



**State of New Mexico
Office of the Third Judicial District Attorney
Gerald M. Byers**

Roxanne Garcia-McElmell
Public Information Office
Third Judicial District Attorney
575-524-6370 x1140 Cell: 575-915-5954

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 20, 2023 – On February 18, 2023, DA Gerald Byers was honored as a Trailblazer by the University of New Mexico Black Alumni Association for his distinguished career as a prosecutor and the First Black District Attorney for the State of New Mexico.

The Trailblazer award has honored distinguished Black UNM alumni since 2011. DA Byers received his Juris Doctor degree for the University of New Mexico School of Law in 1995. DA Byers is a career prosecutor with over 23 years of experience prosecuting cases and has personally handled some of Doña Ana Counties most notorious criminal defendants like Jesse Hanes in the killing of Hatch Officer Jose Chavez. Recipients of the Trailblazer Award are recognized for their professional career accomplishments as well as their service to their communities.