

## ERIC WITT

### WORK EXPERIENCE

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2011 - Present

**Private Contractor, Media Industries Development / Government Relations**

- Assist various states and nations in developing or adjusting their local film, television and digital media industries including crew and infrastructure development, incentive programs, production financing, and education curricula.
- Assist major studios, independent production companies, and local production facilities in bringing projects to New Mexico (most recently “Avengers” (Marvel Studios) and “The Lone Ranger” (the Walt Disney Company), the two largest productions in the state’s history to date).
- Advise state and local elected officials and appointees on various topics including legislative issues, economic development, and media and community relations.

2008 - 2010:

**Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor, New Mexico:**

- Executive administrative duties statewide; acting Chief of Staff as required.
- Oversee policy development and cabinet operations with a focus on economic development; state finance and investment policy; advanced technology development including the New Mexico Computing Applications Center (the “Supercomputer”) and Spaceport America; alternative/renewable energy sector development; tourism; cultural affairs; agriculture; strategic resource development, and other state enterprises.
- Participate in state operating and capital budget development.
- Key point of contact for Governor’s Office with all outside entities.

January 2003 – 2010 (concurrent with serving as Dep. Chief of Staff and Director of Media Arts and Industries) :

**Director, Legislative and Political Affairs, Office of the Governor, New Mexico**

- Responsible for development and passage of entire Executive legislative agenda.
- Guide development of legislative agenda with outside entities including business and advocacy groups at the local, regional and national levels.
- Coordinate all cabinet activities with respect to passage of the Executive agenda.
- Ensure subsequent compliance with agenda by state agencies.
- Lead legislative liaison with the New Mexico state legislature, the state judicial branch, and other executive agencies e.g. the state Attorney General, Treasurer, and Land Commissioner.
- Key point of contact with state congressional delegation, federal agencies including national labs, and the administration’s Washington, D.C. offices.
- Guide policy development and cabinet operations with a focus on economic development; state finance and investment policy; tourism; cultural affairs; agriculture; strategic resource development, and other state enterprise endeavors.
- Key liaison for Governor’s office with constituency groups throughout the year.

January 2003 – 2010 (concurrent with serving as Dep. Chief of Staff and Director of Legislative/Political Affairs):

**Director, Media Arts and Industries Development, Office of the Governor, New Mexico**

- Direct New Mexico’s development of a \$4 billion Media Arts and Industries economic sector, including feature film, television and digital media production.
- Position New Mexico as a world leader in film and television production, including over 150 feature films, hundreds of millions of private sector investment dollars, and the creation of over 10,000 new jobs.
- Created the state’s strategic plan for media industries development.

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- Oversee the development of media industries academic programs and curricula, including two- and four year degree programs in film and media arts at state colleges and universities.
- Oversee development of statewide workforce training programs for film crew training through the state community college system, creating the largest professional film crew base in the United States outside of Los Angeles and New York.
- Primary administration representative to film, television and digital media industries for economic development and strategic partnerships at the state, national and international levels.

January 2001 – December 2002:

**Chief of Staff, Office of the Speaker, New Mexico House of Representatives:**

- Lead advisor for the New Mexico Speaker of the House.
- Developed and managed legislative agenda for the Speaker's Office.
- Managed all legislative and policy staff.
- Lead liaison between Office of the Speaker and all legislative, executive and judicial agencies.
- Lead representative of the Speaker's Office to all outside entities.

January 1997 - December 2000:

**Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Speaker, New Mexico House of Representatives:**

- Oversaw policy development for the Office of the Speaker and the state House Democratic Caucus.
- Legislative committee representative for the Office of the Speaker.
- Managed all policy staff for the Speaker's Office.
- Designated representative of the Speaker to the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board (SEAB), United States Department of Energy.
- Represent Speaker's office to all business, community and advocacy groups at local, state and national levels.

November 1995 – December 1996

**Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer, Asylum Entertainment, Inc., Los Angeles CA:**

- Co-Founder of small independent multi-media entertainment company.
- Developed corporate business plan and financial modeling.
- Co-creator of intellectual properties including feature length film and television pilot scripts; computer games; action toys; sound tracks; comics and graphic novels; other ancillary products.
- Negotiated corporate contracts and other operational/financing agreements.

January 1990 – October 1995:

**Vice President of Finance, Corporate Officer, Dino De Laurentiis Communications, Los Angeles CA:**

- Corporate and production finance for DDLC, then one of the largest independent production houses in Hollywood.
- Key financial liaison with corporate banks, major studio distributors, and regional distribution companies worldwide.
- Negotiated and executed various sales, marketing and other agreements on behalf of DDLC
- Participated in DDLC film library sales worldwide.
- Participated in corporate sales and acquisitions with major Hollywood studios such as Sony/Columbia Pictures, Paramount and MGM.

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## EDUCATION

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**University of California, Los Angeles.** Master of Business Administration.

**University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.** Master of Arts, Medical Anthropology.

**University of Vermont, Burlington.** Bachelor of Arts, Anthropology.

## RECENT MEMBERSHIPS AND RECOGNITIONS

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### Current and Past Memberships:

Member and subcommittee co-chair (energy and natural resources) NM Senate Jobs Creation Statewide Task Force

Past Member, KSFR/Northern New Mexico Public Radio Foundation, Board of Directors

Past Member, Executive Committee, Governor's Advisory Council on Film and Media

### Notable Recognitions:

2008 Top 100 State Powerbrokers, New Mexico Business Magazine

2007 Top 100 State Powerbrokers, New Mexico Business Magazine

2007 Community Leadership Award, Santa Fean Magazine

2007 Finalist, Award for Industry Support, New Mexico Information Technology and Software Association

## REFERENCES UPON REQUEST

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