

During the past 15 years, the Law Center has been a leader in pursuing cases that seek responsible stewardship of the environment, ensuring that communities are not harmed by environmental degradation and that polluters clean up their messes.

Listed below are some of the issues that the Law Center tackles.

## HARDROCK MINING

For the past decade, the New Mexico Environmental Law Center has been at the forefront of mining reform and responsible cleanup in New Mexico.

**Rivers at Risk.** Leaching iron, sulfides, magnesium and other metals, Molycorp operations killed 8 miles of the Red River near Questa, ruining a trophy trout stream, while the company denied wrongdoing.

**Contaminated Groundwater.** Mining is the most toxic industry in the U.S. The Chino mine in Grant County is leaking poisons such as arsenic, cadmium, chromium and lead into Silver City's drinking water.

**Wildlife in Danger.** When open-pit mines fill with water, they become deadly toxic lakes. Birds that drink this water die when the acid-laced brew burns through their throats.

**Taxpayers at Risk.** Estimates for the cleanup of the Chino and Tyrone copper mines in Grant Co. run from \$200 million to \$1.8 billion. If the mining company defaults on its cleanup responsibilities, New Mexico taxpayers would be left holding the bill.

## WATER PROTECTION

The Law Center has been an ardent champion for protecting water supplies from pollution and defending traditional acequia communities from losing water rights.

**Poisoning our Lifeblood.** 52% of our streams and rivers and 83% of our lakes are polluted, while our groundwater is contaminated by septic systems, underground storage tanks, oil & gas production and many other sources.

**Legalized Pollution?** In 2002, Phelps Dodge Mining Co. asked the State to allow it to dilute 7,000 acre-feet of contaminated water with 9,000 acre-feet of potable water from the Mimbres Aquifer. This totals more water than Santa Fe uses each year.

**Crippling Communities.** In addition to working on water quality issues, the Law Center is working with acequia associations to protect traditional, acequia-based communities.

## NATIVE AMERICAN REPRESENTATION

The Law Center gives Native American communities crucial legal representation they could not otherwise afford.

**Environmental Damage.** Proposed uranium mining in the Crownpoint-Church Rock area would contaminate the sole source of drinking water for 15,000 Navajos with uranium--one of nature's most deadly kidney toxins and cancer-causing agents.

**Cultural Devastation.** Every day, Picuris Pueblo loses more of its ancestral clay, used for its traditional pottery craft, to an industrial mica mine.

## SUCCESS STORIES

15 years of effective work for  
New Mexico

**Molycorp Molybdenum Mine Cleanup --** The Law Center helped forge one of the most comprehensive reclamation plans in the country, setting an important precedent for the state and the nation.

**Cunningham Hill Gold Mine Cleanup --** The Law Center negotiated a landmark settlement that resulted in the cleanup of nitrate, cyanide and other toxic plumes that threatened wells in Santa Fe County.

**Prevent Intel Water Rights Transfer--** The Law Center was key to stopping the transfer of nonexistent water rights from the Socorro area to the Intel plant.

**Protection of Native Water Use --** The Law Center helped to amend the New Mexico Water Quality Standards to give special pollution protection to sites used for Native ceremonial purposes.

**Prevent Proposed Uranium Mining in Navajo Communities --** The Law Center continues to work, as it has for the past 7 years, to prevent proposed uranium mining that would contaminate the sole drinking water supply for 15,000 primarily Navajo residents of the Crownpoint-Church Rock region.

**Ban Mining Waste on Public Lands near Picuris Pueblo --** The Law Center represented the Pueblo in a successful effort to ban mining waste dumps on Picuris aboriginal lands in the Carson National Forest.

# NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER

# BUSINESS DONOR CAMPAIGN

"As a small business owner, I know how important it is to have a strong organization working to protect the very environment that makes New Mexico unique."

*Robin Dunlap, KESHI, Inc., Santa Fe*

PROTECTING NEW MEXICO'S  
ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITIES  
FOR FIFTEEN YEARS

## ABOUT THE LAW CENTER

### MISSION STATEMENT

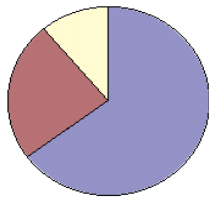
To protect New Mexico's natural environment and communities through legal advocacy and public education.

### CORE VALUES

- ✓ All New Mexicans have a right to a healthy environment.
- ✓ All New Mexicans have the right to participate effectively in proceedings that affect them and their communities.
- ✓ Polluters must minimize their impacts and clean up their pollution in order to protect communities from unhealthy environmental and environmental health impacts.

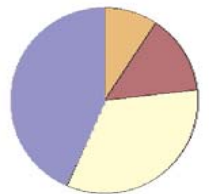
### FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

fy2003 Budget Income:



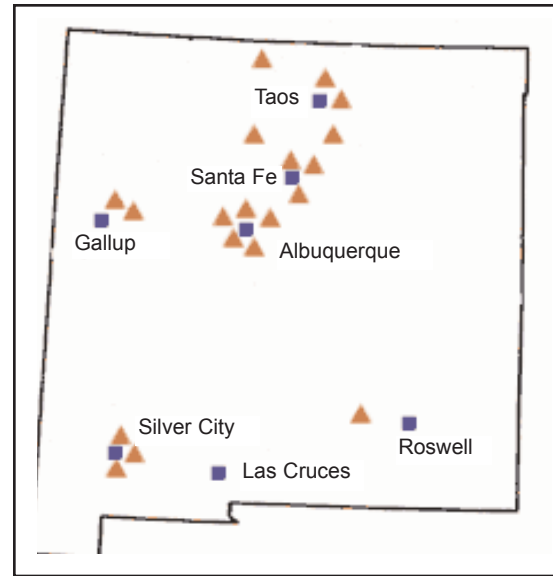
- Foundations - 64%
- Donors/Members/Events - 24%
- Fees - 11%

fy2003 Budget Expenses:



- Native American program - 43%
- General Community program - 34%
- Development - 14%
- Admin. - 9%

## OUR CASES



▲ 2003 Law Center cases - please see program descriptions on the other side.

### NM ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER CHARTER BUSINESS MEMBERS

Boss Reclamation | Tewa Enterprises | KESHi, Inc.  
Payne's Nursery | Stone Lions Environmental Corp.  
Broken Saddle Riding Company  
Resources for Change | The Plaza Hotel  
Watson Conserves | Isis Medicine  
Santa Fe Greenhouses | HurleyMedia

New Mexico Environmental Law Center  
1405 Luisa Street #5  
Santa Fe NM 87505  
55.989.9022 phone | 989.3769 fax  
www.nmenvirolaw.org  
nmelc@nmelc.org

## BUSINESS DONOR CAMPAIGN

The New Mexico Environmental Law Center provides free and low-cost legal assistance to minority and low-income New Mexico communities fighting environmental degradation throughout the state.

Contributions from businesses are key to helping the Law Center do this essential work.

Your investment in the Law Center will reap many benefits for your business and your neighbors, including clean air and water, resource protection, healthier communities, and less taxpayer liability for cleaning up after polluters.

Here's what some of the Law Center's supporters have to say:

**"It is crucial to have the Law Center monitoring what goes on at the State Legislature. They are the eyes and ears of the environment."**

Rick Evans, Boss Reclamation, Ruidoso

**"The Law Center is committed to preserving New Mexico's environment and communities, and that's good for business."** Harold Grantham, Broken Saddle Riding Co., Cerrillos



## HELP US MEET THE CHALLENGE

Businesses provide crucial support through their annual memberships. Your contribution will help to ensure that the Law Center can improve its level of service and strengthen its ability to take on additional important cases in the future.

### DONOR CATEGORIES

- SPONSOR'S CIRCLE -- \$250
- BENEFACTOR'S CIRCLE -- \$500
- PATRON'S CIRCLE -- \$1,000
- DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE -- \$2,500
- PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE \$5,000

### DONOR RECOGNITION

In return for your annual contribution, your business will receive:

Recognition in the *Green Fire Report (GFR)*, the Law Center's newsletter, which is mailed to 1,000 New Mexicans three times per year.

Year-long subscription to the *GFR*.

Recognition at the *New Mexico Environmental Awards Ceremony*, the Law Center's annual event.

Recognition on the Donor Page of the Law Center's website, [www.nmenvirolaw.org](http://www.nmenvirolaw.org)

Recognition in the Law Center's biennial report.

Your choice of a laminated placard or window sticker for display.

The Law Center is a 501(c)3, tax-exempt organization. Contributions made to the Law Center are tax-deductible.