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In the Supreme Court of the State of New Mexico

LAW DAY RECOGNITION - LAW DAY 2018

Law Day began 60 years ago, with a proclamation from President Eisenhower. That first proclamation eloquently set forth the reasons why we, as a free people, celebrate our heritage of liberty under law.

President Eisenhower noted that it was “fitting that the people of this nation should remember with pride and vigilantly guard the great heritage of liberty, justice, and equality under law that our forefathers bequeathed to us.” Further, he said that it is “our moral and civic obligation as free [people] and as Americans to preserve and strengthen that great heritage.”

In celebrating Law Day this year, let us dedicate ourselves to the great values protected and preserved in our Constitution.

And, at the same time, let us recognize that democracy is not static, that we must always work to improve and perfect it. Let us seek to draw ever closer to the ideal hand carved into the woodwork above the bench of the Supreme Court of New Mexico: “Dedicated to the Administration of Equal Justice Under Law.”

Let us resolve that Law Day be an opportunity for all of us, in government and the private sector, to examine our efforts to make equal justice a reality, and to work together to reach that goal.

For more than 100 years, America’s charitable institutions and foundations, its lawyers and its courts, and countless others have worked to bring equal justice to as many people as possible.

Law Day 2018 is an opportune time to recognize the work of those who try to make courts accessible and justice equal:

Legal services organizations who provide legal services to those unable to afford them;

Pro Bono Publico programs under which private lawyers accept worthy

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cases at no fee;

Lawyer referral programs that help people find appropriate legal services;

Court programs designed to inform the public about laws and legal procedures, provide interpreters for those who need them, and generally make courts accessible.

We salute these efforts, but let us offer greater support to those who work daily to provide legal services to those who most need them. Let us dedicate ourselves to improving our courts and our justice system, so that we will truly have “justice for all.”

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Judith K. Nakamura, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New Mexico, do hereby recognize Tuesday, May 1, 2018, as Law Day, and I urge the legal professionals of New Mexico to recognize and participate in the observance of this the designated day.

DONE in Santa Fe, New Mexico, this 23rd day of April, 2018.

/s/
Judith K. Nakamura, Chief Justice