courts, Santa Fe

11:00 AM–12:00 PM Strengthening Human Connections Through Empathy

Speakers: Hon. Donna Bevacqua-Young, Magistrate Court, Santa Fe

12:00–1:00 PM Lunch (on your own)

1:00–3:00 PM Active Shooter: How to Respond

Speakers: Major Alex Rodriguez; Lt. Kurtis Ward, New Mexico State Police

3:00–3:15 PM Break

3:15–5:00 PM Essential Courtroom Etiquette & Professionalism

Speakers: Judge David A. Murphy, 2nd Judicial District Court; Judge Anastasia Martin, 1st Judicial District Court

Cimarron/Las Cruces

8:30–9:45 AM Financial Control

Speakers: Mark Melhoff

9:45–10:15 AM Break

10:15–11:45 AM HR 101

Speakers: Claudette Romero

11:45 AM–1:00 PM Lunch

1:00–2:00 PM State-Tribal Collaboration Act: Cultural Competency

Speakers: Garret Briggs; Karmela Martinez

2:00–2:15 PM Break

2:15–4:15 PM ADA

Speakers: Julie Ballinger

Pecos/Sandia

8:30–9:45 AM CMS Workgroup (EPros Update)

Speakers: Virginia Padilla; Angela Najara

9:45–10:00 AM Break

10:00–11:30 AM NCIC — Auditing

Speakers: Octavian Valencia; Jessica Mascarenas

11:30 AM–1:00 PM Lunch

1:00–2:00 PM Criminal History

Speakers: Octavian Valencia; Jessica Mascarenas

2:00–2:30 PM Break

2:30–3:30 PM Microsoft Copilot

Speakers: Corban Peterson- Cordova

3:30–4:30 PM Video & Audio Editing for Court

Speakers: Eugene Kelly

Pecos/Sandia

8:00–11:30 AM Firearm Qualifications

Speakers: Cody Powell

11:30 AM–12:30 PM Lunch

12:30–1:30 PM Ensuring Child Safety Upon Arrest **NM240011**

Speakers: Israel Rodriguez

1:30–2:30 PM Child Abuse **NM240001**

Speakers: Israel Rodriguez

2:30–3:00 PM Break

3:00–4:00 PM Stress Management **NM240019**

Speakers: Sabrina Slauson

April 16, 2026

Salon E

8:00–10:00 AM Appellate Update

Speakers: Van Snow

CLE: 2.0 General

10:00–10:15 AM Break

10:15–11:15 AM AI in Law Enforcement Settings & Its Practical Applications

Speakers: Chief Freddy Trujillo; Major Nathan Barton

CLE: 1.0 General

11:15 AM–12:15 PM Session Title TBD

Speakers: Blake Nichols

CLE 1.0 General

Cimarron/ Las Cruces

8:30–9:30 AM Workers' Compensation

Speakers: Kimberly Trimble; Courtney Barela

9:30–10:00 AM Break

10:00 AM–12:00 PM Evaluations

Speakers: Jeff Varela

Pecos/Sandia

8:30–9:30 AM Cybersecurity Do's & Don'ts

Speakers: Paul Molina

9:30–10:00 AM Break

10:00 AM–12:00 PM CMS New Hire / Refresher

Speakers: Virginia Padilla; Angela Najjar

Salon F

8:30–10:00 AM The Silent Witness

Speakers: Norman Vujevic, Special Agent Supervisor; Spencer Barefoot, Special Agent Analyst, Criminal Affairs Division, Crime Gun Intelligence Center, NM Dept. of Justice; Celeste Rangel, Federal Prosecutor, USAO, Denver

10:15 AM–12:00 PM Decoding Your Offender: DNA & Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy

Speakers: Rudy Checkley, Special Agent, Special Investigation Cold Cases, NM Department of Justice

12:00–12:15 PM Closing Remarks

Salons A–D

8:00–11:00 AM Domestic Violence **NM240012**

Speakers: BSCO

10:00–12:00 PM Legal Update/ Legislative Update

Speakers: Rachel Grudgel

CLE 0.5 General

12:00–12:15 PM Certification Presentation

Speakers: Sabrina Slauson