



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
Office of the District Attorney
Twelfth Judicial District

Ryan Suggs
District Attorney

Hannah Burleson
Chief Administrative Officer



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 13, 2025

January 1, 2025 ushered in a new District Attorney for the 12th Judicial District of New Mexico. Newly elected District Attorney Ryan Suggs was officially sworn in on January 2, 2025 by the Honorable Angie K. Schnieder, Chief Judge of the 12th Judicial District of New Mexico.

The Honorable District Attorney Ryan Suggs is a native of Otero County. After graduating from Tularosa High School, Suggs joined the U.S. Navy where he went on to serve abroad for three years as a USN Search and Rescue Swimmer and Gunners Mate.

After receiving an honorable discharge, Suggs joined the New Mexico State Police where he would have a long and distinguished career serving the state of New Mexico. Over the span of more than 20 years, Suggs rose through the ranks of the State Police from Patrol Officer, (where he was awarded an Officer of the Year Award) to Deputy Chief of the State Police. 18 of his more than 20 year career was served in plain clothes operations. There, he worked as a narcotics agent, narcotics sergeant, Investigations Lieutenant, Investigations Captain, Major (Commander of the state's Investigations Bureau), and Deputy Chief of the State Police. In 2004, Suggs received national recognition from major news outlets on the east coast for his work in locating and dismantling methamphetamine laboratories in Southern New Mexico, the vast majority of which were located, seized and dismantled right here in Otero County.

After retiring in 2018 and having the distinct honor of a State of New Mexico flag flown over our capital building in his honor, Suggs went on to serve as the presiding Judge of the Otero County Magistrate Court. As Judge, he managed a caseload of over 10,000 criminal cases and presided over more than 80 criminal jury trials.

While serving on the bench, Suggs was the first person in the history of our state to obtain a law degree while serving as a Judge. Despite attending law school at Mitchell Hamline School of Law in St. Paul, MN, Suggs managed to continue running a full criminal and civil docket and raise three of his children.

After obtaining his law degree and passing the New Mexico Bar Exam with an exceptionally high score, Suggs resigned from the bench to serve the people of Otero and Lincoln Counties as the staff attorney for the 12th Judicial District of New Mexico, where he served as counsel for the District Court Judges.

In July 2024, Suggs began working as a prosecutor for the 12th Judicial District Attorney's Office. Just after 5 months of serving as an Assistant District Attorney, Suggs served as co-chair and assisted in the prosecution of two capital murder trials and a second degree murder trial, which resulted in convictions at each trial.

Alamogordo Office, 1000 New York Avenue, Room 101, Alamogordo New Mexico 88310-6998
Phone: (575) 437-3640 Fax: (575) 434-2507
Carrizozo Office, PO Box 893, Carrizozo New Mexico 88301
Phone: (575) 437-3640 Fax: (575) 648-2611

In November 2024, Suggs was elected as District Attorney for the 12th Judicial District of NM. The 12th Judicial District of NM is the most aggressive prosecutor's office in the state; consistently conducting more criminal jury trials than any other judicial district. Suggs takes office with hopes of reforming and building up the District Attorney's Office with a focus on holding serious violent offenders accountable while ensuring that those who need treatment and rehabilitation are adequately provided for.

At his swearing in, Suggs made his vision clear, "My office will prioritize the prosecution of violent crimes which includes crimes against our children, crimes involving firearms, and crimes involving the trafficking of drugs in our community, we must hold accountable, those who are poisoning our family and friends for profit."

The 12th Judicial District of New Mexico is excited to see what this new leadership of prosecution will bring to our community. According to Suggs, what he seeks to bring is, "Common sense prosecution, bad people who do bad things, will find themselves behind prison walls, good people who make a mistake, will be given the necessary supervision and assistance to help them become productive in our society, it's that simple." Suggs.