

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

2   **June 26, 2023**

3  
4                   **NO. 23-8500-DS**

5  
6                   **IN THE MATTER OF THE DESIGNATION**  
7                   **OF DISTRICT COURT JUDGES WHEN A**  
8                   **FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE**  
9                   **OR EMPLOYEE, OR EMPLOYEE’S MINOR**  
10                   **CHILD, SEEKS RELIEF UNDER THE**  
11                   **FAMILY VIOLENCE PROTECTION ACT**

12   **STANDING DESIGNATION ORDER**

13  
14                   WHEREAS, in the best interests of judicial economy and the expeditious  
15                   disposition of cases, the Chief Justice has previously determined that standing orders  
16                   were necessary to designate out-of-district judges to preside over cases involving  
17                   judicial employees seeking relief under the Family Violence Protection Act;  
18                   judicial employees seeking relief under the Family Violence Protection Act;

19                   WHEREAS, the last standing order designating out-of-district judges for  
20                   cases involving judicial employees seeking relief under the Family Violence  
21                   Protection Act in the Fourth Judicial District Court was issued by the Chief Justice  
22                   on March 20, 2018, which was to remain in full force and effect until such time as it  
23                   was modified or withdrawn by the Chief Justice;

1           WHEREAS, the need for a standing designation order continues to exist with  
2 modifications to reallocate out-of-district designations among sitting district court  
3 judges; and

4           WHEREAS, the Chief Justice having determined that it would be in the best  
5 interests of judicial economy to amend the March 20, 2018, order to include the  
6 designation of out-of-district judges when a Fourth Judicial District judge or  
7 employee's minor child seeks relief under the Family Violence Protection Act;

8           NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the March 20, 2018, order  
9 designating out-of-district judges for cases involving judicial employees seeking  
10 relief under the Family Violence Protection Act in the Fourth Judicial District Court  
11 is superseded by this order;

12           IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Eighth Judicial District Court Judge  
13 Melissa A. Kennelly's successor is designated to preside over all cases involving  
14 judicial employees, or their minor children, in San Miguel County or Mora County  
15 filed under the Family Violence Protection Act; if Judge Kennelly's successor is  
16 unavailable, then Eighth Judicial District Court Judge Emilio J. Chavez is designated  
17 to preside over all such cases; and, if Judge Chavez is unavailable, then Eighth  
18 Judicial District Court Judge Jeffrey A. Shannon is designated to preside over all  
19 such cases;

1           IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Ninth Judicial District Court Judge  
2 Benjamin S. Cross is designated to preside over all cases involving judicial  
3 employees, or their minor children, in Guadalupe County filed under the Family  
4 Violence Protection Act; if Judge Cross is unavailable, then Ninth Judicial District  
5 Court Judge David P. Reeb, Jr. is designated to preside over all such cases; if Judge  
6 Reeb is unavailable, then Ninth Judicial District Court Judge Fred Van Soelen is  
7 designated to preside over all such cases; and if Judge Soelen is unavailable, then  
8 Ninth Judicial District Court Judge Drew Tatum is designated to preside over all  
9 such cases;

10           IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the replacement of any judge designated  
11 under the terms of this order shall result in the automatic substitution of that judge's  
12 successor in office until further order of this Court;

13           IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any judge designated under the terms of  
14 this order may be reimbursed for mileage and per diem, provided that such costs are  
15 paid directly by the Fourth Judicial District Court; and

16           IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this order is effective June 26, 2023, and  
17 shall remain in full force and effect until such time as it is modified or withdrawn by  
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1 the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

2 DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico, this 26th day of June 2023.

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5 C. Shannon Bacon, Chief Justice

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