NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

TOP WORK PLACES 2026 ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL

Hearing Examiner, Governor Exempt ("Govex")

The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission serves New Mexico by ensuring safe operations and reliable utility services at fair, just, and reasonable rates consistent with the State's legal, economic, environmental, and social policies. The PRC is located in Santa Fe, NM, and has a satellite office in Albuquerque.

Minimum Requirements:
Juris Doctorate degree from an accredited school of law and six (6) years of experience in the practice of law. Must be licensed as an attorney by the Supreme Court of New Mexico or qualified to apply for limited practice license (Rules 15-301-1 and 15-301.2 NMRA). For more information on limited practice licenses, please visit http://nmexam.org/limited-license.

Purpose of position:
The hearing examiner (HE) is a public-facing role and one involving adjudicatory responsibility with substantial autonomy. Hearing examiners preside over public evidentiary hearings, usually involving multiple parties, and issue timely recommended decisions and certifications to the Commission. They must also address parties' pleadings and motions with prompt, well-reasoned orders, know when and if to hold pre-hearing conferences with parties, and respond to Commissioner and advisor inquiries and questions in a timely and thorough fashion.

Key responsibilities:

- Hearing examiners are expected to learn the complex area of regulatory law, including the regulation of public utilities, electric cooperatives, small water service companies, and telecommunications carriers.
- Hearing examiners must also demonstrate a strong grasp of procedural and evidentiary principles. The hearing examiner's key responsibilities are to conduct hearings and issue independent recommended decisions that include findings of fact and conclusions of law to the Commissioners.
- Hearing examiners must possess exceptional time and workload management, organizational and writing skills.
- The hearing examiners each carry their own case load, and also work as a team within and across divisions.
- Hearing examiners are expected to engage in self-study as well as participating in educational opportunities presented by the PRC and beyond.

Hearing Examiner's Clients:

The hearing examiner is not a passive participant in the proceedings to which they are assigned, but rather engage with the parties and materials to develop the best possible record for Commission consideration. Commission proceedings invariably implicate public rights and the public interest. Commissioners are appointed to exercise specialized professional judgment to advance the public interest. Hearing examiners must also conduct proceedings with the goal of serving the public interest by providing the Commission with a full, fair, and accurate evidentiary record and recommendations.

Ideal Candidate:
The ideal candidate will have some familiarity with utility-regulation principles and the regulatory field in New Mexico and nationally, or a willingness to commit themselves to learning this complex area under some time pressure. It is essential that the candidate have excellent organizational skills as well as the ability to manage workload independently, prioritize competing deadlines, and meet established timelines in a mostly remote work environment. Finally, the ideal candidate must be highly articulate and have exceptional legal writing skills.

Employment Requirements:
All Attorney classifications must be and remain licensed as an attorney, in good standing, by the Supreme Court of New Mexico, or licensed as an attorney and in good standing by the highest court of another state and eligible pursuant to the limited license provisions (See Rules 15-301.1 and 15-301.2 NMRA). Must maintain a valid NM driver's license and successfully pass a background check.

How to apply:
To apply for this position, please submit a letter of interest, resume and three (3) professional references to PRC.HR@prc.nm.gov or PRC Human Resources, PO Box 1269, Santa Fe, NM 87504-1269. This position will remain open until it is filled. For best consideration, please apply early.