Governor Appoints Judge Duran to New Mexico Children’s Trust Fund Board of Trustees

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham has appointed State District Judge Grace B. Duran of the Third Judicial District Court, Dona Ana County, to the New Mexico Children’s Trust Fund (CTF) Board of Trustees. The CTF provides multi-year grants to support innovative, community-based programs for the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect, along with medical, psychological and other appropriate treatment for children who are victims of abuse or neglect from birth to adolescence. Judge Duran handles child abuse and neglect cases, adoptions, the juvenile delinquency docket and domestic relations cases.

“I am devoted to protecting our children and am grateful to Governor Lujan Grisham for placing her faith in me to help provide much-needed assistance to keep them safe,” said Duran. “By participating in this valuable program, I can help other members of the board identify areas of our state where children can benefit from the crucial resources available through the CTF." Duran’s term is effective through March 18, 2023.

Administered by the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department, the CTF was established by the State Legislature in 1978 under the leadership of then-First Lady Alice King.

The purpose of the 13-member board is to award multi-year grants to organizations ranging from $25,000 to $100,000 annually. CTF grants provide seed funding for innovative projects intended to prevent or treat child abuse and neglect. Programs and projects must be unique for that community or the population being served, especially in areas where such services are scarce.

Duran has served as District Judge for 13 years. She was the first woman ever elected District Judge in the Third Judicial District and is the recipient of the Outstanding Judicial Service Award from the State Bar of New Mexico.

Before serving as District Judge, she was the first person appointed to the newly-created position of Child Support Hearing Officer/Domestic Violence Commissioner for the Third Judicial District and was instrumental in establishing the court’s mediation program.
in her second term as District Judge, she was selected as a Special Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Puerto Rico.

Prior to her judicial service, Duran was in private practice specializing in family law and was a Board Certified Specialist in Family Law in Las Cruces.

A native of southern New Mexico, Duran graduated from the University of New Mexico School of Law in Albuquerque.

###