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Client Protection Fund Pays \$90K in Claims for Actions of Dishonest Lawyers

Albuquerque, N.M. — In an effort to protect New Mexicans and other members of the public and make clients whole for monetary losses due to lawyer dishonesty, the Client Protection Fund Commission paid \$90,518 in claims for 2015. Twenty-five of the 35 claims resolved in 2015 resulted in payments to the complaining party as a result of the actions of 11 lawyers. The following table summarizes those decisions:

Lawyer	Status as of 12/31/2015	Claims Approved	Dollars Awarded	Reason
Joseph Camacho, Albuquerque	Inactive	2	\$8,275	Unearned fees
Daniel Dolan	Deceased	1	\$2,260	Unearned fees
Thomas Esquibel, San Jose, Calif.	Suspended	1	\$1,000	Unearned fees
Marcos Gonzalez, Albuquerque	Suspended	1	\$6,500	Unearned fees
Jeffrey P. Jones, Santa Fe	Inactive	1	\$1,000	Unearned fees
Cody Kelly, Albuquerque	Disbarred	1	\$2,000	Unearned fees
Stephen Peterson, Taos	Inactive	3	\$4,000	Unearned fees
Sabrina Price, Phoenix, Ariz.	Suspended	9	\$31,274	Unearned fees
Luis Quintana, Corrales	Disbarred	3	\$6,414	Unearned fees
Sherry Tippett	Deceased	1	\$20,000	Unearned fees
Gilbert Vigil	Deceased	2	\$7,795	Unearned fees

The purpose of the Client Protection Fund is to promote public confidence in the administration of justice and the integrity of the legal profession by reimbursing losses caused by the dishonest conduct of lawyers admitted and licensed to practice law in the courts of this jurisdiction. To qualify for a reimbursement from the Fund, a client must have incurred a financial loss caused by the dishonest conduct of a New Mexico-licensed lawyer who was counseling, advising or representing the client or serving in another fiduciary capacity such as a trustee. Since beginning operations in 2006, CPF has paid out almost \$690,000. In 2015, the Commission was chaired by Jason A. Marks, a sole practitioner in Albuquerque.

For more information about the Client Protection Fund Commission including a full description of the Commission and cumulative statistics since 2006, visit http://www.nmbar.org/nbardocs/formembers/cpf/2015CPF_AnnualReport.pdf.

The State Bar of New Mexico was organized in 1886 and is composed of more than 9,000 members. Its purposes are to aid the courts in administering justice and preserving the rule of law, and to foster a high standard of integrity and competence within the legal profession.

