

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

2 **June 17, 2022**

3 **NO. 22-8500-029**

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

11
12 **ORDER**

13 WHEREAS, due to social distancing requirements imposed during the
14 COVID-19 pandemic, the Court issued Order No. 20-8500-011 on April 21, 2020,
15 cancelling the large group swearing-in ceremony previously set for April 29, 2020,
16 for applicants to the New Mexico State Bar certified for admission by the New
17 Mexico Board of Bar Examiners;

18 WHEREAS, Order No. 20-8500-011 also provided an alternative method for
19 allowing applicants to the New Mexico State Bar to practice law under a New
20 Mexico law license without requiring an in-person ceremony until a large group
21 swearing-in ceremony could be rescheduled and held safely in light of the public
22 health concerns caused by the COVID-19 pandemic;

1 WHEREAS, due to continued public health concerns caused by the COVID-
2 19 pandemic, applicants have been admitted to the New Mexico State Bar without a
3 large group swearing-in ceremony since on or before April 21, 2020, through the
4 present day;

5 WHEREAS, the Court permitted all such applicants to satisfy the in-person
6 requirement to take the attorney's oath by returning a signed copy of the attorney's
7 oath to the Clerk of Court;

8 WHEREAS, the Court notified all such applicants in writing that when public
9 health conditions permit, they would be required to sign the Roll of Attorneys in
10 person and to make travel arrangements as necessary;

11 WHEREAS, beginning in February of 2022, the Clerk of Court has been
12 soliciting and scheduling appointments for attorneys admitted to the State Bar of
13 New Mexico during the COVID-19 pandemic to sign the Roll of Attorneys at a
14 mutually convenient location in Santa Fe or Albuquerque;

15 WHEREAS, a substantial number of the affected attorneys have not availed
16 themselves of the opportunity to sign the Roll of Attorneys at a mutually convenient
17 location; and

1 WHEREAS, the Court having considered the foregoing and being sufficiently
2 advised, Chief Justice C. Shannon Bacon, Justice Michael E. Vigil, Justice David K.
3 Thomson, Justice Julie J. Vargas, and Justice Briana H. Zamora concurring;

4 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the status of the law license of any active
5 attorney admitted to the State Bar of New Mexico since April 21, 2020, shall remain
6 active and unrestricted and shall not be affected by this order, subject to the
7 following requirements:

8 (1) Any attorney issued a law license since April 21, 2020, who has not
9 signed the Roll of Attorneys **shall appear in-person** and **sign** the Roll of
10 Attorneys at the Clerk's Office of the New Mexico Supreme Court, 237 Don
11 Gaspar Ave. Santa Fe, New Mexico, which is open to the public from 8:00
12 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding
13 legal holidays;

14 (2) Failure to sign the Roll of Attorneys within one year of this order will
15 result in the **immediate suspension** of the attorney's law license, and will
16 require an updated character and fitness investigation and recertification by
17 the Board of Bar Examiners for regular admission unless, upon a showing of
18 extraordinary circumstances, the Court waives such requirements; and

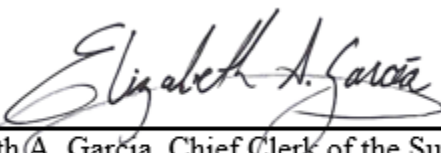
1 (3) The one-year deadline set forth in this order shall not apply to present
2 or future applicants who have not been admitted to the State Bar of New
3 Mexico as of the date of this order.

4 IT IS SO ORDERED.



6 WITNESS, the Honorable C. Shannon Bacon, Chief
7 Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New Mexico,
8 and the seal of said Court this 17th day of June, 2022.

9



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