

HECTOR BALDERAS

J . D . , C F E

Former Attorney General of New Mexico

July 20, 2026

The Honorable Raúl Torrez
Attorney General of New Mexico
408 Galisteo Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
RCrollett@nmdoj.gov

Re: US DOJ's refusal to provide Epstein/Zorro Ranch material

Attorney General Torrez,

I have reviewed your various recent correspondence to Acting Attorney General of the United States Todd Blanche regarding the United States Department of Justice's continued refusal to cooperate with the State of *New Mexico's* ongoing investigation into Jeffrey Epstein's former Zorro Ranch and any related criminal activity that may have occurred there. I applaud your efforts to hold the U.S. DOJ accountable in its obligation to provide your prosecutors with the information necessary to investigate and potentially prosecute those individuals who may have committed crimes at the Zorro Ranch. Given our shared experience of the U.S. DOJ's interference and stonewalling, I am compelled to share the context of my experience in hopes that it will aid in your pursuit of these investigative materials being inexplicably withheld by federal authorities.

As you are aware, my administration's investigation of Jeffrey Epstein and Zorro Ranch began in February 2019, with wide reports of a civil lawsuit brought by Epstein victims for acts committed throughout the country, including in New Mexico. I immediately asked our investigators to contact the plaintiffs' attorney, Brad Edwards to begin building potential leads for criminal investigation in New Mexico. Mr. Edwards is a Florida-based attorney who has spent the better part of twenty years fighting for victims of Epstein.

In March and April 2019, our investigators and attorneys spoke on numerous occasions with Mr. Edwards with the goal of identifying and locating victims with a nexus to New Mexico. Mr. Edwards, who was pleased with our proactive contact with him, provided the names of two women



2105 VISTA OESTE ST NW, SUITE E
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87120

who had potential information relative to criminal conduct at the Zorro Ranch. On or around April or May 2019, the first victim, C.D. was contacted, and she supplied enough information that a formal interview was deemed necessary. On July 2, 2019, NMOAG attorneys and investigators flew to meet her in Los Angeles to obtain a formal statement. The other victim, A.F. resided in Texas, and investigators had made initial contact with her with the expectation that a formal interview would follow. In addition to these leads, our NM AGO investigators spoke with former employees of the Zorro Ranch, who did not provide any useful information.

As our self-initiated investigation progressed, we learned that a much broader federal case had been developed and was being prosecuted by the Southern District of New York (“SDNY”). On July 6, 2019, we learned that Epstein had been arrested in Teterboro, New Jersey, after a federal grand jury indicted him on several sex trafficking charges. Despite his arrest and charging, we continued our investigation.

On July 23, 2019, SDNY prosecutors contacted our office. Those prosecutors initially expressed a degree of frustration at our efforts, as one prosecutor admonished investigators to stop interviewing our witnesses. Despite the lack of collaboration that was then typical of federal and state prosecutorial entities, our office agreed to share with the SDNY the information we had gathered to date to support their efforts to bring justice for victims. To that end, our office conveyed the information it had received from the July 2, 2019, interview with C.D, as well as the extension of cooperation with the SDNY’s efforts to bring all guilty parties to justice.

Notwithstanding this, the agreement with the SDNY prosecutors was not to simply stop or to stay out of their way. Instead, my administration had a firm agreement with the SDNY that they have not honored to this day. Various documents that have since been released by the U.S. DOJ pursuant to the federal Epstein Files Transparency Act corroborate that this agreement was reached and that SDNY failed to uphold its end of our agreement. First, various emails between federal law enforcement officials from across the country establish the federal government's knowledge of our investigation. These records also include our correspondence providing investigative materials to the SDNY, and SDNY’s acknowledgement of our prosecutorial agreement. Finally, notes from the SDNY clearly articulate their knowledge of this agreement.

Though partially redacted, the record establishes that the content of this agreement is clear. This note makes clear that the SDNY made an agreement with both my administration and yours, that they would provide the necessary documents to prosecute and investigate:

The salient and most important portion of this document states:

- “Agreed NMAG will stop interviews & refer all matters to SDNY
- SDNY will refer any state-related matter to NMAG @ conclusion of SDNY case”

See attached, Record EFTA01681971 from the US. DOJ’s release of records pursuant to the Epstein Files Transparency Act. From this extract, SDNY prosecutors and the NMOAG came to an *explicit agreement*. New Mexico would stop all interviews and thus cease gathering



information, so as not to possibly interfere with the live federal prosecution, as is typical of federal-state prosecutorial agreement, and refer and transmit what we had developed to the SDNY. In exchange, SDNY was to refer any state-related matter to New Mexico at the conclusion of their case, including investigative material recently uncovered in the heavily redacted Epstein files.

Despite Epstein's suicide on August 10, 2019, less than 20 days later, the SDNY's case proceeded forward, with Ghislaine Maxwell as the co-conspirator target. That case concluded in 2022. Your June 9, 2026 letter to Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche provides a clear and precise timeline of my administration's efforts to communicate with the SDNY, including transmitting our investigation, and seeking broad remedies, such as the forfeiture of the Zorro Ranch. Additionally, your letter makes clear your administration's efforts to gather the necessary information, with such efforts being inexplicably frustrated.

In short, the SDNY, and by proxy the U.S. DOJ, entered into an agreement with the Attorney General of New Mexico that they would provide the records, materials, and leads necessary to investigate New Mexico crimes. Certainly, the SDNY case has concluded, such that their obligation under this agreement has now materialized. I view this complete refusal to provide the materials your investigators need as a clear breach of our prosecutorial agreement. I believe that the established agreement and the federal government's breach of it bolsters your standing to bring suit to obtain all relevant investigative files, which you have recently publicly articulated your office will do, if necessary.

I reiterate my appreciation of your efforts in this matter. Both our administrations are one of the only remaining law enforcement agencies left in the United States that has taken the initiative to find victims and hold those guilty accountable in this atrocious matter. Please know, I stand ready to assist you in any way in holding the U.S. DOJ to its agreement to provide you the necessary tools to obtain justice.

Sincerely,



Hector Balderas
Former Attorney General of New Mexico



7/23/19 - Call w/ [REDACTED] of NMAG

[REDACTED] - scheduled
[REDACTED] - scheduled

[REDACTED]
- interviewed [REDACTED] 3 weeks ago in CA

- groomed early on by [REDACTED]

→ shown out to FL + first major loss in Palm Beach, nothing happened

→ - copied by him in FL

- showed camera her to go on trips

- traveled to NY + NM, mostly commercially + sexually abused

- learned to [REDACTED] net [REDACTED] in CA
* have no [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

- Agree NMAG will stop interviews + refer all matters to SDNY
- SDNY will refer any state-related matters to NMAG @ conclusion of SDNY case