

Hon. William P. Lynch (Ret.)

Judge Lynch graduated from the University of Illinois College of Law. He practiced law in Roswell for sixteen years, mostly in trial practice. In 1995 he was appointed to serve as a state district judge in New Mexico's Fifth Judicial District. As a general jurisdiction judge, Judge Lynch was responsible for a caseload of approximately 1300 cases per year that involved a broad range of civil, criminal and domestic relations issues. Judge Lynch was frequently selected by the New Mexico Supreme Court or the parties to preside over complex cases, such as a class action lawsuit alleging price fixing by 22 prescription drug manufacturers filed in Las Vegas, New Mexico and six consolidated wrongful death cases arising out of an El Paso Natural Gas pipeline explosion that occurred in Eddy County. During that time he served for nine years on the New Mexico Rules of Civil Procedure Committee, and was chair of the Committee for the last six years.

Judge Lynch was appointed as a United States Magistrate Judge in 2005. He handled a variety of civil and criminal cases in Las Cruces and Albuquerque until he retired in the fall of 2017. The parties in civil cases often consented to having Judge Lynch serve as their trial judge, he conducted hundreds of settlement conferences while on the state and federal bench, and he was a frequent speaker at continuing legal education seminars.

Judge Lynch received a Master of Judicial Studies degree from the University of Nevada, Reno in 2001, and his master's thesis examined problems presented by Court-annexed mandatory arbitration programs adopted in New Mexico. ("Problems with Court-Annexed Mandatory Arbitration: Illustrations from the New Mexico Experience," 32 N. M. L. Rev. 181 (2002)). Judge Lynch also published an article on Rule 68 offers of judgment, recommending that federal courts adopt some of the innovative offer of judgment provisions enacted in state courts. ("Rule 68 Offers of Judgment: lessons From the New Mexico Experience," 39 N. M. L. Rev. 349 (2009)). His most recent article addresses the role and proper scope of treating physician testimony at trial, what disclosures must be made about their testimony under Rule 26 during discovery, and whether treating physicians may testify about causation at trial. ("Doctoring the Testimony: Treating Physicians, Rule 26, and the Challenges of Causation Testimony," 33 Rev. Of Lit. 249 (2014)).