



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, December 18, 2008

Justice is the soul of the universe. — Omar Khayyam

I think the first duty of society is justice. — Alexander Hamilton

JUSTICE IS SWEET

SANTA FE, N.M. — The New Mexico Environmental Law Center introduces the **Justice Bar** this week, just in time for the holidays and perfect for stocking stuffers. The New Mexico Environmental Law Center is one of the oldest and most respected independent non-profit environmental groups in New Mexico.

These delicious chocolate bars will help protect the beautiful vistas and diverse communities of New Mexico because 100% of the net proceeds from Justice Bars go to

the New Mexico Environmental Law Center, New Mexico's only not-for-profit environmental justice law firm. The beautiful landscape photographs of New Mexico on the labels were donated by John Vavruska and remind chocolate lovers of what is at stake.

"The Justice Bars reflect our commitment to communities, locally and globally," says Sebia Hawkins, Director of Development. "The organic dark chocolate is produced without pesticides using sustainable practices by farmers who are paid equitably for their cacao. Our red chile is from world-famous Chimayo, north of Santa Fe, and our pistachios are locally grown by Eagle Ranch Farms near Alamogordo."

Each bar is hand-crafted in small batches by dedicated artisans in Santa Fe. The New Mexico Environmental Law Center's partner, Señor Murphy Candymaker, is the producer of the finest, most delicious candies in the Southwest for over 30 years. The certified fair trade organic chocolate comes from Sweet Earth Organic Chocolates (www.sweetearthchocolates.com), who believe in a softer, kinder and more sustainable way of doing business that considers the needs of the planet and its people.

The DARK CHOCOLATE CHILE JUSTICE BAR is made with organic dark chocolate is infused with the smoky warmth of Chimayo chile and the delicate crunch of Alamogordo pistachios. The DARK CHOCOLATE MINT JUSTICE BAR is made with organic dark chocolate kissed with cool mint. The Law Center will be introducing the third *Justice Bar* made from organic milk chocolate and organic pecans from



Mesilla in January. By 2009, all New Mexico Environmental Law Center **Justice Bars** will have the Fair Trade certified logo along with the organic seal. The Fair Trade Certification empowers farmers and farm workers to lift themselves out of poverty by investing in their farms and communities, protecting the environment, and developing the business skills necessary to compete in the global marketplace

“The New Mexico Environmental Law Center would like to thank both the Señor Murphy Candymaker and Sweet Earth Organic Chocolates for their generous support and encouragement every step of the way,” adds Hawkins.

Since 1987, the Law Center’s dedicated public-interest attorneys have provided free and low-cost legal assistance to concerned citizens throughout the state in order to protect our azure skies, precious waters, majestic landscapes and treasured cultures that make New Mexico such a wondrous place.

Cost: \$30 for a set of four 3 oz bars (2 mint and 2 chile), includes shipping and handling or \$6 per bar.

To Order: Call 505-989-9022, e-mail nmelc@nmelc.org or stop by the office at 1405 Luisa Street, Suite 5, Santa Fe, New Mexico

www.nmenvirolaw.org
www.senormurphy.com

The mission of the New Mexico Environmental Law Center is to protect New Mexico’s natural environment and communities through legal and policy advocacy, and public education. The New Mexico Environmental Law Center’s attorneys have handled over 100 critical cases in low-income and minority communities fighting pollution and environmental degradation. The Law Center charges few, if any, fees to its clients, most of whom are from Hispanic and Native American communities. The NMELC is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2008. Membership and gifts help New Mexico communities protect their natural environment and their health from toxic pollution, the degrading effects of growth and liabilities created by irresponsible mining. Contact: Sebia Hawkins, Director of Development 505-989-9022.

INTERVIEWS AND IMAGES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

Contacts:

MARSHALL PLAN

Jennifer Marshall
505-231-1776

jennifer@jmarshallplan.com
www.jmarshallplan.com

Juana Colón, Communications and Public Ed.
New Mexico Environmental Law Center
(505) 989-9022
jcolon@nmelc.org