



Supreme Court of New Mexico

CHIEF JUSTICE
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August 6, 2009

The Hon. Raymond Z. Ortiz, First Judicial District
The Hon. Clay P. Campbell, Second Judicial District
The Hon. Fernando R. Macias, Third Judicial District
The Hon. Michael T. Murphy, Third Judicial District
The Hon. Eugenio S. Mathis, Fourth Judicial District
The Hon. Steven Bell, Fifth Judicial District, Chavez County
The Hon. Jane Shuler Gray, Fifth Judicial District, Eddy County
The Hon. Don Maddox, Fifth Judicial District, Lea County
The Hon. Henry R. Quintero, Sixth Judicial District
Mr. Mark Anthony Baca, Esq., Seventh Judicial District
The Hon. Sam B. Sanchez, Eighth Judicial District
Ms. Sue B. McDowell, Esq., Eighth Judicial District
The Hon. Teddy Hartley, Ninth Judicial District
The Hon. Albert Mitchell, Tenth Judicial District
The Hon. Grant L. Foutz, Eleventh Judicial District, McKinley County
Ms. Cindy Gray, Esq., Eleventh Judicial District, San Juan County
The Hon. James W. Counts, Twelfth Judicial District
The Hon. John F. Davis, Thirteenth Judicial District
Ms. Crystal Hyer, Esq., Thirteenth Judicial District

Dear Chairmen and Chairwomen of Judicial District Pro Bono Committees;

Your Pro Bono Committee and others throughout New Mexico have been developing and implementing projects over the past two years with impressive results. We thank you and applaud your work. But we must do more.

The Supreme Court and the Access to Justice Commission want to recognize the efforts of your committee members and the volunteers you have recruited to provide assistance to low income people by participating in a national initiative called "Celebrate Pro Bono Week" to be celebrated October 25 - 31, 2009. This week would involve recognition events, media coverage of pro bono activities, and pro bono activities "in action." By participating in this national event, local committees can take advantage of broad media attention to showcase work being done at the local level. More importantly, local events during the week will generate broader

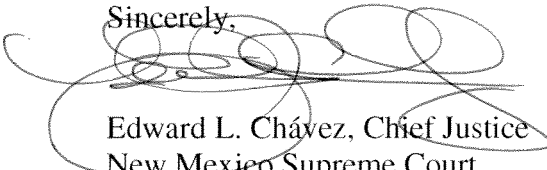
interest and support among local bar members.

We strongly encourage you to plan community education events and other pro bono activities that provide help to the community while bringing our pro bono efforts into the spotlight. Enclosed with this letter is an outline of a schedule of activities that embodies the spirit of community and pro bono work over the last two years. Please consider these ideas and join in a statewide movement to "Celebrate Pro Bono." Members of the Access to Justice Commission are also available to assist you.


We are committed to attending these events and to help celebrate and recognize volunteers across the state. Please select a date for your event and notify Nita Taylor, at ntaylor@nmbar.org, by September 1, 2009. You will be notified which Justice or Court of Appeals Judge will attend your event.

We look forward to working with you on your celebration. Again, thank you for all of your efforts to address the legal needs of individuals who do not have access or resources.

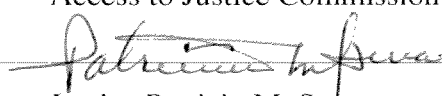
Sincerely,



Edward L. Chávez, Chief Justice
New Mexico Supreme Court




Justice Petra Maes, Co-chair,
Access to Justice Commission



Justice Patricio M. Serna
New Mexico Supreme Court



Justice Richard C. Bosson
New Mexico Supreme Court



Justice Charles W. Daniels
New Mexico Supreme Court



National Pro Bono Celebration – October 25-31, 2009

The American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service has used www.probono.net as the focal information point for information sharing in the build-up to the National Pro Bono Celebration this October.

The URL for the this site is <http://www.probono.net/celebrateprobono/>

Goals for the celebration include:

1. Recognizing the pro bono efforts of America's lawyers
2. Recruiting more pro bono volunteers
3. Mobilizing community support for pro bono.

To this end, each Local Pro Bono Committee of New Mexico's Access to Justice Commission has the opportunity to create celebration events tailored to the needs and interests of its judicial district.

Where? At courthouse during lunch hours if open to the public during that time; at public schools after school hours; and at senior centers—all places that should be fully ADA-accessible.

Who? Any local attorneys and judges who are interested—including district attorneys, municipal attorneys, and public defenders.

What? The strongest celebrations will both recognize attorneys and others who have been champions of pro bono services and also provide a service or information to people in need of pro bono services. The toolkit on the web site above provides ample information on releasing press releases and other forms of advertising. Possible activities include:

- Volunteer advice-only clinics on topics such as child support or bankruptcy
- Public information lectures on issues such as powers of attorney, grandparent's rights, special education, or identity theft
- Workshops in conjunction with local representatives from clinics or legal services providers
- Training programs for lawyers interested in volunteering as pro bono counsel

We encourage each Local Pro Bono Committee to register your celebration activity on the Celebrate Pro Bono web site.