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New Mexico Supreme Court Chief Clerk named Public Lawyer of the Year

SANTA FE _ Joey Moya, Chief Clerk of the state Supreme Court, has been named the 2015 Public Lawyer of the Year by the State Bar of New Mexico.

Moya will receive the award at a ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda on May 1 at 4 p.m.

"Joey's commitment and contribution to the proper functioning of the New Mexico justice system have been invaluable to the Judiciary and the citizens we serve," the justices of the Supreme Court wrote in a letter nominating Moya for the award.

Moya has served as Chief Clerk of the Supreme Court since 2011 and as the court's Chief Counsel since 2005.

Moya's responsibilities range from legal research and writing to overseeing the court's administrative functions, including case management, human resources, budget matters, building security and operations.

During his tenure as Chief Clerk, Moya streamlined the scheduling of court matters by establishing online calendars for oral arguments, swearing-in ceremonies and other court meetings. He developed procedures for providing email notices to members of the Bar and the news media, as well as web site postings, when new opinions are issued by the Supreme Court.

After becoming the court's first Chief Counsel, Moya brought in-house the oversight of the court's rule-making activities, which had been coordinated by the New Mexico Compilation Commission. He developed a tracking system for the development of rules.

Moya teaches continuing legal education courses and mentors new attorneys. His colleagues describe him as "gifted in interpreting and analyzing the law" and as someone who "works hard, not for public recognition, but because the Judiciary and public service are important and deeply matter to him."

Moya received a Juris Doctor degree from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 1988. He joined the Court of Appeals as an assistant staff attorney in 1990, after working in a private law firm.

He served as administrative assistant to the late Chief Justice Pamela Minzner from 1999 to 2001. Moya was chief staff attorney and director of the Court of Appeals Prehearing Division from 2002 to 2005.

He serves on numerous commissions and committees in the state's justice system, including the Compilation Commission and is chairman of the Joint Committee on the Rules of Procedure for New Mexico State Courts.

"Joey is truly one of a kind. There is not a single, non-judge lawyer currently serving the judicial branch who has come close to the variety and quality of service he has provided over the years," the justices said.

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