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

**February 20, 2026**

**NO. S-1-AO-2026-00003**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPARENT  
MISUSE OF EXCUSAL PROCEDURE  
UNDER RULE 10-162 NMRA BY  
ATTORNEY LAUREN E. A. TEMPLE**

**ORDER**

WHEREAS, this matter came on for consideration by Chief Justice Thomson upon written notice and request of Fifth Judicial District Court Chief Judge Lisa B. Riley pursuant to Rule 10-162(D) NMRA and response thereto;

WHEREAS, this Court ordered the Clerk of the Fifth Judicial District Court to provide information related to JQ cases assigned to Judge Eileen P. Riordan and excusals by Attorney Lauren E. A. Temple;

WHEREAS, the information was provided to the Court on February 17, 2026;

WHEREAS, under Rule 10-162(D), “[t]he Chief Justice may take appropriate action to address any misuse, including issuance of an order providing that the attorney or attorneys or any party they represent may not file excusals for a specified period of time or until further order of the Chief Justice”;

WHEREAS, Chief Justice Thomson having considered the foregoing and being sufficiently advised;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that Attorney Lauren E. A. Temple  
2 shall not file notices of excusal under Rule 10-162 against Judge Eileen P. Riordan  
3 in any case, effective IMMEDIATELY, and for a period of sixty (60) days, which  
4 shall expire on April 21, 2026;

5 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if after the sixty (60)-day period, the  
6 district court determines that excusals by Attorney Lauren E. A. Temple continue  
7 to impede the work of the court and the administration of justice, the court may,  
8 upon a proper showing of misuse of excusals, provide written notice under Rule  
9 10-162; and

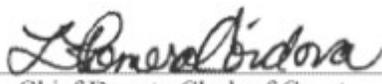
10 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any grievances with Judge Riordan's  
11 rulings should be addressed through the appellate process, *see* N.M. Const. art. VI,  
12 § 27.

13 IT IS SO ORDERED.



WITNESS, the Honorable David K. Thomson, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New Mexico, and the seal of said Court this 20th day of February, 2026.

Elizabeth A. Garcia, Clerk of Court  
Supreme Court of New Mexico

By   
Chief Deputy Clerk of Court

I CERTIFY AND ATTEST:  
A true copy was served on all parties  
or their counsel of record on date filed.  
Lysette Romero Cordova  
Chief Deputy Clerk of the Supreme Court  
of the State of New Mexico