

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

2 **April 21, 2020**

3 **NO. 20-8500-011**

4 **IN THE MATTER OF THE**
5 **ISSUANCE OF LAW LICENSES**
6 **OF LIMITED DURATION TO APPLICANTS**
7 **TO THE NEW MEXICO BAR CERTIFIED FOR ADMISSION**
8 **BY THE NEW MEXICO BOARD OF BAR EXAMINERS**
9 **DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

10 **ORDER**

11 WHEREAS, the large group swearing-in ceremony previously scheduled for
12 April 29, 2020, for applicants to the New Mexico Bar certified for admission by
13 the New Mexico Board of Bar Examiners cannot take place in light of the current
14 gathering restrictions required as a result of the current public health emergency
15 caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

16 WHEREAS, in light of the foregoing, and the Court wishing to provide an
17 alternative method for allowing applicants to the New Mexico Bar to practice law
18 under a New Mexico law license of limited duration without requiring an in-person
19 ceremony until a large group swearing-in ceremony can be rescheduled and safely
20 held without violating the current public health emergency gathering restrictions
21 and being sufficiently advised, Chief Justice Judith K. Nakamura, Justice Barbara

1 J. Vigil, Justice Michael E. Vigil, Justice C. Shannon Bacon, and Justice David K.
2 Thomson concurring;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that applicants to the New Mexico
4 Bar certified for admission by the Board of Bar Examiners may receive a law
5 license of limited duration, subject to the following conditions:

6 1. A law license of limited duration issued under the terms of this order
7 shall permit the practice of law under the same conditions imposed on other active
8 status attorneys licensed in New Mexico, including but not limited to compliance
9 with the Rules of Professional Conduct and Rules Governing Discipline;

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11 2. Any attorney issued a law license of limited duration pursuant to this
12 order shall attend the next swearing-in ceremony scheduled by the Court, the date
13 yet to be determined, for an in-person administration of the attorney's oath and to
14 sign of the official Roll of Attorneys.

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16 3. Failure to comply with the foregoing requirements will result in the
17 immediate termination of the attorney's law license of limited duration and will
18 require an updated character and fitness investigation and recertification by the
19 Board of Bar Examiners for regular admission unless, upon a showing of
20 extraordinary circumstances and approval of the Court, the attorney is granted an
21 extension of the law license of limited duration until the next available swearing-in
22 ceremony; and

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24 4. Any applicant wishing to receive a law license of limited duration
25 pursuant to this order shall submit an application to the Clerk of Court in a form
26 and as directed by the Executive Director of the Board of Bar Examiner.

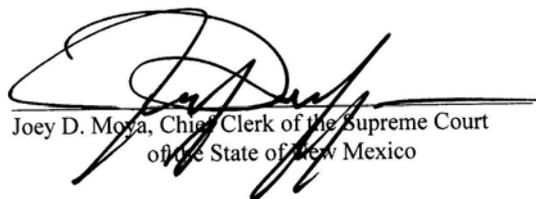
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28 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of Court may issue a law license
29 of limited duration to any applicant who complies with the requirements of this
30 order and shall notify the holders of such licenses when the date for the next

1 swearing-in ceremony is set.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



WITNESS, the Honorable Judith K. Nakamura, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New Mexico, and the seal of said Court this 21st day of April, 2020.


Joey D. Moya, Chief Clerk of the Supreme Court
of the State of New Mexico

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