



State Bar *of*
New Mexico
Est. 1886

2025 Board *of* Bar Commissioners

2025 Officers



President

Aja N. Brooks

505-224-1466

ajabrooks@gmail.com

Aja Nicole Brooks is a native New Mexican, born in Hobbs. She is a graduate of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where she received her Bachelor of Arts in English and Spanish. She attended the University of New Mexico School of Law and graduated with her juris doctorate in 2008. She currently works as the Executive Assistant United States Attorney for the District of New Mexico, and previously worked as the Director of the Second Judicial District Court's Center for Self-Help and Dispute Resolution. She is involved in many legal groups and activities, including serving as the President of the State Bar of New

Mexico and as a mentor in the Bridge the Gap Mentorship Program. She is a past President of the New Mexico Black Lawyers Association, a former President of the New Mexico State Bar Foundation, and a member of the Iota Xi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. She enjoys exploring and traveling near and far with her husband, Johnn and her son, Emerson.



President-Elect

Allison H. Block-Chavez

505-266-8787

ablockchavez@abqlawnm.com

Allison Block-Chavez is partner and attorney at Aldridge, Hammar & Wexler, PA, in Albuquerque, where her law practice focuses on fiduciary services, adult guardianships and conservatorships, estate planning, and probate matters, real estate, and creditors' rights. Allison previously served as the Chair of the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of New Mexico and as the young lawyer delegate to the ABA House of Delegates. She graduated from the University of New Mexico School of Law and served as the judicial law clerk for Chief Judge Michael E. Vigil of the New Mexico Court of Appeals. In her spare time, Allison and her husband Mo try to keep up with their twin toddlers.



Secretary-Treasurer

Lucy H. Sinkular

505-210-7710

lucy@ahm.law

Originally from Nebraska, **Lucy Sinkular** (she/her) was admitted to the practice of law in New Mexico in 1994. Lucy is Of Counsel at the law firm of Ashton Horton Mullins, PC where she limits her practice to family law matters. Lucy's extensive experience in family law includes representing clients in high asset divorces, divorce and custody issues in military families, the valuation and division of pensions, and relocation custody cases. Lucy also represents clients in kinship guardianship and adoption matters. Lucy is an active member of the Family Law Section's board of directors and has served as their secretary the last three years. Lucy is trained in Collaborative Law and works as a settlement facilitator and a guardian ad litem. Lucy frequently volunteers at pro bono

law fairs and clinics across the state. Lucy's passions outside the practice of law include dispersed camping in the mountains, hiking, and cycling. Lucy and her husband, Scott, are the parents of two: a daughter concluding her PhD at Virginia Tech in Fish and Wildlife and a son who is a CPA in Albuquerque. Two very spoiled dogs round out the Sinkular household.



Immediate Past President

Erinna M. "Erin" Atkins

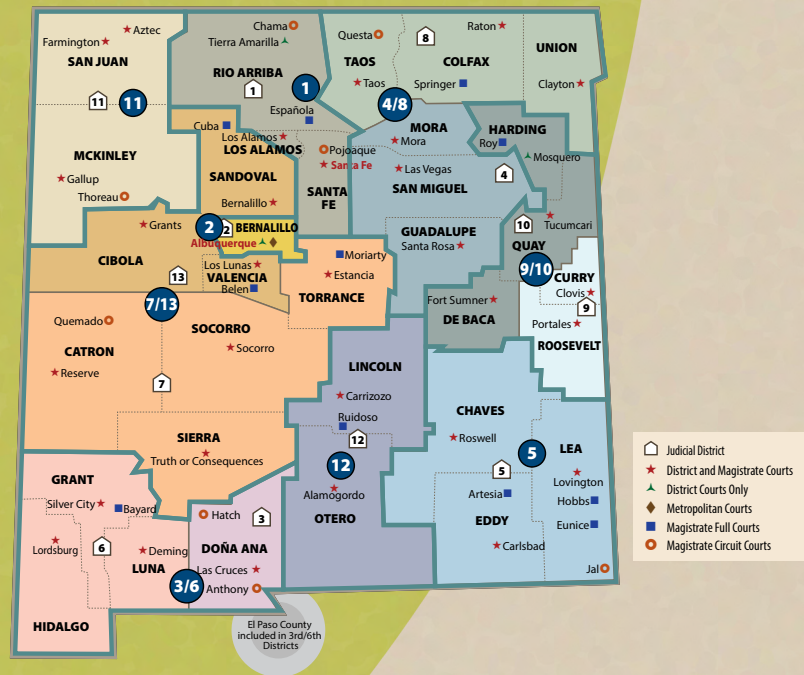
575-437-3042

atkinser@gmail.com

Erin Atkins is an attorney in Alamogordo, where she practices law with her father, S. Bert Atkins. Focusing primarily in a mix of criminal, family and children's law, Atkins can often be found in trial or headed into a trial. She proudly serves as the Guardian ad Litem in CYFD abuse and neglect cases. She is active in her local community and serves on the Twelfth Judicial District Pro Bono Committee, a governing board for a state-wide non-profit service organization for children, as well as the substitute Adult Drug Court Judge. Atkins was awarded the 2016 Twelfth Judicial District Young Lawyer of the Year Award and in 2023 was the recipient of the Twelfth Judicial District Don Quixote Award as the attorney that most relentlessly pursues hopeless causes in the pursuit of justice.

Atkins also received the 2018 Outstanding Service Award from the Young Lawyer's Division of the State Bar of New Mexico for her many years of service to that Board. She represents the 12th Judicial District which includes Lincoln and Otero counties for the BBC. She is a 2009 graduate of the University of New Mexico School of Law. Atkins was the 2024 President of the State Bar of New Mexico and was the first woman from the southern half of New Mexico to serve in that role. When not busy working or serving the State Bar, Atkins enjoys spending time with her family, her friends, and her dog.

Board of Bar Commissioners District Map



1st Judicial District

(Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, and Santa Fe Counties)



Andréa Salazar

505-469-5813 • asalazar@santafenm.gov

Andréa Salazar is a native New Mexican raised in Santa Fe who attended undergraduate in Santa Cruz, CA. After working as a photographer for several years, she attended law school at UNM. She is a proud second generation UNM School of Law graduate. She is currently the City Clerk and Director of Community Engagement for the City of Santa Fe. Over the past 13 ½ years she has practiced in a wide range of legal areas in both public and private practice from criminal law, administrative law, local government and school law, land use, real estate, and redevelopment law. She loves hiking with her husband and dog, camping, photographing, and reading.



Olga Serafimova

505-954-3676 • omserafimova@hollandhart.com

Olga Serafimova is Of Counsel in the Santa Fe office of Holland & Hart, LLP, where she is a member of the Environmental, Energy, and Natural Resources practice group. She previously served as the Senior Civil Counsel to Attorney General Hector Balderas, the General Counsel for the Department of Information Technology, and the Tobacco Bureau Chief at the Attorney General's Office. Ms. Serafimova is a Board Member of the New Mexico Board of Bar Examiners, the State Bar liaison for the New Mexico Appellate Rules Committee, and the pro bono General Counsel of STEM Santa Fe, a non-profit organization providing free STEM programming to middle and high school aged children in Northern New Mexico. She is licensed to practice law in New Mexico, California, and Massachusetts.



Elizabeth J. Travis

505-216-6399 • EJTravislaw@gmail.com

Elizabeth J. Travis is a solo practitioner providing services in the 1st Judicial District as a neutral, settlement facilitator and mediator, and as counsel for various civil clients including small business, non-profits and boards. Prior to returning to her solo practice, Ms. Travis served as a deputy general counsel with the New Mexico Department of Transportation, with primary focus on the Department's construction, operations and finance organizations, a practice which included construction, water, public finance and procurement, and contract law. Prior to working for the State, Liz served as an assistant county attorney for Santa Fe County. In addition to her role on the BBC, Ms. Travis serves on the State Bar Foundation Board, the State Bar's Ethics Advisory Committee and ADR Committee, and on the Supreme Court's Disciplinary Board and Client Protection Fund Committee. She is an active member of the ABA, participating in the dispute resolution and professional responsibility sections and the construction industry forum. Liz is licensed to practice in state and federal court in New Mexico and California.

2nd Judicial District

(Bernalillo County)



Allison H. Block-Chavez
President-Elect
See page 1.



Aja N. Brooks
President
See page 1.



Sean M. FitzPatrick
505-400-0420 • sfitzpatrick@fitzpatricklawllc.com

After working for a few years as a prosecutor litigating felony and misdemeanor cases, **Sean FitzPatrick** started his firm FitzPatrick Law, LLC in 2016. FitzPatrick's current practice area is civil litigation focusing on insurance and injury law. FitzPatrick served on the Young Lawyers Division board for years as director and chair prior to his current term on the BBC. FitzPatrick is also the current Co-Chair of the New Mexico State Bar Well Being committee. He believes a healthy work life balance makes better lawyers and you can find FitzPatrick running, biking, or participating in other type 2 fun activities with his wife Eva and their son Liam when not practicing law.



Tomas J. Garcia
505-848-1800 • Tomas.garcia@modrall.com

Tomas J. Garcia is a shareholder at Modrall Sperling in Albuquerque, where he practices commercial, healthcare, torts/personal injury, and transportation litigation. Tomas is a past chair and board member of the State Bar of New Mexico Young Lawyers Division and he is an active leader with the American Bar Association, currently serving as the New Mexico Membership Chair. Tomas also serves on the board of the New Mexico Defense Lawyers Association. An Albuquerque native, Tomas received his law degree from Georgetown University Law Center.



Steven S. Scholl
505-244-3890 • sscholl@dsc-law.com

Steven Scholl is a founding member of Dixon Scholl [Bailey] Carrillo, P.A. He does civil trials, but occasionally helps-out behind the scenes with criminal trials. He is a past president of the UNMSOL Alumni Board and the Albuquerque Bar Association. Serving on the Board of Bar Commissioners is another and different way that Steve serves the members of the Bar. Since graduating from UNMSOL in 1989, he spent a lot of free time "paying it forward" by teaching trial practice, evidence and deposition skills classes and coaching mock trial teams. Steve and Chris raised their two kids here, and they are raising theirs here as well. In addition to doing law stuff, they restored and use two vintage '50s camp trailers, drive a 1929 Model A Roadster and boat-camp. Life is Good.



Lucy H. Sinkular
Secretary-Treasurer
See page 2.

3rd and 6th Judicial Districts *(Dona Ana, Grant, Hidalgo, and Luna Counties)*



Connie J. Flores
575-303-9999 • cflores@floresmendez.com

Connie J. Flores is partner at Flores Mendez, P. C., specializing in cases involving personal injury to include on the semi-truck accidents, on the job injuries, premises liability, Dram Shop, nursing home and representing victims of sexual abuse in civil lawsuits. Her mission is to help injured people that have been treated unjustly by insurance companies. As a fluent Spanish speaker, Ms. Flores enjoys representing individuals who otherwise would not be able to effectively communicate their issue to an attorney. Ms. Flores attended the University of Denver and graduated in 2003. She attended UNMSOL graduating in 2008. She was admitted to practice law in New Mexico in September 2008, Texas in May 2009 and Arizona 2022. Ms. Flores, who became a teenage mother at the age of 15, has been asked on numerous occasions to be a keynote speaker at local area high schools addressing the issues surrounding teenage pregnancy, in an effort to encourage teenage parents to continue their education and attend college.



David P. Lutz
575-526-2449 • dplutz@qwestoffice.net

David P. Lutz is a Las Cruces attorney at Martin & Lutz, P.C. He practices law with his father and focuses primarily on civil and domestic relations matters. He has been with the firm since 2004. He was born in Las Cruces, New Mexico and graduated from Organ Mountain High School. He attended Claremont McKenna College (B.A. 1997) and Cornell Law School (J.D. 2000). He has appeared and practices regularly in the Third, Sixth, and Seventh Judicial Districts. He served on the Young Lawyers Division Board as a Regional Director from 2007 through 2011. When he is not working, he enjoys playing soccer and going with his family to cultural and/or sporting events at New Mexico State University.



Chrystian J. Gonzalez
575-373-6490 • chrystian@cjgonzalezlaw.com

Chrystian J. Gonzalez is a Children's Court Attorney for the New Mexico Children, Youth, and Families Department's Las Cruces office. He previously worked as a mediator, social security disability representative, and Assistant District Attorney, before moving on to private practice as a family and civil law attorney. He also currently serves as Treasurer for the Southern New Mexico Bar Association and has been recognized for his contributions to pro bono work in the southern New Mexico region.

Chrystian is a graduate of the Texas Tech University School of Law and the University of Texas at Austin. Prior to his studies, he also served as an enlisted member of the United States Air Force, where he supported various post-9/11 military operations overseas. In his off-time, Chrystian devotes his time to his family, completing DIY home projects, and serving as vice president of his local International Lions Club chapter. Chrystian brings his diligence, determination, and tenacity to every matter, while also striving to uphold the integrity of the legal profession.

4th and 8th Judicial Districts

(Guadalupe, Mora, San Miguel, Colfax, Taos, and Union Counties)



Brett Phelps

505-425-5129 • phelpslawoffice@gmail.com

Brett Phelps is a sole practitioner and owner of the Phelps Law Office in Las Vegas. He became a lawyer to help end the disastrous war on drugs, and today his practice focuses primarily on criminal defense and cannabis law. He serves on the State Bar Cannabis Law Section Board of Directors and as the Northeast Regional Director of the New Mexico Criminal Defense Lawyer's Association. He also advocates for criminal law reform at the New Mexico State Legislature. He attended the University of New Mexico School of Law (J.D., 2017, magna cum laude), New Mexico Highlands University (M.A., English), and the University of Nevada, Reno (B.B.A.)

5th Judicial District

(Chaves, Eddy, and Lea Counties)



Parker B. Folse

575-622-6510 • pfolse@hinklelawfirm.com

Parker Folse is a partner in the Roswell office of Hinkle Shanor LLP. He is a graduate of University of Texas at Dallas, B.A. Political Science, and the University of Oklahoma School of Law, J.D. Parker primarily assists commercial clients in litigation matters in both State and Federal Courts at both the district and appellate levels. Parker was admitted to practice law in New Mexico in 2011 and is a member of the Chaves County Bar Association, the New Mexico Defense Lawyer's Association, and the Defense Research Institute. Parker also serves on the Roswell Museum and Art Center Foundation Board, the Roswell-Chaves County Economic Development Corporation Board, and the Immanuel Lutheran Church Council. He enjoys exploring New Mexico's mountains with his wife, Robin, and daughter, Evelyn.

7th and 13th Judicial Districts

(Catron, Cibola, Sandoval, Sierra, Socorro, Torrance, and Valencia Counties)



Jessica A. Perez

505-771-7400 • jperez2@da.state.nm.us

Jessica Perez is a graduate of the University of New Mexico School of Law where she started her initial involvement with the State Bar. Currently she works as an Assistant District Attorney in the 13th Judicial District within Sandoval County as a senior felony trial attorney handling a variety of cases up to homicide prosecution. In addition to her felony caseload, Jessica handles a juvenile delinquency docket and extraditions. Beyond her role as a dedicated state employee, Jessica likes to be involved with the legal community through years of volunteer work. Previously, Jessica served on the Prosecutor's Section board and Young Lawyer's Division board for multiple years as a general member then chair of each board. In 2019 she was awarded as Community Service Prosecutor of the Year by the New Mexico District Attorneys' Association and by the Prosecutors Section in 2020 for prosecutorial excellence. Jessica was also recently recognized as Senior Prosecutor of the Year for the 13th Judicial District Attorney's Office in 2023 by the New Mexico District Attorney's Association. On the rare occasion she is not working, Jessica enjoys reading while cuddled up with her cats, going on hikes with her rescue dog, and she's a big fan of sleeping.



Simone M. Seiler

505-287-8831 Ext. 3112 • berdsms@nmcourts.gov

Simone M. Seiler serves as the Special Commissioner at the Thirteenth Judicial District Court in Cibola County. She graduated from the University of New Mexico School of Law and has been practicing law for 18 years. In 2007, she passed the patent bar exam and represented clients before the United States Patent and Trademark Office until 2015. Simone began her legal career at a boutique law firm specializing in civil and intellectual property law. She has worked on civil, family, and children's law cases at the Thirteenth Judicial District Court for the past eight years. Simone has served as the chair of the Intellectual Property Section, a board member of the Animal Law Section and the New Mexico Women's Bar Association, and as a member on several Supreme Court committees.

9th and 10th Judicial Districts

(Curry, Roosevelt, DeBaca, Harding, and Quay Counties)



Mitchell L. Mender
575-265-5333 • Mitch@larsenandmender.com

Mitchell L. Mender is a founding partner of The Law Offices of Larsen and Mender P.C., located in Clovis, NM. His practice focuses primarily on criminal law, family law, and personal injury. Mitch is a graduate of Brigham Young University. He graduated from Vermont Law School in their accelerated Juris Doctorate program. He started his career as a prosecutor with the Ninth Judicial District Attorney's Office, where he was awarded prosecutor of the year for the District in 2018 and 2019. Subsequently, he worked at the New Mexico Law Offices of the Public Defender where he represented indigent clients. Additionally, he sits on the Board of Directors for the Hartley House, the local domestic violence shelter. He and his wife, Robyn, enjoy traveling and spending time with their three children.

11th Judicial District

(McKinley and San Juan Counties)



Joseph F. Sawyer
505-334-4297 • jsawyer@sjcounty.net

Joseph F. Sawyer serves as the County Attorney for San Juan County. A Farmington native, he attended the University of New Mexico (B.A., 1995) and Notre Dame Law School (J.D., 1999). Prior to working for San Juan County, Joe spent several years in private practice and worked for the 11th Judicial District Attorney's Office in Farmington. He served as president of the San Juan County Bar Association in 2011 and was on the State Bar of New Mexico Young Lawyers Division Board of Directors from 2006 to 2007. Joe and his wife Ana enjoy backpacking, mountain biking, traveling and spending time with their two daughters.

12th Judicial District

(Lincoln and Otero Counties)



Erinna M. "Erin" Atkins
Immediate Past President
See page 2.

Out-of-State District



Dylan O'Reilly
505-989-9614 • doreilly@mstlaw.cm

Dylan O'Reilly has been with Miller Stratvert PA since graduating UNM School of Law in 1999. After 5 years at the firm's Albuquerque office, he spent the next 10 years with its Farmington office, and now practices in Santa Fe where he handles commercial litigation, transactions, and mediations. Dylan is a past chair of the state bar's business law section and recipient of its business lawyer of the year award. With his wife Sara, Dylan enjoys chamber concerts (expanding a music appreciation he developed while studying History at Oberlin College). Santa Fe's classical music scene led him to 6-years of board service for Santa Fe Pro Musica, adding to service with UNM SOL Alumni Board and Sexual Assault Services of Northwest New Mexico. In 2021, Dylan was appointed to the New Mexico Board of Bar Examiners.

Young Lawyers Division Chair



Lauren Riley

505-246-0500 • lauren@batleyfamilylaw.com

Lauren Riley practices Family Law at Batley Riley Family Law, P.A. in Albuquerque, NM. She practices in all aspects of family law including divorce, custody, child support, kinship-guardianship, divorce modification and assisting clients with Prenuptial and Postnuptial Agreements. Lauren is the current Chair of the State Bar of New Mexico Young Lawyers Division. She also serves as a board member of the Family Law Section. Outside of work, Lauren spends her time keeping up with her two young children, Beau and Hadley, who keep her running (sometimes literally)!

Senior Lawyers Division Delegate



Daniel J. Behles

505-238-0208 • djbehles@gmail.com

Dan Behles has been a New Mexico attorney since 1970, and is now semi-retired. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame, and received his J.D. degree from the University of New Mexico. He has practiced in New Mexico for over 50 years, concentrating in bankruptcy. He has represented debtors, creditors, trustees and committees, and has been a Chapter 7 and Chapter 11 Trustee. He is a member of the Subchapter V panel of trustees for small business reorganizations, and currently limits his practice to serving as a trustee. He sits on the board of directors of the Senior Lawyer's Division, and has been a Southwest Superlawyer for over 10 years.

Paralegal Division Liaison



Meryl Sutton

505-545-8554 • meryls@nmlegalaid.org

Meryl Sutton is a New Mexico native and graduated from the Paralegal Studies Program in January 2019. Following graduation, she accepted an internship with New Mexico Legal Aid and then accepted the position of Interim Pro Bono Coordinator. In June of 2020, Meryl transitioned into the position of VAP Paralegal. Meryl's work focuses on providing access to justice to low-income New Mexican's by recruiting private attorneys to represent her clients pro bono in various capacities. Meryl joined the State Bar Paralegal Division in 2021 and was elected Chair Elect in November 2022. Meryl also Chairs the Divisions Pro Bono Committee as it ties in with her work. In her free time, Meryl enjoys spending time with friends and family, watching documentaries, cooking and going to the opera.

Get involved with the State Bar of New Mexico!

Are you looking for a way to be more involved with the State Bar and gain leadership experience?

Consider applying for an appointment to serve on one of the many N.M. Supreme Court boards, committees and commissions to which the Board of Bar Commissioners makes appointments. Look for notices regarding vacancies in the *Bar Bulletin* and in *ENews* throughout the year. In the fall, look for information about the commissioner elections. For more information about the Board, contact your district bar commissioner or the State Bar of New Mexico.

bbc@sbnm.org • 505-797-6038