



From the May 17, 2020 Santa Fe New Mexican:

First Judicial district attorney: Again, voters are fortunate that both candidates – Scott Fuqua and Mary Carmack-Altwies – are bright, experienced and thoughtful. Either will improve the functioning of the district attorney's office, a place too often known for turnover, dropping the ball on cases and losing high-profile prosecutions. The office needs an overhaul, with a boss who can manage, pay attention to detail and ensure that criminals are held to account.

Fuqua, who would come to the job from outside the DA's office, has considerable experience managing young lawyers from his years at the Attorney General's Office. What's more, he thinks broadly about what the district attorney needs to be successful and promises to work hard, even in tight budget years, to obtain adequate funding to run not just his office but that of the public defender. Justice requires a solid defense. Fuqua understands, too, that treating criminal actions without treating the source – including addiction – only causes more trouble. In a post-interview email, Fuqua wrote “The criminalization of addiction is, I believe, the single biggest policy failure of my lifetime. It's done nothing to address the problem and has instead simply swollen our prison population to levels unheard of in most Western democracies.” Most of all, Fuqua would come into the office without preconceptions – Carmack-Altwies currently works there. She has impressive criminal prosecutorial experience and can be proud of reforms she has instituted. But the 1st Judicial District Attorney's Office needs a complete reboot. For district attorney, *The New Mexican* endorses **Scott Fuqua**.