

A. Nathaniel “Nat” Chakeres

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LEGAL WORK EXPERIENCE

General Counsel, Office of the State Engineer

Jan. 2022-Present

- Attorney overseeing all legal matters at the Office of the State Engineer. Duties include:
 - Providing legal advice to the State Engineer, including in administrative hearings.
 - Overseeing litigation in district courts and appellate courts.
 - Overseeing rulemaking activities.
 - Supervising 50-person litigation and adjudication program with an approximately \$8 million budget.
 - Member of agency’s executive legislative team charged with carrying out the agency’s legislative priorities.

Deputy General Counsel, Office of the State Engineer

Jan. 2021-Present

- Attorney supervising general litigation in administrative hearings unit, district court, and appellate courts. Other duties include:
 - Providing legal advice to all other programs of the Office of the State Engineer.
 - Overseeing program support for 50-person litigation and adjudication program.
 - Member of agency’s executive legislative team charged with carrying out the agency’s legislative priorities.
 - Supervising multiple managing attorneys.

Attorney, New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission

Sept. 2018-Jan. 2021

- Handled general litigation and transactional needs for state agency charged with protecting New Mexico’s interests in interstate stream systems.
 - Primary legal counsel on all legal issues relating to the Pecos River Compact and 2003 Pecos Settlement Agreement.
 - In-house counsel coordinating United States Supreme Court litigation in ongoing original action dispute on Pecos River.
 - Lead counsel in both judicial and administrative proceedings involving protests to proposed water rights transfers.
 - Successfully shepherded legislative bill during a 30-day legislative session that enabled the agency to obtain revenue by selling land it did not need.

Associate Attorney, Coberly & Martinez, LLLP

Sept. 2015–June 2018

- Attorney in three-lawyer litigation firm with a focus on civil rights, criminal defense, and environmental law at the trial and appellate levels in state and federal courts.
 - Conducted multiple jury trials, bench trials, and evidentiary hearings.
 - Handled multiple federal appeals and argued before the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals.
 - Primary drafter of successful Petition for Writ of Certiorari to the United States Supreme Court and participated in subsequent merits briefing and oral argument preparation (*Chavez-Meza v. United States*).
 - Managed discovery in multiple complex federal white-collar criminal cases.
 - Obtained favorable settlements in multiple civil cases as well as favorable plea agreements and dismissals in state and federal criminal cases.

Trial Attorney, U.S. Department of Justice

Sept. 2009–Sept. 2015

Environmental Enforcement Section,
Environment and Natural Resources Division

- Member of core trial team that successfully prosecuted civil claims through multiple stages of litigation against BP and other parties for damages and penalties arising from the Gulf Oil Spill, including three bench trials on various aspects of BP's liability under the Clean Water Act and the Oil Pollution Act.
 - Team efforts ultimately resulted in the two largest environmental settlements in American history.
 - Member of the trial team in successful bench trial that resulted in the Court finding that BP's conduct constituted gross negligence and willful misconduct under the Clean Water Act (*United States v. BP et al.*, 2:10-MD-02179, Docket # 13381-1, E.D. La., Sept. 9, 2014).
 - Oversaw substantive strategy for bench trial regarding the quantity of oil discharged from the Macondo well. This included supervising the substantive work of eight attorneys and the support work of a team of a dozen paralegals and law clerks.
 - Handled extensive discovery issues, including:
 - Managed substantive review of 2 million pages of discovery received from BP and other parties
 - Assisted in collection and review of over 120 million pages of discovery from numerous federal agencies
 - Advised federal agencies on novel and challenging evidence collection and preservation issues
 - Coordinated federal government strategy in responding to approximately one hundred 30(b)(6) deposition requests related to the federal scientific and operational response to the oil spill
- Successfully litigated and achieved settlements and judgments in enforcement cases under a variety of environmental statutes, including CERCLA, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

- Settlements and judgments have resulted in the recovery of millions of dollars of civil penalties and Superfund costs.
- Achieved injunctive relief in multiple cases requiring defendants to mitigate past pollution discharges and adhere to stringent control requirements.
- Two-Time Recipient of the Assistant Attorney General's Award.

CLERKSHIP EXPERIENCE

Judicial Law Clerk, Hon. Michael Murphy, 2008–2009
10th Circuit Court of Appeals

- Assisted with researching and drafting opinions for cases before the Tenth Circuit.

PRO BONO WORK

New Mexico State Bar Voluntary Attorney Program 2016-2017

- Provided legal advice and assistance on miscellaneous civil law issues to clients through drop-in clinics, including advice on landlord-tenant issues, consumer law issues, and probate/family law issues.

DC Volunteer Lawyer Project 2010

- Helped domestic violence victims obtain restraining orders and other relief.

Bread for the City DC Legal Advice and Referral Clinic 2010-11

- Provided legal assistance on miscellaneous civil law issues to clients through a drop-in clinic. Represented one client in a trial in landlord-tenant court.

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

Pardons/Paroles & Extraditions, N.M. Governor's Office 2003–2005

- Oversaw pardon review process in the Governor's Office under the direction of the Governor's Chief Counsel.
- Ensured that extradition requests were reviewed for legal sufficiency and signed by the Governor in a timely fashion.
- Assisted in troubleshooting issues with paroles and extraditions.

EDUCATION

University Of New Mexico School of Law 2005–2008

- J.D. *summa cum laude*, 2008
- GPA: 4.0 (2nd in the class)
- Order of the Coif

- *New Mexico Law Review*, Editor-in-Chief, 2007-08
- Lexis-Nexis Award for Highest Grade in Torts, Advocacy, Evidence, Federal Income Tax, Criminal Procedure, Civil Procedure II, Ethics, Property II, and Remedies
- J. Raymond McCulloch Memorial Award for Constitutional Law
- Irwin S. Moise Award in Legal and Judicial Ethics
- Dean's Award
- D.G. McCormick Prize for Writing

Harvard University

1998–2002

- A.B. *magna cum laude* in Government, June 2002
- Recipient, Harvard College Scholarship

ACTIVE BAR MEMBERSHIPS

- State of New Mexico
- U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico
- Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals
- United States Supreme Court

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

New Mexico Code of Professional Conduct Committee

2020–Present

Appointed by the New Mexico Supreme Court the committee that drafts and recommends changes to New Mexico's Rules of Professional Conduct.

New Mexico State Bar Ethics Advisory Committee

2010–Present

Member of a committee of lawyers that meets monthly to respond to inquiries from bar members who are seeking advice on how to comply with the Rules of Professional Conduct. After discussing the inquiries, the committee writes informal opinions answering the questions raised.

Oliver Seth American Inn of Court

2015–2017, 2018–2020

Associate member, 2015–16 and 2016–17; Barrister, 2018-19 and 2019-20.

George Washington American Inns of Court

2009–2013

Member 2009-2013; Program Co-Chair, 2012-13 Term.