

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR MILITARY SPOUSE PROFESSIONAL AND
3 OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE RECIPROCITY AND AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR
4 THE INCLUSION OF MILITARY SPOUSE ATTORNEYS.

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6 WHEREAS, New Mexico has a long and proud history of
7 military service by its residents that dates back hundreds of
8 years before statehood; and

9 WHEREAS, service members at home and abroad are
10 committed to New Mexico, the United States and the defense of
11 freedom; and

12 WHEREAS, New Mexico is committed to strengthening
13 support to military personnel, veterans and military families
14 in New Mexico; and

15 WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislature has previously
16 recognized the challenges posed to military spouses who hold
17 professional and occupational licenses through the passage of
18 House Bill 30 (2020) (expedited licensure for military
19 families) and House Bill 120 (2021) (military spouse
20 expedited licensure), which has since helped New Mexican
21 military families overcome licensing barriers; and

22 WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislature is requested to
23 reaffirm its support for military spouse professional and
24 occupational licensure reciprocity and to affirm support for
25 military spouse attorneys, as well; and

1 WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislature urges the supreme
2 court and the New Mexico board of bar examiners to adopt
3 rules that accommodate the unique needs of military spouse
4 attorneys who move frequently in support of national defense,
5 including:

6 A. enacting "admission by endorsement" for
7 military spouse attorneys, whereby a military spouse attorney
8 who holds an active license to practice law in at least one
9 state or territory or the District of Columbia, in good
10 standing in all jurisdictions where admitted, and who
11 possesses the requisite character and fitness and meets the
12 educational standards required for admission would be
13 admitted to the practice of law in New Mexico, if the
14 applicant:

15 (1) demonstrates presence in New Mexico due
16 to a spouse's military service;

17 (2) establishes that the applicant is not
18 currently subject to a lawyer discipline or the subject of a
19 pending disciplinary matter in any jurisdiction;

20 (3) demonstrates knowledge of New Mexico
21 law;

22 (4) pays any applicable annual client
23 protection fund assessment;

24 (5) complies with all other ethical, legal
25 and continuing legal education obligations; and

1 B. reviewing current bar application and admission
2 procedures to ensure that those procedures are not unduly
3 burdensome to military spouse attorneys and that those
4 applications are handled promptly; and

5 C. encouraging mentorship programs to connect
6 military spouse attorneys with local members of the bar;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
8 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico senate urge the
9 supreme court and New Mexico board of bar examiners to
10 consider adoption of the military spouse J.D. network's
11 proposed rule for military spouse attorney limited licensure
12 filed with the supreme court originally on June 30, 2018, as
13 amended, restated and refiled on June 25, 2021; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that military spouse
15 professional and occupational licensure reciprocity,
16 including military spouse attorney licensure reciprocity,
17 continue to be a priority on behalf of all military families
18 serving in New Mexico; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
20 transmitted to the secretary of veterans' services, the chief
21 justice of the supreme court, the executive director of the
22 New Mexico board of bar examiners and the commanders of
23 Kirtland air force base, Cannon air force base, Holloman air
24 force base and White Sands missile range. _____