

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING THE CENTER FOR CIVIC VALUES GENE FRANCHINI HIGH  
3 SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL PROGRAM IN NEW MEXICO.

4  
5 WHEREAS, the center for civic values is a New Mexico  
6 nonprofit corporation organized in 1962 by the New Mexico  
7 state bar foundation to provide education and resources for  
8 public participation in the law; and

9 WHEREAS, for more than forty years, the center for civic  
10 values has coordinated, facilitated, supported and encouraged  
11 a high school mock trial program, an educational initiative  
12 for high schools statewide that teaches students about the  
13 law, the legal system and civics, now known as the Gene  
14 Franchini high school mock trial program; and

15 WHEREAS, mock trials are dynamic and rewarding  
16 skill- and character-building academic and social experiences  
17 for high school students; and

18 WHEREAS, high school students participating in mock  
19 trials report increased skills in critical thinking,  
20 responsible decision making, research, teamwork and public  
21 speaking; and

22 WHEREAS, participating students also report having  
23 better grades and an improved ability to manage their time;  
24 and

25 WHEREAS, licensed attorneys donate their time to

1 students by coaching teams and mentoring the high school  
2 students; and

3 WHEREAS, each year hundreds of New Mexico high school  
4 students and their teacher advisors and attorney coaches  
5 spend several weeks researching, studying, preparing and  
6 presenting hypothetical courtroom trials; and

7 WHEREAS, high school students participating in mock  
8 trials advocate in the mock cases as attorneys, witnesses and  
9 courtroom artists; and

10 WHEREAS, state and federal court judges and licensed  
11 attorneys volunteer to judge the mock trial competitions,  
12 serving as presiding judges who make evidentiary rulings and  
13 score the performance and presentation of the students  
14 competing; and

15 WHEREAS, each March, the top teams advance to the state  
16 finals in Albuquerque, with the winner going on to represent  
17 the state at the national championship, held each year in a  
18 different United States city; and

19 WHEREAS, in May 2012, the center for civic values hosted  
20 the national high school mock trial championship, drawing  
21 about six hundred students competing in the championship from  
22 other states, South Korea, Guam, the Northern Mariana  
23 Islands, Australia and Ireland; and

24 WHEREAS, the high school mock trial teams from  
25 New Mexico have competed successfully in the national

1 championships, with a team from Albuquerque academy winning  
2 the national championship in 2012 and 2013; and

3 WHEREAS, this program is beloved by thousands of former  
4 high school students who have participated in it, thousands  
5 of parents who have seen the benefits of the program to their  
6 children and hundreds of teachers, lawyers and judges who  
7 volunteer their time and expertise to work with the student  
8 teams; and

9 WHEREAS, the university of New Mexico school of law  
10 recognizes that, by hosting this program in the law school,  
11 it offers an opportunity for law students to mentor high  
12 school students, thereby building the law students' skills  
13 and reinforcing a culture of giving back to local  
14 communities;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
16 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it recognize the more than forty  
17 years of outstanding work by the center for civic values to  
18 implement the Gene Franchini high school mock trial program  
19 and that it support the continuance of this cherished  
20 program; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
22 transmitted to the center for civic values, the state bar of  
23 New Mexico, the university of New Mexico school of law and the  
24 secretary of public education. \_\_\_\_\_