

1 efforts to expand access to justice in New Mexico by allowing court staff to assist
2 self-represented litigants in need of assistance with filling out court forms, including
3 those who (1) have a disability recognized by the Americans with Disabilities Act
4 of 1990, 42 U.S.C. § 12101, et seq., (2) have limited English proficiency under Title
5 VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000, et seq., or (3) have low literacy
6 or otherwise cannot read or complete court forms;

7 WHEREAS, on November 9, 2022, on the recommendation of the Office of
8 the Statewide ADA Title II Coordinator of the New Mexico Administrative Office
9 of the Courts, the Court approved the expansion of the scribing program in any
10 magistrate, metropolitan, or district court opting to participate through Order No.
11 22-8500-036, *In the Matter of Expansion of the Scribing Program to Permit Court*
12 *Staff to Assist Eligible Self-Represented Litigants with Filling Out Court Forms*;

13 WHEREAS, under the expansion of the scribing program, eligible self-
14 represented litigants included: (1) individuals who cannot read a printed or electronic
15 document in English, (2) individuals who cannot write because of a disability, or (3)
16 individuals with low literacy, low computer literacy, or limited English proficiency;

17 WHEREAS, in light of the foregoing, and the Court having considered the
18 positive community impact of the scribing program and being otherwise sufficiently

1 advised, Chief Justice C. Shannon Bacon, Justice Michael E. Vigil, Justice David K.
2 Thomson, Justice Julie J. Vargas, and Justice Briana H. Zamora concurring;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the scribing program shall be
4 implemented in all state courts effective June 1, 2024, and Supreme Court Order
5 Nos. 17-8500-022 and 22-8500-036 are WITHDRAWN and SUPERSEDED by this
6 order;

7 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, effective immediately, the Office of the
8 Statewide ADA Title II Coordinator of the New Mexico Administrative Office of
9 the Courts, in coordination with all state courts, shall implement the program to train
10 and permit court staff to read and fill in the blanks of court forms in litigants' exact
11 words on behalf of self-represented litigants;

12 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any self-represented litigant may use the
13 services provided by the scribing program;

14 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the implementation of the scribing program
15 shall proceed in accordance with procedures and court staff training as
16 recommended by the Office of the Statewide ADA Title II Coordinator of the New
17 Mexico Administrative Office of the Courts;

1 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that courts shall implement the scribing
2 program by coordinating with the Office of the Statewide ADA Title II Coordinator
3 of the New Mexico Administrative Office of the Courts on or before June 1, 2024;

4 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that amendments to Rule 23-113 shall be
5 APPROVED by concurrently issued Supreme Court Order No. S-1-RCR-2024-
6 00064.

7 IT IS SO ORDERED.



8 WITNESS, the Honorable C. Shannon Bacon, Chief
9 Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New Mexico,
10 and the seal of said Court this 27th day of February, 2024.

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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