

Clifford M. Rees

Clifford M. Rees, JD retired from New Mexico State Government on September 1, 2005 after twenty-five years of service as a Staff Attorney for the New Mexico State Agency on Aging, the New Mexico Department of Health, and the New Mexico Department of Public Safety and as General Counsel of the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration. Cliff spent twenty-three years at the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) from 1981-2004, specializing in the areas of behavioral health, drug policy reform, public health, emergency medical services, emergency preparedness, public procurement and the legislative process.

Cliff served as NMDOH's lead attorney for public health emergency preparedness from 1999-2004. He was extensively involved in the re-drafting of NMDOH's Emergency Operations Plan in 1999 as part of the State's Y2K preparedness efforts and the public health response to the Cerro Grande Fire at Los Alamos, New Mexico in the Spring of 2000. In the aftermath of the events of 9/11, Cliff represented NMDOH in the 2002 NM Senate Joint Memorial 62/House Joint Memorial 32 study of New Mexico's emergency preparedness laws conducted by NMDOH, the NM Department of Public Safety and the NM Attorney General's Office. The study involved reviewing emergency preparedness statutes, conducting eight public hearings throughout the State, convening meetings with state agencies and other interested parties and making recommendations in the form of legislation introduced in the 2003 New Mexico Legislature. This nationally recognized public process led to the enactment of the New Mexico Public Health Emergency Response Act effective April 6, 2003, and other state emergency preparedness legislation.

Cliff is currently affiliated with the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, Department of Emergency Medicine, Center for Disaster Medicine as an Adjunct Professor and Senior Researcher. He is a member of the State Bar of New Mexico's Health Law and Public Law Sections and the Health Law Section of the American Bar Association.

Cliff was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland, graduating from the George Washington University, Washington, D.C., in 1974 with a B.A. with Honors in History. He received a J.D. degree from the Franklin Pierce Law Center, Concord, New Hampshire, in 1977. Cliff moved to New Mexico upon graduation from law school, serving as a VISTA attorney in northern New Mexico and as a Legal Services attorney in the northwest corner of New Mexico adjoining the Navajo Nation. In August, 1980, Cliff began his career with New Mexico State Government.

Cliff lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico with his wife Olga, a native of Omsk, Russia, and their daughters Alice and Anastasia. When he's not working, Cliff pursues his passions of traveling the world in pursuit of family history and rooting for his hometown Baltimore Orioles to return to the World Series.