Administrative Office of the Courts

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Law Day 2024 -the vital role of the rule of law

Santa Fe, NM – In a proclamation recognizing today as Law Day, New Mexico Supreme Court Chief Justice David K. Thomson reaffirmed the judiciary's commitment to promoting an understanding of the rule of law in our democracy.

Through the Court's Rule of Law Program, students from around the state can learn about the legal system by studying cases that shape the law and witnessing an oral argument before the justices in a pending case.

"By bringing the courts directly to our students," Chief Justice David K. Thomson said in the proclamation, "we expand access to civics education and empower our youth to understand, and therefore value and uphold the principles of fairness and equality."

The first Rule of Law Program was in Las Cruces and reached more than 580 students. Northern New Mexico College in Española hosted an in-person oral argument in 2023, and on Monday (April 29), the program traveled to Central New Mexico Community College where students from Santa Fe, Lovington, Las Vegas and Albuquerque observed the oral argument in a case involving a student alleging a violation of the New Mexico Human Rights Act. The Supreme Court and the attorneys in the case also answered questions from selected students.

The Proclamation recognizing Law Day also honors the contributions of those who tirelessly worked to safeguard the rule of law and protect the rights and freedoms of everyone. "We reaffirm our commitment to promoting awareness and understanding of the rule of law among all members of our society, fostering a culture of respect for legal principles and institutions; and we acknowledge the ongoing efforts to address challenges to the rule of law and to promote justice and equality, regardless of race,

gender, religion, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status," said Chief Justice Thomson.

The history of Law Day dates to 1958 when President Eisenhower proclaimed May 1 as Law Day to honor the rule of law.

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