



In the Supreme Court of the State of New Mexico

2026 LAW DAY RECOGNITION

Sixty-eight years ago, President Eisenhower proclaimed May 1st “Law Day” as a day to honor the rule of law, a cornerstone of the foundation of the United States of America. In 1961, Congress issued a joint resolution formally designating May 1st as Law Day “to foster a full understanding and appreciation of our liberties and of the legal and judicial institutions which protect them.”

This year marks the 68th annual celebration of Law Day with the theme, “The Rule of Law and the American Dream.” The rule of law—the foundational principle that no person is above the law—safeguards the rights and freedoms of all individuals and ensures every person has the opportunity to pursue their dreams.

The Supreme Court of New Mexico encourages recognition of Law Day on May 1, 2026, and invites all to reflect on the essential role the rule of law plays in securing the promise of the American Dream. As proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence, all individuals are endowed with certain unalienable rights and chief among them are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The rule of law gives these ideals practical meaning by ensuring that laws are fair, publicized, and evenly enforced, and that both government and individuals are held accountable under them.

Here, in the Land of Enchantment, Law Day is an opportunity to reflect on how the rule of law shapes both our state and our nation. It is a time to recognize the critical role of the judiciary in upholding justice and preserving democratic values. Courts across New Mexico and our nation serve as guardians of those rights and as interpreters

of both state and federal law—ensuring our freedoms are not only protected, but meaningfully applied.

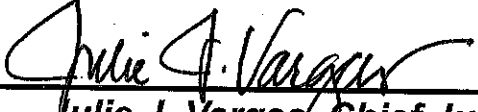
On Law Day 2026, the Judiciary renews its unwavering commitment to promoting public understanding of the law and justice system. At a time when both the Rule of Law and the American Dream face significant challenges, their continued strength and vitality depends on an informed and engaged public.

The rule of law is essential to political liberty, social equality, and shared prosperity. It ensures no individual or institution stands above the law, that all persons, regardless of their status, are treated equally under the law, and that no one is deprived of liberty or property without due process.

Today, and every day, let us recognize the law not merely as a system of rules, but as a living promise—one that binds us together, empowers us equally, and reminds us that a just society is governed by law.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Julie J. Vargas, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New Mexico, do hereby recognize Friday, May 1, 2026, as Law Day, and I urge the legal professionals of New Mexico to recognize and participate in the observance of this designated day by renewing their commitment to civics education by engaging our youth in understanding the rule of law.

DONE in Santa Fe, New Mexico, this 20th day of April, 2026.



Julie J. Vargas, Chief Justice