

Bernadette Sedillo

September 10, 1965 - April 15, 2025

Bernadette R. Sedillo ("Bernie")
1965 – 2025

Bernadette R. Sedillo, lovingly known as Bernie, passed away on April 15, 2025, at the age of 59 at Memorial Medical Center in Las Cruces, NM. Born and raised in Roswell, NM, Bernie lived a life marked by purpose, conviction, and care for those around her.

A passionate and accomplished attorney, Bernie dedicated her life to the pursuit of justice and the ethical treatment of those accused of crimes. She practiced law both privately and as a federal public defender, fiercely advocating for the rights of the vulnerable and for the rule of law. Her work was a reflection of her values: fairness, integrity, and deep compassion.

Guided by a strong Catholic faith, Bernie found strength and peace in her spirituality — especially in the final chapters of her life. Knowing her time was limited, she traveled to Europe with the love of her life, Michael Sanchez, on a pilgrimage to visit sacred sites. It was a journey of grace and reflection, filled with quiet moments of connection, devotion, and love.

Michael was not just her partner — he was her constant, her caretaker, her best friend, and the person who shared her heart and her life in every way that

truly matters. Their bond was deep and lasting, a relationship built on mutual respect, laughter, faith, and unwavering support. In her final days, Michael stood by her with courage and tenderness, caring for her through every moment. Bernie would want him to know — and for all who loved her to know — that he did everything right. He gave her strength, peace, and love until her very last breath.

Bernie found joy in traveling, watching movies, and caring for her beloved dogs and her cat, Scout. She was known for her fierce honesty and unshakable sense of responsibility. She never hesitated to tell the truth — even when it was hard to hear — but always followed it with love, guidance, and solutions. She shouldered the burdens others couldn't, especially in caring for her parents during their final years and managing the family's affairs afterward. Her strength was quiet but constant, and her love was deeply felt in both words and action.

As a sister, Bernie was protective, steady, and always present. She and her younger brother Jerome shared a strong bond throughout their lives — one rooted in loyalty, care, and a deep understanding of family. Bernie always kept a watchful and loving eye on him, guiding with wisdom and showing up when it mattered most. Her love for her family ran deep, often expressed through her signature blend of strength, humor, and heartfelt devotion.

She is survived by her life partner and soulmate, Michael Sanchez; her brother Jerome Sedillo and sister-in-law Kim; nephews Jerome Jr. and Donovan; nieces Marissa and Selina; and especially her nephew Matthew, for whom she held a deep and protective love. Preceding her in death are her parents, James and Margaret Sedillo; her sister, Selina Sedillo; and her brother, Jamie Sedillo.

Bernie is also remembered with love by her close friends Roxanne and Gary,

Marcy Lee, Edith Reeves, Jane Greek, Gia McGillivray, and many others whose lives she touched with her warmth, wit, and unwavering loyalty. She had countless close friends — too many to name — each one cherished deeply and remembered with affection and gratitude.

She is also survived by a large and loving extended family, including many cousins, aunts, and uncles from the Roswell, Dexter, and Artesia, New Mexico area — especially the Sedillo and Orosco families, whose bonds of kinship and shared history were a deep source of pride and comfort for Bernie throughout her life.

Bernie was also embraced by Michael's family in New York, who welcomed her with open hearts and loved her as one of their own. Their connection was one of warmth and acceptance, and Bernie treasured the love and support she received from them across the miles.

Bernie's legacy is one of strength, devotion, and fearless love. She leaves behind a family and community forever shaped by her wisdom, her spirit, and her unwavering dedication to what was right — in law, in faith, and in life.

A Rosary and funeral Mass celebrating Bernie's life will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2025, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Newman Center in Las Cruces, NM (2615 S Solano Dr, Las Cruces, NM 88001). Family and friends are invited to gather and honor the life of a woman who gave so much of herself to others with strength, faith, and compassion.

Graveside services will follow on Saturday, May 3, 2025, at 11:00 a.m., at South Park Cemetery in Roswell, NM (3101 S Main St, Roswell, NM 88203), where Bernie will be laid to rest alongside her beloved family.

Bernie will be missed beyond measure but never forgotten.

Previous Events

Rosary and Mass

MAY 1. 10:00 AM (MT)

Newman Center
2615 S. Solano Drive
Las Cruces, NM 88001

Tribute Wall

TF

“ The Sanchez Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bernadette Sedillo.

The Sanchez Family - May 01, 2025 at 10:57 AM

TF

“ The Sanchez Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Bernadette Sedillo.



The Sanchez Family - May 01, 2025 at 10:57 AM

ML

“ Monique, Gian, Ella and Luca planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bernadette Sedillo.

Monique, Gian, Ella and Luca - May 01, 2025 at 12:29 AM

ML

“ Monique, Gian, Ella and Luca purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Bernadette Sedillo.



Monique, Gian, Ella and Luca - May 01, 2025 at 12:29 AM

LE

“ When I think of Bernadette, I think of her wonderful smile and her laugh. Never negative or judgmental. She was a very good friend and supported me when I was at my lowest. Wise beyond her years and whip-smart. Bernadette was an excellent attorney who always went above and beyond for clients, while in private practice and with the Federal Public Defender. She never complained about her health. She was always positive, looking forward, smiling and laughing. Her strength made me believe she would beat the odds. She’s left me with years and years of wonderful memories. I will miss her forever. Bernadette was dedicated to her mother, father, brother and nephew. No matter any personal strive she may have been going through, she drove to Roswell to help her family. Now she’s going home again...



Leonor - April 28, 2025 at 09:22 PM



Beautifully said. Love this picture of you two. So pretty!! Thanks for sharing. 🙏💜

Alicia Roddy - May 01, 2025 at 12:06 PM

EO

“ Esperanza Sedillo Otero lit a candle in memory of Bernadette Sedillo



Esperanza Sedillo Otero - April 23, 2025 at 09:38 AM

AR

“*My dear cousin Bernadette wasn't just family, she was one of the most intelligent, driven, and kind-hearted people I've ever known. She worked so hard to earn her law degree and went on to become an incredible successful attorney who made a real difference in people's lives.*

I was lucky to share a special time with her during our college years at NMSU. We had so much fun, made the best memories, with so many fun times full of laughter and margaritas. Just 3 weeks ago, we talked, I had no idea what she was quietly going through. But that was Berni... always strong, always private, and always putting others before herself.

My heart is broken. I can only imagine the pain her partner, Mike Sanchez, must be feeling & her brother Jerome Sedillo and his beautiful family and beautiful children.

We only just learned the news Thursday evening, and it still doesn't feel real.

Heaven gained a brilliant and beautiful soul far too soon. Rest peacefully, Berni. You'll always be loved and missed. You will now be with your family that was also gone way too soon..your precious sister Selina, your beautiful mom Margaret, one of kind beautiful brother Jaime, your most respected and hard working handball pro state police Dad James Sedillo and the rest of all our close family that have all been taken way too soon from us.

Rest in peace my cuzzie, this was unexpected and extremely sad. Our cousin was a true angel on earth, gone way too soon. We all will miss her with all our whole heart and soul. We're all still in shock & can't believe this happened. 🥹💔😇🙏



Alicia Roddy-Bernal - April 20, 2025 at 08:08 AM

HS

Well said, Alicia! 🧡🙏

Helen Sedillo - April 21, 2025 at 06:06 PM

EB

Totally agree! Well said Alicia. By another cousin, Edna Bryant, in Tennessee. BERNIE will be missed. Love and prayers for Jerome Sedillo and Mike Sanchez. And all our families. 🧡🧡🧡🧡🧡🧡🧡🧡🧡🧡🧡🧡🙏

Edna Bryant - April 22, 2025 at 06:31 PM

NS

“ *Norma Sedillo lit a candle in memory of Bernadette Sedillo*

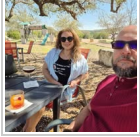


Norma Sedillo - April 19, 2025 at 06:03 PM

WD

“ *I am so sorry to hear the news of Bernadette's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you Jerome, and all the family.*
Willadine Duran

Willadine Duran - April 19, 2025 at 10:00 AM



“ *Sending love and heartfelt condolences to Bernadette’s family and friends. Bernadette’s passing is a deep loss, and our hearts are heavy. May we find comfort in knowing she’s now reunited with Selina, Jamie, and their beloved parents. Holding you all in love and prayer during this time.* 🤍🙏



Carissa Vega - April 19, 2025 at 09:28 AM



“ *Alicia Roddy (Bernal) sent a virtual gift in memory of Bernadette Sedillo*



Alicia Roddy (Bernal) - April 19, 2025 at 04:54 AM

AR

My dear cousin Bernadette wasn't just family, she was one of the most intelligent, driven, and kind-hearted people I've ever known. She worked so hard to earn her law degree and went on to become an incredible successful attorney who made a real difference in people's lives.

I was lucky to share a special time with her during our college years at NMSU. We had so much fun, made the best memories, with so many fun times full of laughter and a few margaritas too! Just three weeks ago, we talked, and I had no idea what she was quietly going through. But that was Berni... always strong, always private, and always putting others before herself.

My heart is broken. I can only imagine the pain her partner, Mike Sanchez, must be feeling and her brother Jerome Sedillo and his beautiful family and beautiful children. We only just learned the news Thursday evening, and it still doesn't feel real.

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Rip my dear cousin, this was unexpected and extremely sad. Our cousin was a true angel on earth, gone way too soon. We all will miss her with all our whole heart and soul. We're all still in shock & can't believe this happened. 🥹💔🙏🙏

Alicia Roddy-Bernal - April 20, 2025 at 01:15 AM

AS

“*Andy Sedillo lit a candle in memory of Bernadette Sedillo*



Andy Sedillo - April 18, 2025 at 08:39 PM

BM

Jerome and family,

we are so sorry for your loss. you all were like family,,Bernie was a beautiful person. we will miss her very much. if we can do anything to my help just call. Bobby and Danelle Montoya

Bobby Montoya - April 19, 2025 at 01:41 PM

BS

May the Lord remain by the family during this time of sadness. Bernadette was a beautiful and intelligent person may she now rest peacefully.

Beatrice Salazar - April 21, 2025 at 11:51 AM

BM

Bernadette was the consummate lawyer, compassionate, smart, and capable. She was also a wonderful person. She handled her illness with grace and we never heard a complaint from her. She had a positive attitude every day of her life. We will miss her greatly.

Barbara Mandel - April 21, 2025 at 12:59 PM

MR

I had the pleasure of working with Bernadette for a time. She was always beautiful inside and out, and ready with the most amazing smile that would light up a room. I'm saddened to hear of her passing. My love and prayers go out to her family, friends, and all loved ones. This is also one of the most beautiful tributes I have ever read. Very well done capturing her amazing spirit. God bless.

Melissa Read - April 22, 2025 at 06:01 PM