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## **State Engineer Hires New Attorney for Interstate Stream Commission**

**(SANTA FE, New Mexico)** – New Mexico State Engineer John D' Antonio has hired **Keitha Leonard** as a new attorney to handle Lower Rio Grande water issues for the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission.

She began working for the agency on October 12.

Leonard received a bachelor of fine arts in art history from the University of Arizona in Tucson in 1978. She earned a juris doctorate from Louisiana State University School of Law in 1981. Also, she completed mediation training with the Attorney Mediator's Institute in Santa Fe in 1997.

Previously, Leonard was partner and lead trial attorney for the civil litigation firm Leonard & Leonard, Ltd. in Lafayette, Louisiana from 1991 to 2004. During that time, she worked occasionally with Maguire & Rabun Law Firm, a civil litigation firm in Englewood, Colorado, from 1998 to 2004. In addition, Leonard was a mediator in Boulder and Jefferson Counties in the State of Colorado from 1997 to 2000. Also, she was a partner and trial attorney for the law firm Voorhies & Labbe in Lafayette, Louisiana over a time period of eight years. From 1981 to 1982, Leonard was a law clerk for many law firms in New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

**(MORE)**

"Leonard's extensive background in litigation matters will be a tremendous asset," said State Engineer John D'Antonio. "Her diverse legal experience will be beneficial to the needs of the Interstate Stream Commission."

Leonard is admitted to practice law in the State of New Mexico, State of Colorado, and State of Louisiana.

The Office of the State Engineer is charged with administering the state's water resources. The State Engineer has power over the supervision, measurement, appropriation, and distribution of all surface and ground water in New Mexico, including streams and rivers that cross state boundaries. The State Engineer is also Secretary of the Interstate Stream Commission and oversees its staff.

The Interstate Stream Commission is charged with separate duties including protecting New Mexico's right to water under eight interstate stream compacts, ensuring the state complies with each of those compacts, as well as water planning.

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