



# Supreme Court Law Library

Newsletter | May 2023 | Volume 4 Issue 5

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### *Our Mission*

*The mission of the Supreme Court Law Library is to provide and produce legal information for the judicial, legislative, and executive branches of state government, the legal community, and the public at large so they may have equal access to the law, effectively address the courts, make laws and write regulations, better understand the legal system, and conduct their affairs in accordance with the principles of law.*

## THE LAW LIBRARY: FY2023 — 3rd QUARTER SERVICES & STATISTICS SNAPSHOT

By Stephanie Wilson, State Law Librarian

The New Mexico Supreme Court Law Library is a public library that is open to all and serves the Judiciary, government, and people of New Mexico. During the third quarter of FY23 (January - March), the Library staff focused its work in ways that benefit our statewide and local service communities. Highlights include:

- **Responding to requests for information from people who walked in (36.8%), called (21.9%), emailed (15.9%), and mailed (26.3%) for help with legal research, forms, library cards, document delivery, and other library services.** People from across New Mexico, including the judicial, legislative, and executive branches, other libraries, inmates in county, state, and federal correctional facilities, lawyers and law firms, and members of the public, contacted the Law Library for information and help with their legal questions. At the Reference Desk, our law librarians and reference attorney:
  - conducted 817 reference interactions
  - responded to 217 letters from prisoners
  - registered 12 new patrons for library cards
  - handled 269 circulation transactions
  - referred 227 people to other courts and legal service organizations
  - received 278 patrons who were referred to us by other courts and organizations
- **Updating the Library's collection of print and electronic resources with recent publications and supplements and enhancing library catalog records.** During the 3rd quarter of FY23, library staff:
  - received and processed 1,033 items of mail
  - cataloged 365 new titles
  - updated 917 existing bibliographic records
  - added 694 new items
  - received 446 new federal publications in print and microfiche free via the Federal Depository Library Program

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- \* logged 22+ hours updating books with loose-leaf filing and supplements

The Library acquired new print and digital material from such publishers as Practicing Law Institute (PLI), West Academic, Nolo Press, LexisNexis eBooks, Matthew Bender, National Consumer Law Center, Government Publishing Office (GPO), and HeinOnline. Check the monthly [New Titles List](#) that is posted on the Library's online catalog for more information.

- **Promoting the Law Library and engaging in community outreach.** The State Law Librarian participated in virtual and in-person meetings of the New Mexico Commission of Public Records, the Supreme Court's Equity & Justice Commission, and the First Judicial District Court's Access to Justice Committee. The Library staff posted weekly on the Library's Twitter account and published three issues of the Library's monthly newsletter. We also conducted eight tours of the Library for schools, members of the public, state agency staff, and community groups. The Library served as a place for members of the public and court staff to watch the Supreme Court's livestreamed oral arguments.
- **Providing access to online legal research information and services for the Judiciary, the legal community, and the general public.** The Library staff maintained the Library's website with links to statutes, rules, regulations, forms, cases, and other resources. The Library's public computers were used by 55 patrons for free access to specialized research resources including NMOneSource, Westlaw, Lexis Advance, HeinOnline, Gale's Making of Modern Law, ProQuest's Congressional Hearings Digital Collection, LexisNexis Digital Library of law e-books, and legal forms, as well as general resources such as the Internet, email, word processing software, and printing. ■

## LAW LIBRARY SERVICES

The Supreme Court Law Library is a public law library serving New Mexicans statewide.



- Our Reference team welcomes your questions! We can assist you by walk-in, telephone at (505) 827-4850, or email at [libref@nmcourts.gov](mailto:libref@nmcourts.gov).
- Law Library hours are Monday – Friday 8:00-12:00 and 1:00-5:00. The Library is closed 12-1.
- The Law Library has books, forms, government documents, online resources, public computers, and internet access for researching the law, locating government information, and conducting other research.
- Visit our website at <https://lawlibrary.nmcourts.gov>
- Follow us [@NM\\_LawLibrary](#) on Twitter!

# LAW DAY 2023

By Cassandra Wenzel

Law Day has been commemorated every year on May 1<sup>st</sup> since [1958](#) and was recognized by a joint resolution (Public Law 87-20) in Congress in [1961](#). In [Proclamation 3221](#), President Dwight D. Eisenhower announced that the first Law day would be held on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1958. The proclamation also noted that the United States had a system of government under rule of law that was distinguished from a government “that rules by might alone” and that better understanding the rule of law would benefit both the United States and the world at large. This proclamation is also available in the Public Papers of the Presidents, in [print](#) and [electronically](#). The 2023 Presidential Proclamation is available on the White House Briefing Room website [here](#). To commemorate Law Day, the Law Library and the Supreme Court held a celebration for Law Day 2023, for which the theme was [Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility, and Collaboration](#).



Supreme Court Law Library display for Law Day 2023 from second floor Gallery room entrance. The Proclamation is framed with the Law Day poster at the entrance to the room.

The American Bar Association (ABA) promoted Law Day via the radio with PSAs using celebrities, politicians, and jurists at least as early as 1968. These figures included President Lyndon B. Johnson, Mickey Mantle, Justice Thurgood Marshall, Earl Morris, Rosalind Russell, and David Scott. Listeners can still hear these [recordings](#). Going back to at least 1969, the American Bar Association has given each Law Day a [theme](#) and 1969’s theme [was](#) “Justice and Equality Depend on Law and YOU!”. Many of these previous themes commemorate milestones in legal history such as 800 years since the Magna Carta (2015), 50 years since *Brown v. Board of Education* (2004), or the Nineteenth Amendment at 100 years (2020). Others ask citizens to think about different amendments to the U.S. Constitution, such as the Fourteenth Amendment and equal protection (2017) or the First Amendment and free speech and free press (2019). Regardless of what the theme might be, Law Day asks citizens to think about what the rule of law means and what it means to live in the United States more broadly.

In New Mexico, the Supreme Court honored Law Day in 2023 with a [proclamation](#) by Chief Justice C. Shannon Bacon. In this proclamation, the Chief Justice rededicated the Supreme Court to the values of equal justice under the law and equal access to justice and recognized the work of the courts and court staff who are already working towards this end. In addition to the proclamation by the Chief Justice, local papers such as the [Los Alamos Daily Post](#) and the [NM Political Report](#) noted the Chief Justice’s proclamation and gave an overview of Law Day for New Mexicans unfamiliar with the commemoration.

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For the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals staff within the building, the Law Library hosted a commemorative celebration with an attendant display, which also served to highlight the Law Library's second floor gallery and exhibit area. This display is the culmination of many hours of work by all of the Library staff, and it utilized several aspects of the Library's collections, including treatises and government documents. The event also allowed the Law Library to display archival materials from the territorial period, as well as territorial-era photos and images as part of a territorial New Mexico display that has been in process for quite some time.

The Supreme Court Law Library has a variety of titles related to the rule of law and law in general available for reading in the Library and potentially available for check out with a library card. Titles in honor of Law Day are also included on the Law Day Special Titles list, available to view [here](#). Please contact us if you have questions or if you would like assistance locating any of our resources. ■

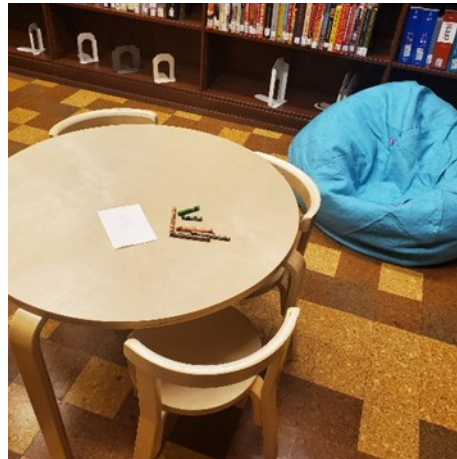


Law Day staff event in the Law Library.



# WELCOME TO THE LIBRARY'S GENERAL INTEREST AREA

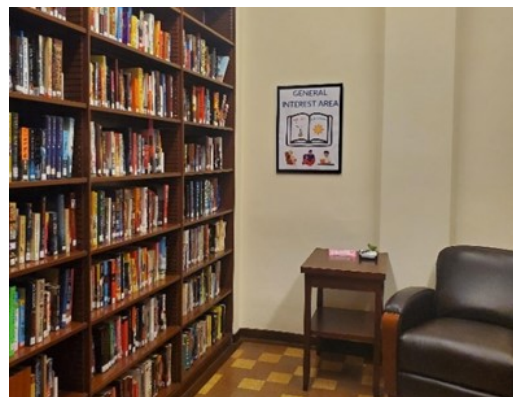
By Rebecca Potance



The staff of the New Mexico Supreme Court Law Library are pleased to unveil our newly enhanced General Interest Area! For the past several years, we have been adding more books and resources for children and young adults whose parents and caregivers bring them to the library with them. In addition, our staff have made the space more family-friendly by adding a child-size table with chairs, coloring materials, and comfortable seating. This alcove also includes novels, short story compilations, and nonfiction books about history, the environment, business, philosophy, and culture.

Literacy is a fundamental skill required for understanding American law and participating in the court system. Unfortunately, many people do not have the knowledge and skills they need to navigate the justice system on their own. Often, people do not come to the Law Library until after a court case has started, and they have a limited amount of time to learn. Courthouses can be intimidating, and people may get frustrated when they do not know what to do. By providing engaging reading material on a variety of subjects, we intend to raise awareness of our resources so that people are prepared before they have an emergency.

The General Interest Area is conveniently located on the first floor of the Law Library in one of the alcoves off the main atrium. Come visit us during our regular business hours Monday through Friday 8 AM – 12 PM and 1 PM – 5PM. New Mexico residents 18 and older can sign up for a library card in order to borrow many of these books. In addition, anyone can request materials from another library that participates in interlibrary loans. If you are interested in a specific title, you can always search our online catalog before coming to the library by going to <https://n10045.eos-intl.net/N10045/OPAC/Index.aspx> or checking the “Quick Links” section of our Law Library website at <https://lawlibrary.nmcourts.gov/>. ■





## “IT STARTS BY SHOWING COMPASSION”

By Kendra Patlak

On April 28, 2023, President Biden [proclaimed](#) May 2023 National Mental Health Awareness Month. His statement contained alarming statistics, such as suicide causing the deaths of “17 veterans a day” and being “the second leading cause of death among young people.” *Id.* The President concluded by calling on “citizens, government agencies, private businesses, nonprofit organizations, and other groups to . . . strengthen the mental health of our communities and our Nation.” *Id.* This article’s title is an excerpt from his advice on how to make “everyone feel[] free to ask for help.” *Id.*

Several federal agencies, including the Department of Health and Human Services ([HHS](#)), the National Institute of Mental Health ([NIMH](#)), and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration ([SAMHSA](#)), have also recognized this May as Mental Health Awareness Month. Many nonprofit organizations and advocacy groups, like Mental Health America ([MHA](#)), the National Alliance on Mental Illness ([NAMI](#)), and the [National Council for Mental Wellbeing](#), are participating as well.



Image via [freepikcompany](#).

During the first week of the month, the State Bar of New Mexico (SBNM) collaborated with the Institute for Well-Being in Law (IWIL) to celebrate “[Well-Being Week In Law](#).” This event name recently replaced “Lawyer Well-Being Week,” as it is “more explicitly inclusive of all of the important contributors to the legal profession who are not lawyers.” *Id.* Each of the five weekdays promoted one area of well-being (physical, spiritual, intellectual, social, and emotional) through specially targeted activities, articles, videos, live webinars, and more.

[IWIL](#) is a “charitable organization that evolved from the National Task Force on Lawyer Well-Being,” which published *The Path to Lawyer Well-Being: Practical Recommendations for Positive Change* in 2017. That report announced results from an American Bar Association (ABA) and Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation study of almost 13,000 active attorneys. Of those surveyed, “between 21 and 36 percent qualif[ied] as problem drinkers” and “approximately 28 percent, 19 percent, and 23 percent [we]re struggling with some level of depression, anxiety, and stress, respectively.” *Id.* at 7. Clearly, lawyers are dealing with a “parade of difficulties,” which is even more reason for them to take time for self-care and well-being.

For this important month, the Supreme Court Law Library created a [Special Titles List](#) of more than ninety books and other resources related to mental health and compiled the following suggestions for further reading, which include, *inter alia*, the [Surgeon General](#)’s “Written Document on Workplace Well-Being.” (See below.) ■



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**Suggestions for Further Reading:**

[Best Practice Guidelines for the Legal Profession](#) from the Tristan Jepson Memorial Foundation (TJMF).

[Framework for Workplace Mental Health & Well-Being](#) (2022) from the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General.

[Law Firm Well-Being Program Benchmarking Report](#) from Aspire.

[Well-Being Toolkit for Lawyers and Legal Employers](#) (2018) from the ABA.

[Wellness Resources](#) from the SBNM Well-Being Committee.



# NEW DISPLAYS IN THE LAW LIBRARY

## Mental Health Awareness Month

1<sup>st</sup> Floor



## Coronation of King Charles III

1<sup>st</sup> Floor





# NEW DISPLAYS IN THE LAW LIBRARY

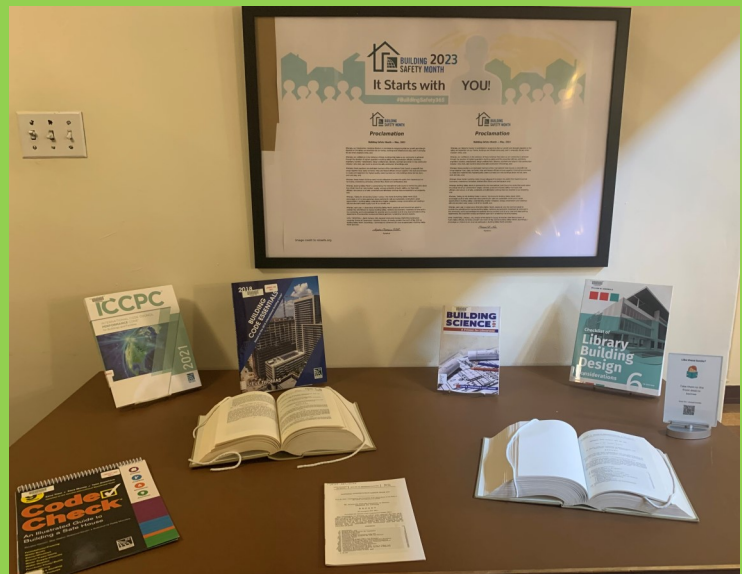
International Day of Families

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor



Building Safety Month

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor



Visit the Law Library:

Supreme Court Building  
237 Don Gaspar  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501



Contact the Law Library:

Phone: (505) 827-4850  
Email: [libref@nmcourts.gov](mailto:libref@nmcourts.gov)  
Web: [lawlibrary.nmcourts.gov](http://lawlibrary.nmcourts.gov)