

1 **IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO**

2 **September 11, 2025**

3 **NO. S-1-AO-2025-00018**

4 **IN THE MATTER OF COMPENSATION**
5 **FOR RURAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE LAW**
6 **CLERKS EMPLOYED WITHIN THE NEW**
7 **MEXICO JUDICIAL BRANCH**

8 **ORDER**

9 WHEREAS, this matter came on for consideration by the Court to promote
10 the recruitment and retention of rural justice initiative law clerks within the New
11 Mexico Judicial Branch;

12 WHEREAS, the Rural Justice Initiative Clerkship Program (“Program”)
13 addresses the dire need for lawyers in rural areas consistent with the Program’s
14 objectives to foster deep community connections and embrace practicing law in rural
15 communities;

16 WHEREAS, the Program will consist of paid law clerk at-will positions in
17 district courts under the guidance and mentorship of state judicial district chief
18 judges in the respective district; and

19 WHEREAS, in light of the foregoing, and the Court being sufficiently
20 advised, Chief Justice David K. Thomson, Justice Michael E. Vigil, Justice C.
21 Shannon Bacon, Justice Julie J. Vargas, and Justice Briana H. Zamora concurring;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED the Rural Justice Initiative law clerks are exempted from Supreme Court Order No. S-1-AO-2024-00036, *In the Matter of the Approval of a Reclassification Initiative for Attorneys, Appellate Legal Editors, Paralegals, and Law Clerks Employed Within the New Mexico Judicial Branch* for Fiscal Year 2026; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the compensation authorized by this order for Rural Justice Initiative law clerks employed by the New Mexico Judicial Branch is fixed at \$78,000 per year, in addition to all judicial branch benefits, and shall be effective nunc pro tunc as of July 1, 2025.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



WITNESS, the Honorable David K. Thomson, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New Mexico, and the seal of said Court this 11th day of September, 2025.

Elizabeth A. Garcia

I CERTIFY AND ATTEST:
A true copy was served on all parties
or their counsel of record on date filed.
Elizabeth A. Garcia
Chief Clerk of the Supreme Court
of the State of New Mexico