



**JAMES MONTOYA
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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34th Judicial District Attorney James Montoya Announces Office Leadership

EL PASO, Texas - The Office of the 34th Judicial District Attorney is proud to announce the swearing-in of James Montoya as the new District Attorney, along with staff attorneys and investigators who renewed their oaths Monday morning.

Montoya is also pleased to announce his administrative leadership team. The team brings an impressive wealth of legal experience to the office. They will work to ensure justice for the citizens of the 34th Judicial District, which covers El Paso, Hudspeth, and Culberson counties.

District Attorney Montoya has selected the following individuals to serve in key attorney leadership roles:

- **Rebecca Tarango** – First Assistant District Attorney
- **Linda Estrada** – Felony Division Chief
- **Amanda Enriquez** – Misdemeanor & Vehicular Crimes Division Chief
- **Ballard Shapleigh** - Special Prosecutions Division Chief
- **Jennifer VandenBosch** - Intake Division Chief
- **Lily Stroud** - Appeals Division Chief

In his announcement, Montoya expressed confidence in the leadership team's abilities to serve the community with integrity and dedication. "I have selected these leaders for their commitment to justice, professionalism, mentorship skills, and deep knowledge of the legal system. Together, we will work diligently to ensure that the people of the 34th Judicial District are served with fairness and transparency," said Montoya.

In addition to Division Chief leadership, Montoya hired many new attorneys to fill vacant Assistant District Attorney positions. His administration has retained nearly all of the dedicated attorneys from the previous administration and is committed to swiftly filling the few remaining attorney positions.

“I’m happy to report that we’re onboarding at least a dozen lawyers today. Throughout the campaign, my number one priority is making sure that we have enough lawyers staffing our courts,” Montoya said. “I’m anticipating more attorneys joining us by the end of the month, bringing the number of lawyers to more than 80. We are fully staffed at 93 lawyers, so we are very close to being fully staffed.”

Montoya also appointed several key administrative staff members to help support the office’s mission. These individuals bring a variety of backgrounds, from law enforcement, court administration, executive management, and investigative journalism:

- **Amy M. Lechuga, MPA** – Chief of Staff
- **Joanie Puga**– Executive Assistant to the District Attorney
- **Stephanie Valle** – Special Projects Administrator
- **Andra Litton** – Engagement Coordinator
- **Julio Ordaz** - Chief Investigator

“This team represents the diversity of skills and experience that will help us run a smooth, efficient office while staying true to our mission of serving justice in a transparent and accountable manner,” said Montoya. “Each of them brings a unique perspective and skill set that will be invaluable as we move forward.”

District Attorney Montoya assumed office on January 1, 2025. His team immediately began transitioning into their new roles in preparation for the upcoming term.

For future media inquiries, please contact Stephanie Valle at s.valle@epcounty.com or (915) 273-3342 ext. 4169.