



U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS RELEASE

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**U.S. SENATE CONFIRMS APPOINTMENT OF
KENNETH J. GONZALES TO POSITION OF U.S. ATTORNEY**

Yesterday, the United States Senate unanimously confirmed Kenneth J. Gonzales as the United States Attorney for the District of New Mexico. Mr. Gonzales will become the top federal prosecutor in New Mexico after the President signs his commission and he takes the oath of office. Mr. Gonzales, who joined the U.S. Attorney's Office on May 22, 1999, as a federal prosecutor, will lead one of the busiest U.S. Attorney's Office's in the country. Last year, the U.S. Attorney's Office, which serves the entire state of New Mexico, prosecuted more than 8,000 cases.

The President nominated Mr. Gonzales on March 4 of this year. Mr. Gonzales will succeed Gregory J. Fouratt, who was appointed as U.S. Attorney by the Judges of the United States District Court in the District of New Mexico on January 25, 2008.

Mr. Gonzales issued the following statement:

I am honored to learn that the Senate has acted favorably on my nomination, and wish to express my gratitude to Senator Jeff Bingaman and Senator Tom Udall for their support during the confirmation process. I look forward to the next step in the process and this new phase of my public service career.

I have enjoyed a life-long appreciation of the State's rich cultural heritage and ethnic diversity. It has been my privilege to serve the people of New Mexico as a federal prosecutor for the past eleven years. This appointment will give me the opportunity to serve the people of New Mexico in a different capacity, and I look forward to continuing to work with the many talented attorneys and hard-working staff at the U.S. Attorney's Office, as well as our federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement partners. Although the U.S. Attorney's Office has performed its responsibilities in an exemplary manner, there is much work yet to be done. Protecting the safety and welfare of our citizens and fairly and honorably representing the federal government's interests are tasks that we must perform with increasing vigor during these challenging times.

When my appointment as the U.S. Attorney is finalized, I will provide you with information about my priorities. I also will answer any questions you have at that time.

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