

Who Can Participate

Middle school, high school, and college students who are interested in:

- Civics
- Government
- U.S. History

Schools and educators across New Mexico are invited to participate.

Learn More

Scan to access case materials, classroom toolkits, lesson plans, a legal glossary, discussion guides, livestream access, and program updates.



Participate by Contacting Us



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THE NEW MEXICO SUPREME COURT RULE OF LAW PROGRAM



CIVICS EDUCATION IN ACTION

Observe judicial proceedings to see firsthand how courts uphold democracy



About the Program

The Rule of Law Program is a civics education initiative of the New Mexico Supreme Court that gives students the opportunity to see the judicial system in action.

Students observe real appellate court proceedings and connect classroom civics learning to how courts protect rights, interpret laws, and uphold democracy.

Students gain an understanding of:

- How the judicial branch works
- How appellate courts review cases
- The role of oral arguments
- How court decisions impact people and communities
- Why the rule of law matters in a democracy

Why This Experience Matters

Students don't just read about government — they see it function firsthand.

Through the Rule of Law Program, students connect classroom civics to the real judicial process and witness how courts shape our democracy.



Understand how courts interpret the law



See how rights and due process are protected



Experience judicial proceedings firsthand



Connect civics learning to real-world government

How Schools Can Participate

Schools can participate by requesting information about student observation opportunities, locations, classroom preparation materials, and accessibility or language supports. Educators may also access case resources, lesson plans, and discussion guides to support learning before and after the experience.

For more information or to express interest, please email Tamara Mitchell at suptdm@nmcourts.gov

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“By bringing the courts directly to our students, we expand access to civics education and empower our youth to understand, and therefore value and uphold the principles of fairness and equality.”

— Hon. David K. Thomson
Chief Justice, New Mexico Supreme Court

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