

Stacey D. Cox

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Rikki Seguin, *Chair*, Cydney Beadles, *Secretary*, Members of the NMPRC Nominating Committee
P.O. Box 1269
Santa Fe, NM 87504-1269
Sent via email to: SarahE.Valencia@prc.nm.gov

SUPPORTING ATTACHMENTS: Resume; Eligibility Statement under NMSA 1978 § 62-19-5(A)(2)(b)

SUBJECT: Application for Commissioner NMPRC Nomination

Dear Chair Seguin and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully submit my application for the position of Commissioner of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission. As an independent candidate who declines to state a political party, I bring an objective, evidence-based approach to utility regulation. I anchor my professional foundation in complex multi-party dispute resolution, institutional systems design, and administrative law. These credentials enable me to adjudicate contested cases thoroughly, lead complex public hearings efficiently, and collaborate effectively to enforce the statutory mandates governing New Mexico's utilities, telecommunications, and pipeline safety systems.

Multi-Party Dispute Resolution Mastery

The NMPRC frequently adjudicates utility rate cases, certificates of public convenience and necessity (CPCN), and complex rulemaking proceedings. These multi-day public hearings require managing competing technical testimony, multi-party interventions, and conflicting stakeholder priorities.

Recommended by public policy dispute resolution expert Alana Knaster, a leading authority in complex, public hearing-informed mediations, I apply a proven procedural framework required to manage these proceedings:

- *Evidentiary Rigor & Administrative Neutrality:* I evaluate dense expert testimony, complex economic exhibits, and hearing examiner recommendations against strict statutory standards of review to issue legally defensible decisions.
- *Consensus-Building in Promulgation:* During complex rulemaking, I apply conflict systems design to bridge gaps between regulated entities, industrial energy users, public advocates, and community groups, maintaining transparent and orderly public proceedings.
- *Ombuds-Informed Public Facilitation & Multi-Stakeholder De-escalation:* I apply ombudsman principles of neutrality, accessibility, confidence, and dispute system design to structure public-facing proceedings. From shaping the table in multi-party negotiations to managing systematic proceedings for public-facing objectives, I address the procedural frustrations often felt by individual ratepayers, small business owners, sovereign tribal nations, and military leaders when engaging with regulatory bodies. By maintaining quiet authority, active listening, and clear process management during contested public hearings, I ensure every constituent experiences a fair, dignified, and comprehensible opportunity to participate in the official record.
- *Oversight-Compliant Decisional & Promulgation Authority:* I apply rigorous administrative law standards to ensure all commission orders, rate determinations, and rule promulgations strictly comply with statutory mandates, agency jurisdiction, and state rulemaking acts. By grounding every proceeding in a clean administrative record and clear statutory authority, I draft and support legally defensible decisions that withstand oversight review and protect the institutional integrity of the NMPRC.

Operational Utility Insight & Stakeholder Balance

Two distinct operational environments shape my perspective as a regulator:

1. *Defense & National Security Infrastructure*: As a military spouse of nearly 17 years who has navigated 10 relocations across state jurisdictions, I possess an operational understanding of how utility reliability, microgrid resilience, and pipeline safety impact mission-critical Department of Defense installations and national laboratories. I have directly tracked privatized utility rate structures, specifically the Department of Defense (DoW)'s Resident Energy Conservation Program (RECP) from its 2011 live-billing rollout, through baseline calculation challenges leading to its 2020 Congressional suspension, to its recent service-wide reintroduction. This operational background of pain points provides clear insight into how sub-metering, baseline metrics, and capital allocation affect both institutional defense assets and household budgets. This is supported by a recommendation I received from Stephen Simmons to serve in a forward-facing U.S. Space Command Ombudsman capacity during institutional transition (*copy available upon request*).
2. *Agricultural & Working Lands Equity*: As a future 6th generation operator of the historic San Augustin Ranch in Organ, representing pre-state-hood agricultural and resource stewardship, and as a descendant of Robert C. Cox (who served his district as a delegate to the 1969 New Mexico Constitutional Convention), I uphold strict constitutional integrity and rural economic fairness. This ranching heritage directly informs my regulatory approach, ensuring that our decisions prioritize rural utility access and reliability while maintaining strict environmental compliance. I understand how utility rate structures, rights-of-way, and grid expansion directly impact the economic viability and environmental sustainability of New Mexico's farm and ranch constituents.

Statutory Qualifications & Advanced Legal Education

I satisfy the statutory eligibility requirements established under NMSA 1978 § 62-19-5(A)(2)(b) through a specialized post-graduate degree and over a decade of direct professional experience in policy, legal operations, public administration, and dispute resolution systems.

- *Post-Graduate Credentials*: Next month, I will complete my Master of Dispute Resolution (MDR) (*Summa Cum Laude*) from the Pepperdine University Caruso School of Law. I am concluding my degree with an intensive executive policy residency in Washington, D.C., led by Nancy W. Hunt, focusing on federal and independent administrative agencies, statutory interpretation, and administrative rule promulgation—the exact processes governing NMPRC dockets.
- *Practical Experience*: For the past 5 years I have held a role as a legal administrator in an estate planning and probate boutique firm. I have 5 years of teaching experience in multiple states. I have served as President and held executive board positions across non-profit and military community organizations, focusing on compliance and stakeholder engagement.
- *Undergraduate Foundation*: I hold a Bachelor of Arts from Texas A&M University with extensive coursework in education policy and literature and writing frameworks. This academic background gives me a firm command of complex institutional policy.

Conclusion

I remain deeply committed to New Mexico's future and to ensuring that our family's 7th generation—and all young New Mexicans—inherits a resilient, thriving state. I approach this appointment with a dedicated focus on executing the NMPRC's core statutory mission: regulating utilities and telecommunications to guarantee fair and reasonable rates, assure adequate and reliable service, and protect public safety through rigorous pipeline oversight. My background unifies post-graduate legal training in administrative dispute systems with an operational understanding of New Mexico's critical defense infrastructure and traditional working lands. I offer the Nominating Committee, the Governor, and the Senate an independent, highly qualified voice dedicated to procedural integrity, grid reliability, and economic fairness across New Mexico.

Very Respectfully,

Stacey D. Cox

Master of Dispute Resolution Candidate, Pepperdine Caruso School of Law

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Legal Operations & Compliance Specialist | Preventative Dispute Resolver holding a Master of Dispute Resolution from Pepperdine Law (Summa Cum Laude) with expertise in contract lifecycle management, regulatory tracking, and workflow automation. Applies **organizational ombuds-informed process design** to engineer zero-error compliance audit systems, triage multi-stakeholder friction, and mitigate corporate risk before escalation. Proven track record of high-accuracy document control, legal research, people operations, and executive communications across complex regulatory frameworks.

CORE COMPETENCIES & TECHNICAL SKILLS

Preventative Dispute Resolution:	Organizational Ombuds-Informed Process Design, Preventative Conflict Architecture, Root-Cause Analysis, Neutral Evaluation, Stakeholder Triage, Multi-Party Negotiation, Mediation, Conflict Resolution, Investigations, Apology/Forgiveness/Reconciliation Advising to Senior Leadership & Vertical Teams
Legal Ops & Compliance:	Contract Lifecycle Management (NDAs & Commercial Agreements), Multi-State Regulatory Compliance, Employment Law Basics, Confidential Record Management, Trend & Pattern Recognition, Regulatory Audits
People Ops & Communications:	People Operations, Legal Memos, Client Communications, Attorney Blog Posts, Executive Memos & Speeches, Multi-Channel Social Media Copy, Consumer Copywriting
Fiduciary & Estate Documentation:	Wills, Trusts, Powers of Attorney (POA), In Loco Parentis Authorizations
Process & Technology (CLM):	Smokeball, DocuSign, Clio, Lean Six Sigma (White Belt), Process Improvement & SOP Development, Cross-Functional Workflow Automation, AI Prompting, Slack, Microsoft Teams, Google Suite, Monday, Dropbox

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

Pepperdine University Caruso School of Law <i>Master of Dispute Resolution (MDR), Summa Cum Laude</i>	Harvard Law School: <i>ZeroL Certificate</i>
Texas A&M University <i>B.S. Interdisciplinary Studies (Grades 6–12, English & Social Studies)</i>	JNNext: <i>Contracts Course & Examination</i>
	CleanKonnnect: <i>NIL Certification</i>
	Lean Six Sigma: <i>White Belt Certification</i>

LEGAL & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Legacy Planning & Probate — Legal Operations Specialist & Compliance Lead	2021 – Present
- Applied organizational ombuds-informed process design to engineer standardized intake pipelines, automated audit workflows, and confidential record management systems using Smokeball, Clio, and DocuSign, cutting administrative processing delays by 60% with zero compliance errors. - Managed review, drafting, and regulatory accuracy for estate planning instruments including Wills, Trusts, Powers of Attorney (POA), and In Loco Parentis documentation. - Conducted preliminary and secondary legal research to author clear, actionable client memorandums, educational blog posts, and executive copy on evolving state probate codes and asset protection strategies. - Executed high-accuracy reviews of confidential documentation, financial data, and regulatory filings across multi-jurisdictional compliance frameworks. - Served as a preventative dispute resolver across multi-stakeholder workflows, managing community engagement and resolving client friction points to boost regional acquisition and retention.	
North County Naturalist, Homeschool Co-Op — Literature Coordinator & Academic Governance Lead	2021 – 2023
- Designed multi-grade, theme-based curricula mapped to TEKS state requirements, integrating core literature, history, and economics modules. - Utilized in loco parentis authority and parental frameworks to coordinate multi-chapter co-op operations, resolving multi-stakeholder engagement challenges through tailored scaffolded coursework.	
Nicole Culver Co. — Community Operations Manager & Strategic Advisor	2018 – 2020
- Managed cross-functional logistics and clinical compliance workflows for multi-location clients, proactively identifying operational bottlenecks to mitigate administrative and legal risk. - Served as primary strategic advisor to coaching clients, structuring high-value partner agreements, digital launch copy, and digital ecosystem automation.	

Mothers Of Preschoolers (MOPS) — President & Chapter Executive Director

2014 – 2016

- Spearheaded full organizational turnaround utilizing **ombuds-informed governance frameworks**, establishing clear SOPs for fiscal oversight, multi-state compliance reporting, and confidential records management.
- Coached committee leaders using active listening, neutral evaluation, and apology/reconciliation advising to build leadership capability and drive a 20% increase in active membership.

Norfolk Collegiate School / Shadow Ridge Middle School — Writing Teacher & Peer Mediation**Advisor**

2009 – 2011

- Designed and executed peer mediation frameworks, training student leaders in active listening, neutral evaluation, and autonomous dispute resolution.

HONORS & COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

- **Leadership Institute for Military Spouses (LIMS):** Emerging Leaders Fellow
- **International Ombudsman Association (IOA):** Active Member
- **Academy District 20 (D20):** Parent Sounding Board (Past Member)
- **USAFA Little Free Library:** Founder & Library Sponsor
- **United States Air Force Academy:** Cadet Sponsor (2x)

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SUPPLEMENTAL STATUTORY ELIGIBILITY STATEMENT

Demonstration of Qualification under NMSA 1978 § 62-19-5(A)(2)(b)

1. STATUTORY QUALIFICATION BENCHMARK

NMSA 1978 § 62-19-5(A)(2)(b) Mandate Requires a candidate for Commissioner of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission to have "attained higher education resulting in at least a professional license or a post-graduate degree from an institution of higher education accredited by a regional or national accrediting body in a field related to an area regulated by the commission, including accounting, public or business administration, economics, finance, statistics, policy, engineering, or law, and at least ten years of professional experience within that field."

2. QUALIFYING ACADEMIC DEGREES

Master of Dispute Resolution (MDR) Pepperdine Caruso School of Law, 2026 • Honors: Summa Cum Laude; Dean's \$20,000 Scholarship for Leadership & Community Involvement • Field Alignment: Law, Policy, & Conflict Systems Design • Curriculum Focus: Executive/Independent administrative agency rulemaking, Mediation, Negotiation, Arbitration, Multi-party public policy disputes, Organizational Ombuds, and Conflict System Design.	Bachelor of Science (B.S.) Texas A&M University, 2009 • Field Alignment: Education Policy & Systems Governance • Curriculum Focus: Interdisciplinary Studies, Social Studies, Public Systems, Literature, and Educational Frameworks.
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3. TEN-PLUS YEARS QUALIFYING PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Systems Governance, Educational Policy, Legal Operations & Adjudicatory Dispute Resolution

Brings over ten years of combined experience managing legal operations (estate planning and probate), multi-party dispute resolution, regulatory compliance, and administrative governance. Advanced dispute resolution training at Pepperdine Law provides direct expertise in evaluating complex public policy, managing multi-day public hearings, assessing technical expert testimony, and drafting legally defensible decisions for administrative bodies. Educational policy experienced through classroom teaching, homeschooling, curriculum development, and as personal PCS moves.

Privatized Utility Governance & Defense Infrastructure

Possesses 17 years of operational experience as an active-duty Navy spouse navigating 10 relocations across state jurisdictions. Tracking of the Department of Defense (DoW)'s Resident Energy Conservation Program (RECP/UA) from its 2011 live-billing implementation through its baseline calculation challenges to its current service-wide reintroduction. Applied insight into sub-metering accuracy, baseline rate metrics, microgrid resilience, and defense utility reliability.

Agricultural Economic Stewardship & Working Lands Infrastructure

Serves as future operator and caretaker of the historic San Augustin Ranch (6th generation), integrating agricultural economic planning, rural utility concerns, utility rights-of-way, water infrastructure, rural utility access, environmental compliance, and working land stewardship. Descendant of Robert C. Cox (1969 NM Constitutional Convention Delegate), maintaining a deep commitment to state constitutional integrity and economic fairness.

4. STATUTORY INDEPENDENCE & CONFLICT VERIFICATION (§ 62-19-4, § 62-19-5)

Statutory Mandate	Compliance Status	Applicant Affirmation Statement
Financial Independence (§ 62-19-5(B))	FULL COMPLIANCE	No direct or indirect financial interest in any public utility or regulated entity in New Mexico or elsewhere.
Employment History (§ 62-19-5(B))	FULL COMPLIANCE	No employment with any NMPRC-regulated entity at any time during the two years prior to appointment.
Full-Time Commitment (§ 62-19-4)	FULL COMPLIANCE	Committed to devoting 100% of professional time to Commission duties; holds no other office or vocation for profit.

