

LAURA E. SANCHEZ

Albuquerque, NM

September 8, 2026

Rikki Seguin, Chair
NMPRC Nominating Committee
P.O. Box 1269
Santa Fe, NM 87504-1269

Dear Chair Seguin and Nominating Committee Members:

It is my pleasure to submit this letter of interest for the position of Commissioner of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (PRC). Professionally, I have been an attorney for the past 22 years, and I'm a registered Democrat residing in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

I am originally from Deming, where I was born and raised. I come from very humble beginnings, growing up poor, raised by a single mom, an immigrant from Mexico who was primarily Spanish speaking. My hardworking mom was also raising my sister, who has intellectual and developmental disabilities. From those early years, I know very well what it means to struggle with affordability issues and I understand the challenges faced by rural communities, immigrants and people with disabilities.

After high school, I earned a Bachelor of Arts and went on to earn a Master of Public Administration both from the University of Arizona. I also earned my Juris Doctor degree from UCLA School of Law. I have been licensed to practice law in New Mexico since 2004 and in Arizona since 2012. I have worked on regulatory matters in energy on and off since 2007.

Notably, I worked for five years at the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) as a staff attorney working on climate and energy matters. In that role, I represented NRDC as an intervenor in a variety of regulatory cases before the PRC and the Arizona Corporation Commission. While at NRDC, I worked primarily on energy efficiency, renewable energy, climate policy and transmission siting in the electric utility industry, and I worked collaboratively with the Coalition for Clean Affordable Energy and its many excellent experts, as well as other nonprofit organizations, on cases at the PRC. I was also a registered lobbyist for NRDC, advocating on policy issues involving utility regulation, renewable energy and environmental matters.

For several years, I was in private practice. I started my career at Modrall Sperling as a bond lawyer representing primarily public entities in bond financings, as well as other transactional matters. Later, I was a partner at Cuddy & McCarthy, LLP where I represented a variety of clients, including school districts, municipalities, and rural electric cooperatives on matters before the PRC. While at Cuddy, I also worked on legislation on behalf of clients, including the Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) as outside counsel. Most recently, I worked for

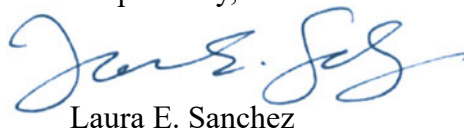
the Rodey Law Firm, in the firm's business department, representing clients in a variety of matters, including a renewable energy client on community solar matters before the PRC. I have also run my own practice at times during my career, representing small businesses in regulatory matters, renewable energy project management and energy policy development.

For almost five years, I worked for PNM Resources, Inc. (PNMR), the predecessor to TXNM Energy, Inc. While at PNMR, I worked first as the Chief of Staff to Senior Vice President for Public Policy from December 2019 to March 2020, and then became the Chief Policy & Legal Advisor from April 2020 to November 2022. Later, I assumed the role of Executive Director of Government & Public Affairs from November 2022 until my last day on October 4, 2024. During my time at PNMR, I was involved in policy development, lobbying, regulatory matters as a witness, and worked with the company's team of attorneys and regulatory staff on Commission matters. I was also the point person for the company on federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) grant applications. My work on that team resulted in the company being awarded a \$35.6 million IIJA grant for a Virtual Power Plant system in 2025.

I currently serve as the Chief General Counsel at the New Mexico Office of the State Auditor (OSA) where I am responsible for all legal matters at the OSA. I ensure the OSA complies with the laws, rules and procedures that provide the public with the reassurance that their public funds are spent appropriately and transparently across public entities statewide. I would bring the same commitment to the public work of the Commission, and I take seriously the requirement to be transparent, uphold the law, and balance interests. My work ethic and ability to navigate complex regulatory matters would serve the Commission well. I am not afraid of a challenge and recognize the enormous responsibility of being a Commissioner. It would be an honor to serve the State of New Mexico, if selected for this important role.

Thank you for your consideration of my candidacy. I look forward to the process and answering any questions about my qualifications, experience and perspective.

Respectfully,



Laura E. Sanchez

LAURA E. SANCHEZ

Albuquerque, NM

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/lauraesanchezesq/>

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

NEW MEXICO OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR, SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Chief General Counsel (April 2026 – current) – Leads the Office of State Auditor (OSA) Legal Department and advises the elected NM State Auditor and senior management on complex and difficult legal and management issues involving agency programs, budgets, procurement and human resource matters. Studies and analyzes changes in laws, court decisions and auditing rules and regulations to determine, anticipate, evaluate, and assess the impact on OSA. Drafts, reviews, and evaluates legal documents, pleadings, rules and regulations, policies, legislation, and legal precedents. Drafts and reviews legal correspondence and other documents requiring legal review. Manages outside counsel on several active lawsuits. Responsible for Inspection of Public Records Act (IPRA) review, production and responses, works with the Records Custodian on all IPRA matters. Participates in executive and other management teams and provides strategic leadership on implementing the agency's mission.

RODEY DICKASON SLOAN AKIN & ROBB, P.A., ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Of Counsel Attorney (October 2024 – April 2026) – Practiced in the Firm's Business Department in a variety of areas including contracts, real estate, public finance corporate transactions, administrative matters, public procurement, renewable energy and utility matters, and construction law. Advised public sector and business clients on a variety of legal issues, including governance, operations, negotiating and drafting contracts, litigation, legislation and legal risk and regulatory compliance matters.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW MEXICO, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Executive Director, Government & Public Affairs (November 2022 – October 2024) – Directed company's government affairs strategy and staff, and company's public affairs approach, including corporate donations, Foundation operations and overall community engagement. Managed Government and Public Affairs staff, outside lobbying and outside counsel on a variety of policy matters. Served as the primary lobbyist at the local, state and federal level for the company.

Chief Policy & Legal Advisor (March 2020 – November 2022) – Served as the senior advisor on public policy and research to the President and Chief Operating Officer, and other Executives. Guided and facilitated formulation, implementation and support of legislative policy strategies, including identifying public policy priorities and creating relevant, impactful programs and initiatives, while ensuring appropriate internal and external stakeholders are involved. Managed other strategic initiatives including grid modernization regulatory application, Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act grant opportunities, and Department of Energy relationship, and drafted and analyzed legislation. Researched and analyzed complex regulatory policy issues, legal implications, and impact of proposed policies on key areas of the company, including state regulatory compliance. Served as policy expert witness in several regulatory cases, and assisted regulatory team with filings as needed.

Chief of Staff to SVP for Public Policy (December 2019 – March 2020) – Assisted the Senior Vice President for Public Policy & Regulatory in all aspects of the Company's policy and regulatory agenda through development of strategy, internal staff communications, as well as writing, reviewing and analyzing regulatory and legislative matters. Generally served as a senior advisor to the SVP, Public Policy on internal and external matters, as well as a resource to other Executives.

AFFIRM, INC., SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Senior Director, Government Relations & Regulatory Counsel (March 2019-December 2019) – Leadership position reporting to Affirm's VP of Gov't Relations and Public Policy on government

relationship management, political affairs, and public policy advocacy with federal and state governmental agencies and other stakeholders. Supported Affirm's contacts with state and federal regulatory agencies and provided legal advice on a variety of government relations, policy and regulatory matters. Skilled in the government relations tradecraft, strategizing and developing public policy objectives, and developing legislative and policy analyses for the company's external affairs advocacy with the policymaking community. Worked with other cross-functional groups, to ensure that Affirm's external affairs work is cohesive, holistic, and aligned with the strategic and operational needs of the business.

CUDDY & MCCARTHY, LLP, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Partner (November 2015 – March 2019) – Provided legal services to a variety of private and public sector clients in utility regulation, administrative law, municipal law, education law, and public finance. Focused on regulation and legislative matters for PNM and other proceedings at the NMPRC, providing subject matter expert testimony in legislative committees and drafting legislation. Drafted and reviewed contracts and provided advice to clients on transactional matters. Drafted legislation involving bonds, taxation, securitization, distributed energy disclosure, consumer protection, and other trade practices. In public sector representation, experience in municipal bonds, litigation, employment matters, and other commercial transactions. Conducted litigation management, witness preparation, discovery management, and research, and wrote briefs, motions, regulatory testimony and legal memos addressing clients' needs.

SANCHEZ LEGAL SOLUTIONS, LLC, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO, ESTAB. IN 2007

Owner and Manager (February 2015 – October 2015 and April 2014 – October 2014) – Private practice in a variety of areas including wills, employment, litigation, transactional work, business planning, regulatory matters, renewable energy project management and energy policy development. Experience managing legal matters and lobbying, as well as providing consulting services for several nonprofits, businesses and renewable energy clients.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, ALBUQUERQUE DISTRICT, NEW MEXICO

Assistant District Counsel (October 2014 - February 2015) – Provided legal advice to District management on personnel matters, Freedom of Information Act requests, tort claims and real estate matters. Prepared memos, correspondence and pleadings, prepped witnesses, drafted and reviewed various real estate instruments, handled Merit System Protection Board and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission matters for the District, conducted research, and wrote briefs and memos.

NEW MEXICO GREEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Chief Executive Officer/In-House General Counsel (May 2013 – May 2014) – Directed organization on daily matters and strategic planning. Developed policy positions, lobbied, prepared advocacy materials, including fact sheets, briefing papers, and testimony on renewable energy and utility matters. Managed staff and resources, prepared annual budget, conducted fundraising; managed, assigned and evaluated work of staff. Served as attorney on energy matters at the NMPRC, and supervised outside contract attorneys. Served as Executive Director of NMGCC's 501(c)(3) sister organization, the Partnership for Responsible Business. Conducted grant-writing, compliance, and program development.

NEW MEXICO TAXATION AND REVENUE DEPARTMENT, SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Staff Attorney (August 2012 – May 2013) – Conducted legal research and analyzed statutes, regulations, policies, and guidelines regarding tax, including the Renewable Energy Production Tax Credit and Advanced Energy Tax Credit programs. Interpreted, applied, implemented and resolved legal issues for the Department, appeared in District Court on property tax issues, served as lead counsel for all Property Tax Division matters. Interviewed and prepared witnesses, prepared pleadings and discovery, motions and briefs, conducted depositions, participated in hearings, and handled appeals for the Department. Provided oral and written advice, prepared and reviewed documents on interagency and intergovernmental agreements, and agreements with tribal entities. Reviewed pre- and post-award contracts, and provided advice on contract administration issues.

NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL (NRDC), ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Staff Attorney (February 2007 – June 2012) – Represented NRDC in regulatory, administrative and legislative proceedings in energy and natural resources in New Mexico and Arizona. Responsibilities included research, analysis, advocacy, lobbying and outreach. Practiced before the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission and the Arizona Corporation Commission. Provided expert testimony at legislative hearings. Managed consultants and organized stakeholder engagement from diverse communities on a variety of efforts. Monitored program expenditures from multiple foundation grants, produced regular program status reports, developed grant proposals, ensured compliance with funding requirements. Executed on-the-ground strategies to accomplish goals, coordinating work with the San Francisco office.

MODRALL, SPERLING, ROEHL, HARRIS & SISK, P.A., ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Lawyer (April 2004 – September 2006) – Practiced in commercial real estate, lending and banking transactions, industrial revenue bonds and corporate matters, and bond counsel services; provided advice on general obligation and revenue bonds. Prepared and reviewed legal documents such as deeds, easements, leases, mortgages, contracts, and subordination agreements. Required an understanding of municipal bond law, public budgeting, and federal and state tax implications of public debt.

NON-LEGAL EXPERIENCE

“NEW MEXICO IN FOCUS” PROGRAM – NEW MEXICO PBS (KNME-TV), ALBUQUERQUE, NM

Regular Panelist (March 2008 – April 2023) Provided political and technical analysis on a variety of current events, social and policy issues around NM in a roundtable weekly format. Served as resident expert on environmental, utility and renewable energy matters. See www.newmexicoinfocus.org for archives.

NM RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSMISSION AUTHORITY BOARD, SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Chair, Projects Committee, and Member of the Board of Directors (June 2009 – July 2011) Appointed by Governor Richardson to this public financing entity for renewable energy electricity transmission and storage. Provided direction and oversight of RETA's first-ever issuance of \$50,000,000 in revenue bonds for a large wind farm. Contributed to RETA's success by developing a project selection policy, eminent domain policy, and assisting with legislation, including confidentiality of proprietary information.

CAESARS ENTERTAINMENT - RHODE ISLANDERS FOR JOBS & TAX RELIEF, PROVIDENCE, RI

Director, Corporate Campaign GOTV (September – December 2006) – Directed Get-Out-the-Vote (GOTV) effort to pass a ballot initiative to bring a resort casino to the Narragansett Indian Tribe of Rhode Island with corporate partner Harrah's, prior to merging with Caesars. Supervised staff to mobilize voters in final weeks of campaign. Implemented GOTV plan and budget, directed daily activities, and managed hundreds of staff and volunteers. Ensured compliance with local, state and federal laws.

EDUCATION

JURIS DOCTOR, MAY 2004 – UCLA SCHOOL OF LAW, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Completed the Program in Public Interest Law & Policy

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, MAY 2001 – THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA, TUCSON

Completed Concentration in Public and Non-Profit Finance and Local Government; Pi Alpha Alpha, Public Administration Honor Society, inducted August, 2000

BACHELOR OF ARTS, MAY 1999 – THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA, TUCSON, ARIZONA

Major in Political Science with a Pre-Law Thematic Minor

LEGISLATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Majority Analyst, New Mexico Senate Judiciary Committee (2007 Legislative Session)

- Fiscal & Policy Analyst, California Legislative Analyst's Office (2000), focus on Cal State and UC systems
- Minority Analyst, Arizona Senate, Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources (1999 Legislative Session)
- Legislative Subject Matter Expert for Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM), 2017-2022
- Registered lobbyist from 2007-2014, for a variety of clients including EDF Renewable Energy, Element Power, Coalition for Clean Affordable Energy, NRDC, and PNM from 2022-2024

DISTINCTIONS

- Designee for State Auditor Maestas, State Commission of Public Records, current Secretary of the Board
- Current Secretary and Board Member, Heart Gallery Foundation of New Mexico, organization focused on supporting foster kids
- Member of the National Association of Bond Lawyers
- Member of the American Bar Association
- Past President, Board of Directors, and Member of Natural Resources, Energy, & Environmental Law Section
- Member of the New Mexico Hispanic Bar Association and Hispanic National Bar Association
- Named a Top Lawyer by American Law Society in 2018
- Recognized for Excellence in Law by *Continental Who's Who*, 2018

LANGUAGES

Fluent in English & Spanish

BAR ADMISSIONS

New Mexico – September 2004; Arizona – February 2012