



## Administrative Office of the Courts

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### **Justice Thomson to chair an ABA program about public health order litigation**

SANTA FE – New Mexico Supreme Court Justice David Thomson is chairing a program at a national legal group's annual meeting that will focus on litigation over emergency public health emergency orders across the country.

The program will be held on Aug. 6 at the American Bar Association's annual meeting.

"This session will not pass judgment on any judicial opinions or how state governments have handled public health issues during the COVID-19 pandemic," said Justice Thomson. "We want to start a conversation in the program about how our democratic institutions are set up to handle the legal issues raised by a public health emergency and the lessons we are learning from COVID-related litigation."

The program will feature a mock appellate court argument by Matt Garcia, chief of staff and former general counsel in Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham's office, and Renee M. Landers, a professor at Suffolk University Law School in Boston. Justice Thomson, Shawn Ellen LaGrua, a justice of the Georgia Supreme Court, and Wendy Mariner, a Boston University professor of health law, will serve as judges during the argument, asking questions of the attorneys to explore COVID-related legal issues. After the argument, all five of the panelists will discuss the issues raised during the session.

The program, "[Constitutional Long Haulers: The undiagnosed long-term impact of judicial review on emergency public health orders](#)," is one of several virtual programs at the ABA meeting that allow attendees to receive credits toward continuing legal education requirements. The ABA is conducting its first-ever hybrid annual meeting, which features both online sessions for remote participants and in-person events in Chicago.

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