

1 *In the Supreme Court of the State of New Mexico*

2 *LAW DAY RECOGNITION – LAW DAY 2023*

3 *Law Day began 65 years ago, with a proclamation from President Eisenhower that eloquently*
4 *set forth the reasons why we, as a free people, celebrate our heritage of liberty under law.*

5 *President Eisenhower noted it was “fitting that the people of this nation should remember with*
6 *pride and vigilantly guard the great heritage of liberty, justice, and equality under law that our*
7 *forefathers bequeathed to us.” Further, he said that it is “our moral and civic obligation as free*
8 *[people] and as Americans to preserve and strengthen that great heritage.”*

9 *In celebrating Law Day this year, let us dedicate ourselves to the great values protected and*
10 *preserved in our Constitution.*

11 *And, at the same time, let us recognize that democracy is not static, that we must always work*
12 *to improve and perfect it. Let us seek to draw ever closer to the ideal hand carved into the woodwork*
13 *above the bench of the Supreme Court of New Mexico: “Dedicated to the Administration of Equal*
14 *Justice Under Law.”*

15 *Let us resolve that Law Day be an opportunity for all of us, in government and the private*
16 *sector, to examine our efforts to make equal justice a reality and to work together to reach that goal.*

17 *For more than 100 years, America's charitable institutions and foundations, its lawyers and its*
18 *courts, and countless others have worked to bring equal justice to as many people as possible.*

19 *Law Day 2023 is an opportune time to recognize the work of those who try to make courts*
20 *accessible and justice equal:*

21 *Legal services organizations that provide legal services to those unable to afford them;*

22 *Pro Bono Publico programs under which private lawyers accept worthy cases at no*
23 *fee;*

24 *Lawyer referral programs that help people find appropriate legal services; and,*

25 *Court programs designed to inform the public about laws and legal procedures,*
26 *provide interpreters for those who need them, and generally make courts accessible.*

27 *We salute these efforts, but let us offer greater support to those who work daily to provide legal*
28 *services to those who most need them. Let us dedicate ourselves to improving our courts and our justice*
29 *system, so that we will truly have “justice for all.”*

1 *NOW, THEREFORE, I, C. Shannon Bacon, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New Mexico,*
2 *do hereby recognize Monday, May 1, 2023, as Law Day, and urge the legal professionals of New*
3 *Mexico to recognize and participate in the observance of this designated day.*

4 *DONE in Santa Fe, New Mexico, this 26th day of April, 2023.*

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C. Shannon Bacon, Chief Justice