

## **Press Release**

Acting United States Attorney Larry Gomez and New Mexico Attorney General Gary King in conjunction with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) SAC Thomas McClenaghan announce the filing today, Thursday, March 29th, of a federal grand jury indictment charging four defendants in a conspiracy, mail fraud and money laundering public corruption case. Those charged defendants are Toby Martinez, Manny Aragon, Raul Parra and Sandra Mata Martinez. The loss to the State of New Mexico taxpayers of approximately \$4.2 million forms the basis of the indictment. The loss arose from the defendants' and others' scheme to defraud the State of New Mexico in the building of the Metropolitan Court for Bernalillo County. Career prosecutors Paula Burnett and Jonathon Gerson from the U.S. Attorney's Office prepared and presented evidence to the federal grand jury which returned the indictment.

In conjunction with the indictment, the United States has unsealed three plea agreements. Those pleas of guilty were entered earlier this year by Marc Schiff, Ken Schultz and Manuel Guara. These three defendants were also involved in the scheme and conspiracy to defraud New Mexico taxpayers of funds related to the Metro Court and will be sentenced in the future for their participation in that conspiracy and mail fraud. Copies of the indictment and the three plea agreements are available online at the U.S. Attorney's Office web site at <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nm/pr/index.html> or a packet containing these documents may be picked up by the press at the front desk of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Albuquerque.

The United States Attorney's Office, the New Mexico Attorney General and the FBI, all

members of the Public Corruption Working Group, have been involved in the prosecution.

Phillip Baca, Director of the New Mexico Attorney General's newly organized Governmental Accountability Unit, has announced that Chris Lackmann of the New Mexico Attorney General's Office will join with the United States Attorney's Office in the prosecution of the case. He is also a career prosecutor and longtime criminal lawyer in New Mexico.

FBI Special Agents and Analysts from the Albuquerque Division of the FBI's Public Corruption and White Collar Crime Squad prepared and investigated the case for the United States. FBI SAC Thomas McClenaghan stated, "Public corruption has been, and will continue to be, the number one priority of the FBI's and Albuquerque's criminal investigative program."

New Mexico Attorney General Gary King stated, "We look forward to cooperating with federal prosecutors in order to protect New Mexico taxpayers' interests and to emphasize the importance of good clean government. My office will do all it can to help in this federal investigation."

The indictment is merely an accusation and is not evidence of guilt of any of the named defendants or others.