

ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

*Kathleen J. Gibson*  
Clerk of the Supreme Court  
of the State of New Mexico

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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW MEXICO

NO. 04-8300

SUPREME COURT OF NEW MEXICO

**FILED**

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE  
NEW MEXICO COMMISSION ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE

MAY 28 2004

ORDER

*Kathleen J. Gibson*

WHEREAS, this matter came on for consideration by the Court upon recommendation of the Civil Legal Services and Program Committee of the State Bar of New Mexico to create a New Mexico Commission on Access to Justice;

WHEREAS, approximately one quarter of the population in New Mexico lives at or below the federal poverty standard for receiving legal services assistance;

WHEREAS, New Mexicans living in poverty have a variety of legal needs in areas such as family law, housing, consumer affairs, employment, health, community issues, wills, and public benefits;

WHEREAS, by some estimates at least 60% of the legal needs of those living in poverty are unmet;

WHEREAS, New Mexico ranks among the bottom twenty states in spending on legal services per poor person;

WHEREAS, the inability of poor people to gain meaningful access to the civil justice system is of concern to this Court, the judiciary, the legal profession, and the citizenry of the State;

WHEREAS, this Court is committed to the ideals expressed by Justice Lewis Powell, Jr., that equal justice under law is not merely a caption on the facade of the Supreme Court building; it is fundamental that justice should be available without regard to economic status; and the Court having considered said recommendation and

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being sufficiently advised, Chief Justice Petra Jimenez Maes, Justice Pamela B. Minzner, Justice Patricio M. Serna, Justice Richard C. Bosson, and Justice Edward L. Chávez concurring;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the New Mexico Commission on Access to Justice HEREBY IS ESTABLISHED as an independent, statewide body dedicated to expanding and improving civil legal assistance in New Mexico;

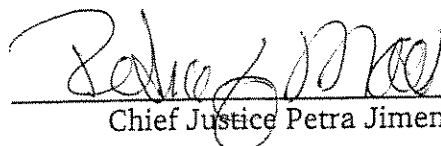
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Commission shall consider relevant topics, including expansion of resources, increased public awareness through communications and message development, pro bono matters, and other areas including training and technology;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the New Mexico Commission on Access to Justice shall meet to organize and meet, thereafter, as necessary at the call of the co-chair persons or at the request of a majority of the committee members; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Commission shall be composed of eighteen (18) members representative of the bar, judiciary, and legal aid providers.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Done at Santa Fe, New Mexico, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2004.

  
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Chief Justice Petra Jimenez Maes

  
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Justice Pamela B. Minzner

  
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Justice Patricio M. Serna

  
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Justice Richard C. Bosson

  
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Justice Edward L. Chavez