



1           WHEREAS, the Chief Judges Council and Court Executive Officers Council  
2 having collaborated to present this Court with a set of recommendations to rescind  
3 Supreme Court Order Nos. 19-8500-001, 19-8500-002, and 19-8500-003, and issue  
4 new orders to address the statewide administrative consolidation of the district and  
5 magistrate courts in each judicial district; and

6           WHEREAS, in light of the foregoing, and being sufficiently advised, Chief  
7 Justice C. Shannon Bacon, Justice Michael E. Vigil, Justice David K. Thomson,  
8 Justice Julie J. Vargas, and Justice Briana H. Zamora concurring;

9           NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that Supreme Court Order No. 19-  
10 8500-003, *In the Matter of the Effective Administration of the Magistrate Court*  
11 *System in New Mexico*, filed on April 12, 2019, is RESCINDED;

12           IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the district court chief judges shall continue  
13 to have the power to require magistrate judges in their respective judicial districts  
14 who are ill, either for an extended period of time or for repeated periods of time, to  
15 provide a doctor's statement giving both the diagnosis and the prognosis for the  
16 magistrate, so that the district court chief judge may plan for coverage of the  
17 magistrate judge's court. It shall be within the discretion of the district court chief  
18 judge to decide what constitutes an extended period of time or repeated periods of  
19 time;

1           IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the district court chief judges in each  
2 judicial district shall continue to have the following powers with respect to  
3 magistrate judges in their respective judicial districts: (1) Authority to counsel a  
4 magistrate judge and (2) Authority to issue a written warning to a magistrate judge  
5 detailing why the judge's behavior is inappropriate. Should a magistrate judge's  
6 behavior persist after the district court chief judge takes the above actions, or if the  
7 magistrate judge's behavior is sufficiently serious to justify skipping any or all of  
8 the above actions, the district court chief judge shall refer the magistrate judge's  
9 conduct to the Judicial Standards Commission;

10           IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the district court chief judge in each judicial  
11 district may consult with a committee of five current or retired magistrate judges,  
12 the Magistrate Judges Advisory Committee, appointed by this Court. This  
13 committee shall function in an advisory capacity to the district court chief judge in  
14 each judicial district. Committee members shall assist the chief judge in each  
15 judicial district in counseling and mentoring magistrate judges on particular issues,  
16 either in the form of telephone calls or personal visits; and

17           IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the district court chief judge in each  
18 judicial district has discretion to require that any magistrate judge within the chief

1 judge's judicial district, whether new to the office or not, shall work with another  
2 magistrate as a mentor for a period not exceeding six (6) months.

3 IT IS SO ORDERED.



4 WITNESS, the Honorable C. Shannon Bacon, Chief  
5 Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New Mexico,  
6 and the seal of said Court this 2nd day of February, 2024.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth A. Garcia".

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

I CERTIFY AND ATTEST:

A true copy was served on all parties  
or their counsel of record on date filed.

Elizabeth A. Garcia

Chief Clerk of the Supreme Court  
of the State of New Mexico