



**New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department  
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS DIVISION**

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**Michelle Lujan Grisham**  
Governor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Marguerite Salazar**  
Superintendent

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD  
GIVEN TO FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS DIVISION FOR  
OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS**

**Christopher Moya**  
Director

Santa Fe – New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department Superintendent Marguerite Salazar announced that Financial Institutions Division (FID) Director, Christopher Moya; FID Senior Enforcement Counsel, Kevin Graham; and FID Bank & Trust Industry Manager, Rebecca Moore, were recognized by the United States Attorney's Office with the U.S. Attorney's Public Service Award for their outstanding contributions to the successful investigation and prosecution of Paul Donisthorpe for wire fraud and money laundering.

Donisthorpe was the Chief Executive Officer of Desert State Life Management, a nonprofit trust company operating in New Mexico. Desert State Life Management was entrusted to provide trustee, conservator, and representative payee services to more than 75 clients. Desert State Life Management's clients included elderly, disabled, and other New Mexicans with special needs who depended upon Desert State Life Management to make sure that their rent, medical bills, and other living expenses were paid. From at least 2009 through 2016, however, Donisthorpe carried out a scheme in which he embezzled virtually all of his client's money, totaling nearly \$7 million.

Federal and state agencies came together to reconstruct the client accounts and ultimately distilled hundreds of thousands of transactions into a coherent, definitive loss amount for each victim. In February 2019, after having pled guilty to federal wire fraud and money laundering charges, Donisthorpe was sentenced to 12 years in prison.

The mission of the Financial Institutions Division is to license and regulate financial entities within its jurisdiction, to promote a sound economic environment, and to safeguard consumer rights.

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**Alcohol and Gaming Division**  
(505) 476-4875

**Boards and Commissions Division**  
(505) 476-4600

**Construction Industries Division**  
(505) 476-4700

**Financial Institutions Division**  
(505) 476-4885

**Manufactured Housing Division**  
(505) 476-4770

**Securities Division**  
(505) 476-4580

**Administrative Services Division**  
(505) 476-4800