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LAW LIBRARY PARTICIPATES IN BIENNIAL SURVEY OF DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES

By: Cassandra Wenzel

Every two years, libraries that participate in the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) must complete a survey about their participation in the FDLP. This survey includes the reporting of statistics about the number of materials of different types held by each library as part of the program, how staff devote their time to working with government documents, and other statistical questions. The survey also asks questions of the depository library staff, such as how they would prefer to engage in outreach and training.

As a member of the FDLP, the Supreme Court Law Library is required to respond to the Biennial Survey. The last Biennial Survey was in 2023, which makes 2025 a survey year. We would like to provide more information about the FDLP, GPO, and the Biennial Survey to our patrons.



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 Government Publishing Office (GPO), was founded as the Government Printing Office by the United States Congress in [June of 1860](#) to provide government documents and printing. In December 2014, GPO changed its name to the Government Publishing Office, per Congress. The Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) is part of the GPO and was created by [Congress in 1813](#) to provide libraries, specifically federal depository libraries in the United States and territories administered by the United States, with government documents. This is so the public can access publications created by the U.S. government. Generally, the requirements for federal depository libraries are available at [44 U.S.C. §§1901-1916](#). It is at 44 U.S.C. § 1909 that a requirement for biennial reporting by depository libraries is found.

After completing the biennial survey for 2025, the Supreme Court Law Library reported the following. The Law Library plans to remain a member of the Federal Depository Library Program and to inventory and catalog publications in the government documents collection. Our Law Library holds a combination of

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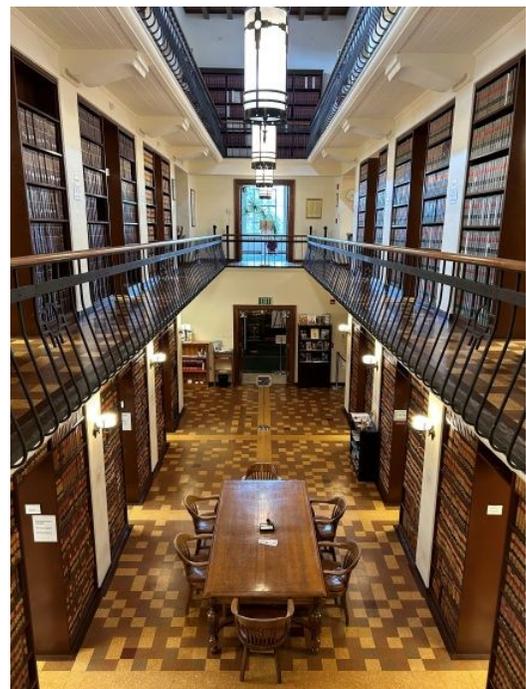
current and older materials and plans to continue doing so. In terms of the amount of material, the print collection consists of approximately 4,995 linear feet of material, the microfiche collection consists of approximately 534 linear feet of material, the maps of approximately 440 sheets of material, and the DVDs and CDs approximately 2 linear feet of material. Around forty percent of the government documents collection is cataloged, much of this on [EOS](#), our online library catalog. The answers above are only a selection of those provided on the Biennial Survey. The full 2025 Biennial Survey data is now available for download at <https://fdlp.gov/news/2025-biennial-survey-data-now-available>.

The Supreme Court Law Library has been a member of the Federal Depository Library Program since the late 1800s, although staff have been unable to determine the year exactly. Our library has a special designation as the highest state appellate court library for New Mexico. The government documents collection contains materials on topics as diverse as national parks, the federal budget, astronomy, and civil rights. For more on government documents and information, ask the Reference Desk or read the Law Library [webpage](#) on the topic. ♦

ABOUT THE SUPREME COURT LAW LIBRARY

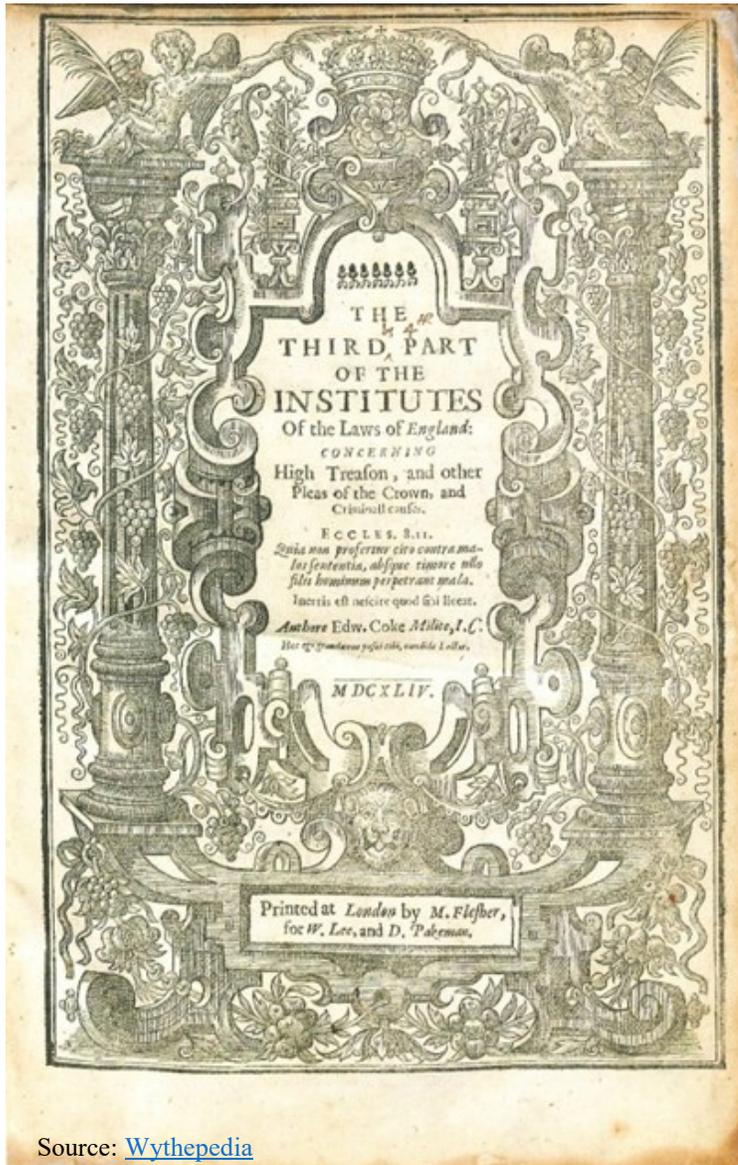
The Supreme Court Law Library is New Mexico's public law library serving the courts and people throughout the state. We have been preserving New Mexico's legal history and providing legal reference services and access to legal information to New Mexicans for over 170 years.

- Our Reference team welcomes your questions! We can assist you by walk-in or remotely by telephone at (505) 827-4850, email at libref@nmcourts.gov, or mail.
- 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, Wi-Fi, public computers, copying and printing services, study alcoves and tables, and internet access for researching the law, locating government information, and conducting other research.
- Visit our website at <https://lawlibrary.nmcourts.gov>
- Follow us! @ https://x.com/NM_LawLibrary



FROM THE ARCHIVE: COKE ON LITTLETON

By: Kendra Patlak



Source: [Wythepedia](#)

land 50-51 (1644)).

Incredibly, the Supreme Court Law Library has a copy of the very volume quoted in this important SCOTUS case. See [online catalog](#). In fact, the Law Library has copies of all four volumes from this well-known treatise series. *Id.* Although the third volume is nearly four centuries old, this treatise is still being cited in contemporary jurisprudence—illustrating the importance of preserving print collections.

Coke's lasting influence as an early English legal scholar is such that biographies continue to be written about him centuries after his death. One such biography, [Edward Coke: Oracle of the Law](#), is also available in the Law Library's collection.

If you would like to see this treatise in its original form, or read more about Sir Edward Coke, you can do so in person at the Law Library. Please contact our Reference Desk to schedule a research appointment to view archival materials. ♦

The Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) cited a 17th-century treatise in its recent abortion case: *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, 597 U.S. 215 (2022). Written by Sir Edward Coke and published in 1644, this treatise is entitled *The Third Part of the Institutes of the Laws of England: Concerning High Treason and Other Pleas of the Crown, and Criminal Causes*.

As suggested by its title, the treatise is the third in a four-part series. Coke is perhaps best known for the first part of this series, published in 1629 and colloquially known as *Coke on Littleton*, in which he commented on another author's work. The second part of the series "contain[s] the exposition of many ancient and other statutes," while the fourth "concern[s] the jurisdiction of the courts."

The third part, quoted in *Dobbs*, contains chapters on a wide range of crimes, including some that are largely nonexistent today. For example, there are chapters on everything from "Conjuration, Witchcraft, Sorcery, or Inchantment" to "Hunters in the Night, or with painted Faces, in any Forest, Park, or Warren." 3 Institutes of the Laws of England 43, 74.

Specifically, the *Dobbs* Opinion described Coke's treatise as having "asserted that abortion of a quick child was 'murder' if the 'childe be born alive' and a 'great misprision' if the 'childe dieth in [the mother's] body.'" *Dobbs, supra*, at 242-243 (citing 3 Institutes of the Laws of Eng-

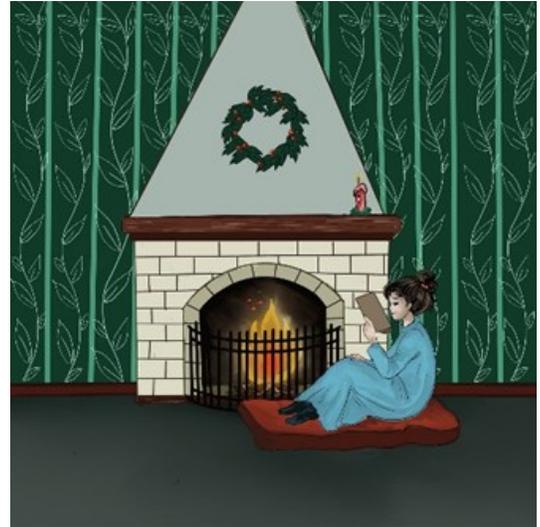
YULE BOOK FLOOD

By: Amy Schaefer

Iceland is an island country situated to the east of Greenland and slightly south of the Arctic Circle. Its population is nearly 400,000 people. As a whole, [Iceland has a near 100%](#) literacy rate, and in 2011 UNESCO named the capital city, Reykjavík, a [UNESCO City of Literature](#). It has been reported that one third of Icelanders read books daily, and that on average [Icelanders read 2.3 books per month](#).

It seems, then, no surprise that Iceland also has an 80-year-old tradition of book-giving to celebrate Christmas. In Icelandic this tradition is called Jólabókaflóð, translated as Yule Book Flood, Christmas Book Flood, or Book-Flood-Before-Christmas.

The Yule Book Flood begins in mid-November when every household receives a free catalog called the [Bókatíðindi](#),



or the Book Bulletin, published by the Iceland Publishers Association (now also available digitally). This is no small catalog. In 2021, Iceland published more than 800 fiction books alone. [The Guinness Book of World Records](#) reports that 1 in 10 Icelanders will publish a book during their lifetime, and that Iceland publishes the most books per capita in the world. One [publishing house](#) noted that more than 60% of yearly sales happen in December, with the vast majority of books being hardcover editions.



The tradition itself is pretty simple. For most households, it includes giving books on the 24th of December followed by a cozy evening spent reading with family or friends, and for some, snacking on filled chocolates (konfekt) or other treats.

The roots of the Yule Book Flood tradition go back to 1944. As a result of World War II, Iceland was receiving fewer giftable imports from other nations. However, paper was not rationed like other goods, and Iceland began to import paper to print books written in Icelandic. In the fall of 1944, the [Iceland Publishers Association](#) produced and distributed the first edition of the [Bókatíðindi](#) (Book Bulletin), and the tradition of giving books at Christmas was born.

So, if you are looking for some gift-inspiration this holiday season, join thousands of Icelanders and give a book! You may start a new tradition. The Supreme Court Law Library has been connecting people with books for over 170 years. Visit our [website](#) to learn more, take our [virtual tour](#), or sign-up for an [in-person tour](#). The staff of the Law Library can make recommendations about your next great read, or you might find some inspiration on one of these reading lists: the [New Mexico Collection](#), [Short Stories](#), [Library Staff Picks](#), and [Lives in the Law](#).

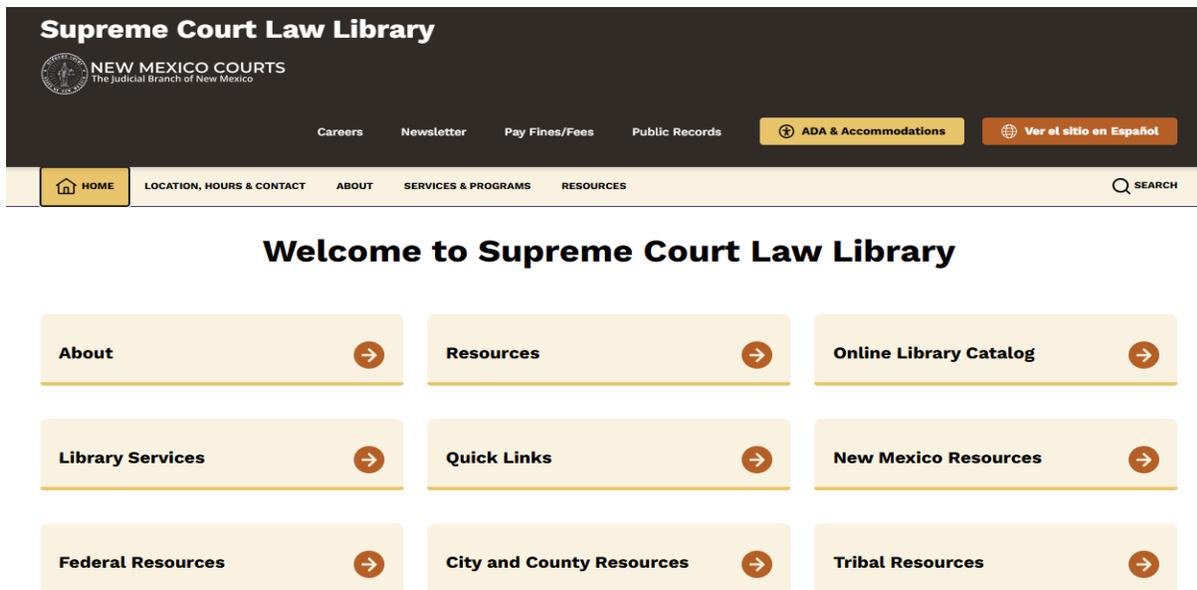
We wish you a joyous Holiday Season! ♦

SUPREME COURT LAW LIBRARY WEBSITE TOUR

By: Cassandra Wenzel

In our [April 2024 Newsletter](#), we provided an introduction to the redesigned Law Library website. Now that our patrons have had a chance to experiment with the new interface and try out the website, we want to give you an overview of where to find some pages that might be useful. These pages include the Library Catalog, the Quick Links page, the Newsletter page, Special Collections, Tours, If You Need Legal Assistance, and Library Services.

Are you trying to see if the Law Library has a book? You can do this from two different places on the Library’s website. The first is on the Library’s homepage where there is a button under “Welcome to Supreme Court Law Library” that says [Online Library Catalog](#). Click on that button to go to the Catalog and browse. You can also click on the menu over the top of the sunset photo on any page of the Library’s website where it says Resources and select Online Library Catalog or go to the Resources page and select the button for Online Library Catalog. The Online Library Catalog is also available from the Quick Links page. Any one of these options will take you to the Catalog.



The Law Library website home page.

The Quick Links page is another part of the website that may be of interest. You can navigate to the Quick Links page from the home page, where you will see a button that says [Quick Links](#). On this page, you will find a list of links including the Library Catalog, the New Mexico Forms Library on NMOneSource, the Forms & Files Library on NMCourts.gov, a link to the U.S. District Court of New Mexico, a link to statutes and cases on NMOneSource, a link to the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, Case Lookup, the full self-help guides in English and Spanish, the New Mexico Administrative Code, and a link to the New Mexico Register from 2001 to present.

The [Newsletter](#) page is where you will find our Supreme Court Law Library Newsletter published. This is available in two places. If you look at the top of the page in the black area under Supreme Court Law Library and New Mexico Courts, you will see a link that says “Newsletter” between “Careers” and “Pay Fines/Fees”. If you click on the “Newsletter” link, it will take you to the Newsletter page. You can also click on the menu underneath this area where it says “About” and in this dropdown menu, select “Newsletter”. This will take you to the same page. Once on the Newsletter page, you can select a particular newsletter issue by using the menus, which are sorted by year and then by month, or by searching the Index.

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The [Special Collections](#) page is available by clicking on the Resources menu and then selecting “Special Collections”. You can also click on the Resources button on the home page and then click on the Special Collections button on the Resources page. We would like to particularly highlight the Commemorative Volumes of Appellate Opinions, which are published to honor former Justices and are made available online as well as [in print](#). These volumes include selected opinions of former Justices. The Judicial Advisory Opinions are also available on this page.

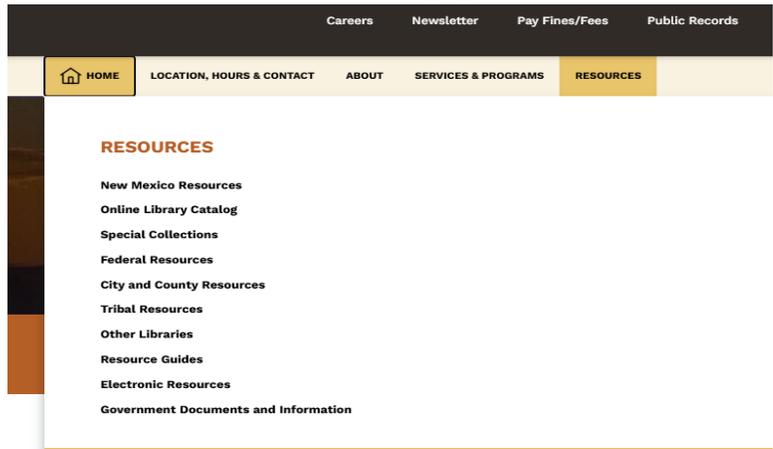
Information about [Tours](#) is available on the Law Library website, as well. You can find this page from the home page by clicking on the About button, then from the About page clicking on Tours. You can also click on the About menu and then click on the Tours option when it shows in the drop down. On the Tours page, you will see a list of Frequently Asked Questions about tours and an online form to fill out if you would like to schedule a tour. You will also find a short YouTube video of a virtual tour of the Law Library, if you can not make it in person.

If you are looking for legal advice, or for legal information beyond what the Supreme Court Law Library can provide, check out the [If You Need Legal Assistance](#) page. You can find this page by clicking on the Services & Programs area on the menu and then choosing “If You Need Legal Assistance”. On this page, there are two areas, Free Legal Assistance and Legal Resources. Under Free Legal Assistance, the Library posts flyers for legal fairs and legal clinics. Under Legal Resources, the Library posts ongoing legal resources such as the Modest Means Helpline, Civil Legal Service Providers’ flyers, and similar information.

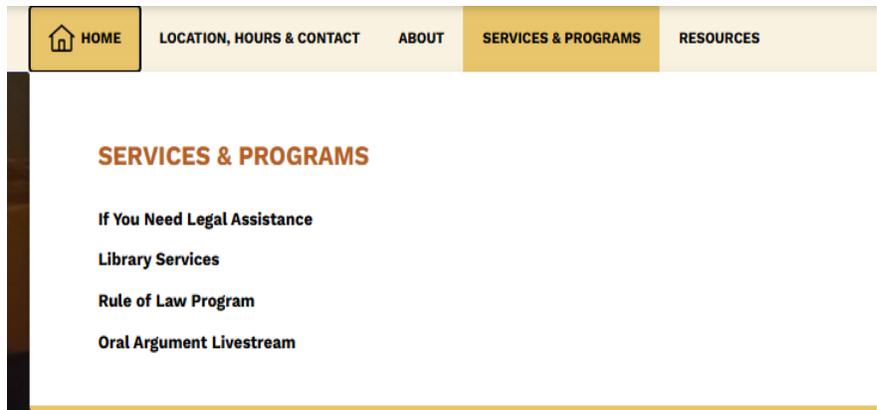
Finally, if you are looking for what the Supreme Court Law Library offers, the [Library Services](#) page probably has what you need.

You can find this page from the home page by clicking on the Library Services button, or by clicking on the Services & Programs area on the menu and then clicking on “Library Services”. On this page, you can find the Supreme Court Law Library card application, information about reference assistance, information about Inter-Library Loans, our public computer session times, and more.

The discussed pages on our website are only a few of those that are available. We encourage you to explore our website and to let us know if you have any suggestions. If you have any questions, please contact the Reference Desk at libref@nmcourts.gov, by phone at 505-827-4850, or in person.♦



The drop-down menu under Resources.



The drop-down menu under Services & Programs.

DISPLAYS AND EVENTS IN THE LAW LIBRARY— Book Art made from recycled books.

BOTTOM— Winter Holiday Festival



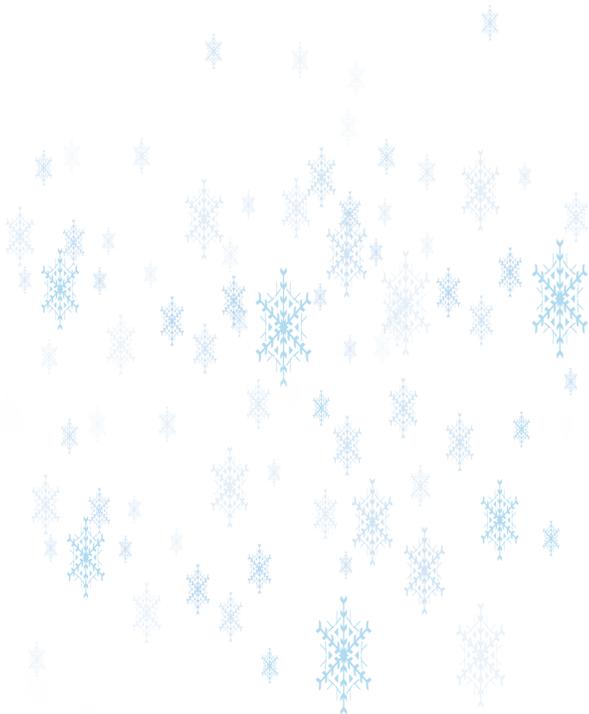
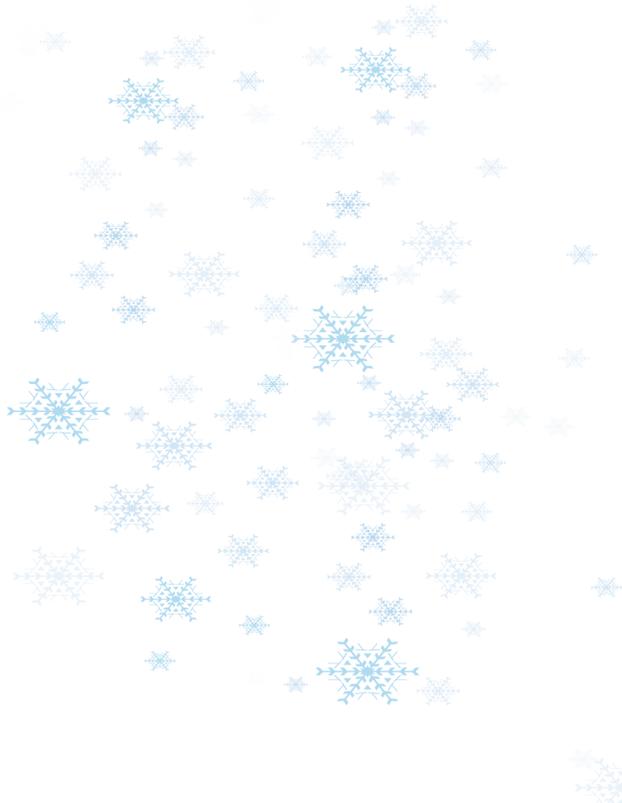
HOLIDAY EVENT IN THE SUPREME COURT BUILDING

We want to share a few of the wonderful holiday festivities held in the Supreme Court Building during the month of December. Everyone was welcomed to wear their best “ugly” holiday sweater, as well as to participate in a holiday potluck and in gingerbread decorating activities.



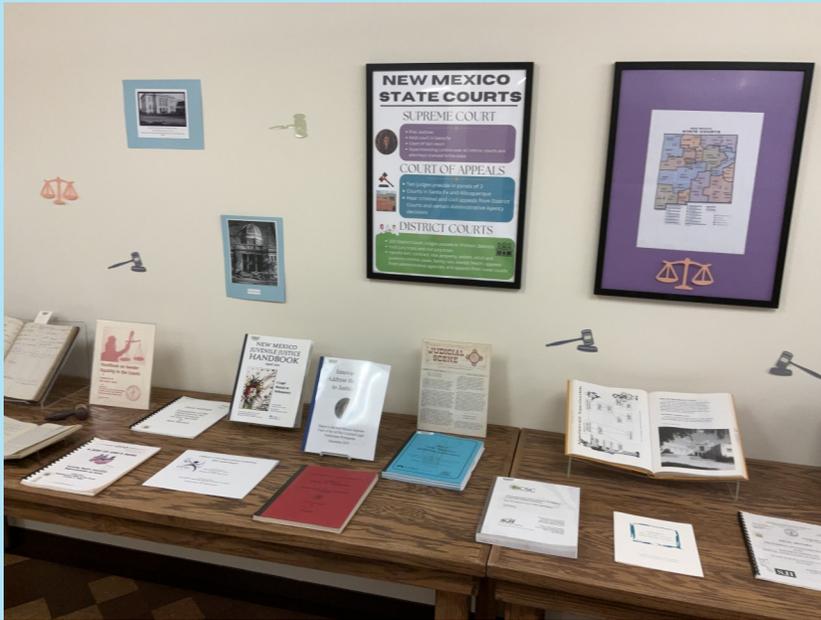
BOOK DISPLAYS IN THE LAW LIBRARY— located on the first floor.

Top: Human Rights Day; Bottom: Astronomy & the Winter Solstice



BOOK DISPLAYS IN THE LAW LIBRARY — located on the second floor.

Top: New Mexico Courts; Bottom: Winter Reading



Visit the Law Library:

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



Contact the Law Library:

**Phone: (505) 827-4850
Email: libref@nmcourts.gov
Web: lawlibrary.nmcourts.gov**