

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

June 1, 2026

NO. S-1-AO-2026-00022

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

ORDER

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

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

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

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

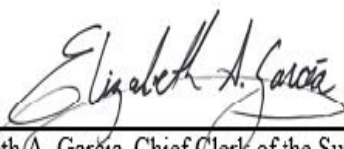
1 NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED the Rural Justice Initiative law clerks
2 are exempted from Supreme Court Order No. S-1-AO-2024-00036, *In the Matter of*
3 *the Approval of a Reclassification Initiative for Attorneys, Appellate Legal Editors,*
4 *Paralegals, and Law Clerks Employed Within the New Mexico Judicial Branch* for
5 Fiscal Year 2027; and

6 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the compensation authorized by this order
7 for Rural Justice Initiative law clerks employed by the New Mexico Judicial Branch
8 is fixed at \$78,780 per year, in addition to all judicial branch benefits, and shall be
9 effective July 4, 2026.

10 IT IS SO ORDERED.



WITNESS, the Honorable Julie J. Vargas, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New Mexico, and the seal of said Court this 1st day of June, 2026.


Elizabeth A. Garcia, Chief Clerk of the Supreme Court
of the State of New Mexico

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