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**Contact:** David Carl

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(505) 288-2465

**AG Balderas Announces Supreme Court Affirmation  
of Life Sentence for Murderer of Officer Gregg  
“Nigel” Benner**

*Decision means Andrew Romero will spend the rest of his  
life behind bars*

*Santa Fe, NM* – Today, Attorney General Hector Balderas announced that the Supreme Court of the State of New Mexico affirmed the 2016 decision of a Los Lunas jury, sentencing Andrew Romero to life behind bars, without the possibility for parole, for his murder of Rio Rancho Police Officer Gregg “Nigel” Benner.

“We continue to mourn the loss of Officer Nigel Benner, who was taken in the line of duty, and continue to seek justice by making sure that career criminal Andrew Romero stays behind bars,” said Attorney General Hector Balderas. “I’m proud that my Criminal Appeals Division was able to fight for the justice that Julie and the Benner family so greatly deserve. Today’s decision affirms the hard work of New Mexico State Police, the Albuquerque Police Department, the Rio Rancho Police Department, and the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney’s Office in securing these convictions, and my office in upholding them.”

Officer Benner was a United States Air Force veteran and Rio Rancho Police Officer. Romero shot and killed Benner at a traffic stop in 2015.

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