

# XOCHITL TORRES SMALL

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## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

### United States Department of Agriculture

Washington, DC

#### *Deputy Secretary*

2023–2025

Revived dormant efforts for a USDA drought program in collaboration with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Reclamation. Represented the United States in the G-20 Agricultural Ministerials in 2023 and 2024 and hosted a trade mission to Angola, USDA's most successful trade mission to Africa to date. Served as USDA's Chief Operating Officer, overseeing operations for over 100,000 civil servants and directly managing eleven senior executives. Chaired Quarterly Strategic Reviews for Mission Areas, ensuring cross-departmental support for the Secretary's goals and data-driven accountability. Negotiated with congressional leaders, the General Services Administration, and NASA to relocate the National Finance Center, ending a standoff that left 600 employees working in FEMA trailers for 17 years.

### United States Department of Agriculture

Washington, DC

#### *Under Secretary for Rural Development*

2021–2023

Oversaw over 70 programs and delivered over \$40 billion a year in loans and grants for water, electricity, high speed internet, rural business and economic development, affordable housing, and community facilities such as schools, public safety, and healthcare. Directed implementation of over \$2 billion investment in high speed internet and development of the \$9.7 billion New Era program for affordable clean energy investments in Rural Electric Cooperatives. Drove lasting investments in ease of access through technical assistance providers and design of online application tools for the Rural Energy for America and Value Added Producer Grant programs.

### United States House of Representatives

Washington, DC

#### *Representative for New Mexico's Second Congressional District*

2019–2021

Served on the House Committees on Agriculture, Armed Services, and Homeland Security (Subcommittee Chair). Introduced seven bipartisan bills, including the Rural MOMS Act, White Sands National Park Establishment Act, and Securing America's Ports Act. Tied for fifth most accessible and eighth most bills enacted for a Freshman Representative.

### Kemp Smith LLP

Las Cruces, NM

#### *Associate, Public and Environmental Law and Trial Departments*

2016–2018

Represented local governments, public land offices, and aquifer authorities. Experience includes water rights transactions, environmental law, property law, and water rights adjudications.

### U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico

Las Cruces, NM

#### *Law Clerk to Judge Robert C. Brack*

2015–2016

Drafted orders and opinions. Experience includes environmental law, intellectual property law, and criminal trials.

### Audubon New Mexico

Albuquerque, NM

#### *Research Intern*

2013–2014

Researched legislation for improved reservoir management for endangered species.

### New Mexico Administrative Office of the Courts/Court of Appeals

Santa Fe, NM

#### *Intern for Judge Wechsler in State Water Adjudications*

2013

Prepared draft orders and memoranda. Experience includes water rights adjudication and federal water rights settlements.

### Office of United States Senator Tom Udall

Las Cruces, NM

#### *Field Representative*

2009–2012

Opened Senator Udall's first office south of Albuquerque. Initiated and organized Senator Udall's first state-wide water conference, and convened stakeholder engagement on border issues, rural health and economic development, and water.

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## EDUCATION

### University of New Mexico School of Law

Albuquerque, NM

#### *Juris Doctor, summa cum laude*

May 2015

Honors: Alumni Full Merit Scholar; Faculty Award; ALI-CLE Award; 2015 Helen Carter Writing Prize; Co-Editor-in-Chief, *Natural Resources Journal*; 2013 Court of Appeals Advocacy Tournament Winner.

### Georgetown University

Washington, DC

#### *Bachelor of Science, Foreign Service, cum laude*

May 2007

Honors: Dean's List, three semesters; Second Honors, two semesters; Graduated in three years.