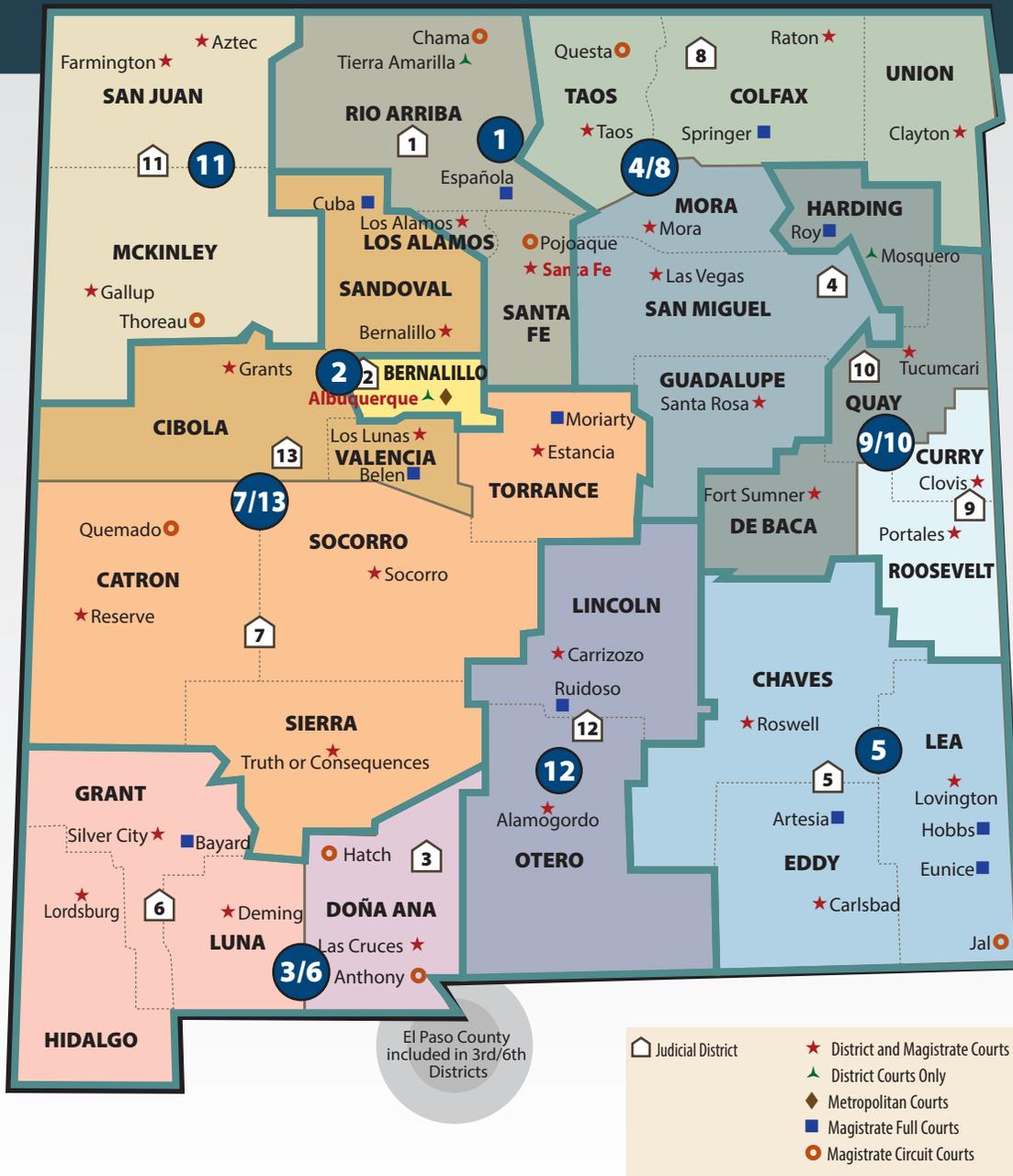




2022 Board of Bar Commissioners

Board of Bar Commissioners District Map



2022 Officers

PRESIDENT

Carolyn A. Wolf



Carolyn A. Wolf is an attorney in Santa Fe. She is a graduate of Rice University and the University of New Mexico School Of Law. In more than 20 years in state government, she was in-house counsel for the Human Services Department, Health and Environment Department, and Taxation and Revenue Department, and was counsel for other agencies, boards and commissions as an attorney in the Civil Division of the Attorney General's office. Carolyn also served as general counsel for the Department of Finance and Administration and Taxation and Revenue Department. She was named Public Lawyer of the Year in 2017. In addition to her public service, Carolyn was a shareholder and of counsel with Montgomery & Andrews, P.A. She is a past-chair of the Public Law Section, was the Board of Bar Commissioners representative on the Appellate Rules Committee and was a member of the Compilation Commission Advisory Committee. Carolyn represents the First Judicial District which includes Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, and Santa Fe counties.

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Benjamin I. Sherman



Ben Sherman is the founder of Ben Sherman Law LLC, located in Albuquerque. His practice is focused primarily on representing injured workers in workers' compensation cases. Prior to opening his own law firm in 2012, he served as a prosecutor with the 2nd Judicial District Attorney's Office and as an assistant city attorney with the City of Albuquerque's litigation department. Sherman is a proud 2008 graduate of the University of New Mexico School of Law and has been fortunate to practice law in New Mexico for the past fourteen years. A fluent Spanish-speaker, he enjoys representing people from all communities and appreciates New Mexico's unique diversity and rich traditions. Sherman is a past chair of the State Bar of New Mexico Young Lawyers Division and currently serves as an officer on the Alumni Board of the University of New Mexico School of Law. Ben represents the Second Judicial District which includes Bernalillo County.

SECRETARY-TREASURER
Erinna M. “Erin” Atkins



Erinna Atkins is an attorney in Alamogordo, where she practices law with her father, S. Bert Atkins. Specializing in criminal defense and children’s law, she works in and lives in the Twelfth Judicial District. She proudly serves as the Guardian ad Litem in abuse and neglect cases and mental health guardianships. Atkins is active in her local community and currently serves as a commissioner for the NM Commission for Community Volunteerism, the Children’s Law Section, the Twelfth Judicial District Pro Bono Committee, and a state-wide non-profit service organization, as well as the substitute Adult Drug Court judge. Atkins was awarded the 2016 Young Lawyer of the Year Award for the Twelfth Judicial District and is a 2009 graduate of the University of New Mexico School of Law. Atkins received the 2018 Outstanding Service Award from the Young Lawyer’s Division of the State Bar for her years of service. She represents the 12th Judicial District which includes Lincoln and Otero counties.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
Carla C. Martinez



Carla C. Martinez is a native New Mexican and a 1998 graduate of the New Mexico School of Law. Martinez currently serves as the Chief Administrative Officer for the Second Judicial District Attorney’s Office. Prior to joining the Office of the Second Judicial District Attorney, Martinez was Chief of Staff for Operations for the New Mexico Office of the Attorney General. She served in this capacity for approximately two years. Immediately preceding, Martinez was the Deputy State Auditor for the New Mexico Office of the State Auditor for eight years. She also served for four years as a Board Member and Chair of the New Mexico Gaming Control Board. Previously, Martinez has worked for an insurance defense law firm and an international accounting firm. Martinez is also a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Fraud Examiner. Carla represents the Second Judicial District which includes Bernalillo County.

2022 Commissioners

1st Judicial District

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



Olga Serafimova

Olga Serafimova currently serves as the Senior Civil Counsel to Attorney General Hector Balderas. She previously served as 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 Vice President 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

Elizabeth J. Travis is a deputy general counsel with the New Mexico Department of Transportation, serving as counsel for the Department's construction,

operations and finance organizations, a practice which includes construction, environmental, procurement and contract law. Prior to working for the State, Travis served as an assistant county attorney for Santa Fe County. Travis also serves on the Supreme Court's Disciplinary Committee and on the State Bar Ethics Advisory Committee. She is an active member of the ABA, participating in the public contract law section and the construction industry forum. Travis is licensed to practice in state and federal court in New Mexico and California.

Carolyn A. Wolf

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2nd Judicial District

(Bernalillo County)



Allison H. Block-Chavez

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 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. She previously served as the Chair of the Young Lawyers Division and as the young lawyer delegate to the ABA House of Delegates.



Aja N. Brooks

Aja Nicole Brooks is a native New Mexican, born in Hobbs. She attended Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C. (B.A., English and Spanish) and the University of

New Mexico School of Law (J.D., 2008). She works as the Director for the Second Judicial District Court's Center for Self-Help and Dispute Resolution in Albuquerque, NM. She is involved with the Committee on Diversity in the Legal Profession, Bridge the Gap Mentorship Program, New Mexico Black Lawyers Association, Region X of the National Bar Association, ACLU of New Mexico, New Mexico Black Central Organizing Committee, and the IOTA XI Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.



Tomas J. Garcia

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 and he is a founder and board chair of Albuquerque Collegiate Charter School. An Albuquerque native, Tomas received his law degree from Georgetown University Law Center.

Carla C. Martinez

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Benjamin I. Sherman

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Lucy H. Sinkular

Lucy Sinkular is a shareholder at Atkinson & Kelsey, P.A., in Albuquerque, where she maintains a state-wide family law practice. She graduated from the Kansas University School of Law in 1994.

Lucy is trained in Collaborative Law and has been involved with the New Mexico Women’s Bar Association (Past President), Family Law Section, and American Bar Foundation (Life Fellow). She has extensive experience in divorce and custody issues, including those arising from military benefits, pensions and relocations. Lucy’s family includes her husband Scott, their daughter who is a grad student at Virginia Tech and their son who is a senior at New Mexico State University. The family also dote on their two spoiled Labrador retrievers.

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



Concepcion J. Flores

Connie J. Flores, partner at Flores, Tawney, & Acosta P.C, specializes in cases involving personal injury. Her mission is to help injured people that have been treated unjustly by insurance companies. Flores attended the University of Denver

2003 for undergrad and UNMSOL 2008. She is licensed to practice law in New Mexico and Texas. Flores, who became a teenage mother at the age of 15, has been a keynote speaker at local area high schools. She addresses the issues surrounding teenage pregnancy in an effort to encourage teenage parents to continue their higher education.



Robert Lara, Jr.

575-523-8219
lcrdrxl@nmcourts.gov

Robert Lara attended the University of Texas at El Paso (B.A., Political Science, 2004) and the University of New Mexico School of Law (2007) where he was honored with the Dean’s Award for Service

to the Law School Community. Robert has served as an attorney for private law firms, federal and state government, and non-profit organizations and has been a licensed attorney in New Mexico since 2009. Currently, Robert is in his fifth year serving the Third Judicial District Court as one of its Staff Attorneys and the needs of Pro Se litigants at the Self Help Center. In addition to his work in the legal community, Robert is an active triathlete and volunteers his time to serve various animal rescue groups.



David P. Lutz

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 Onate 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.



Brett Phelps

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. Folsie

Parker Folsie 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 New Mexico State Bar Trial Practice Group, the Chaves County Bar Association, the New Mexico Defense Lawyer's Association, and the Defense Research Institute. Parker enjoys exploring the outdoors by camping and hiking in New Mexico's mountains with his wife, Robin, and daughter, Evelyn.

4th and 8th Judicial Districts (Guadalupe, Mora, San Miguel, Colfax, Taos, and Union Counties)

7th and 13th Judicial Districts (Catron, Sierra, Socorro, and Torrance Counties)



Catherine A. Cameron

Catherine Cameron has served the New Mexico Human Services Department for 16 years and previously served as a Bernalillo County prosecutor for nine years. Prior to graduating from the

University of New Mexico School of Law, Catherine worked on civil rights issues for the ACLU in DC and LA, advocated for unhoused families in LA and taught in under-resourced public secondary schools in Compton-Watts. She volunteers for literacy, anti-poverty and gender justice organizations. In her free time, she enjoys biking, hiking and traveling with her family.



Simone M. Seiler

Simone M. Seiler is a graduate of the University of New Mexico School of Law. In 2007 she passed the patent bar and began representing clients before the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office. Simone spent the first half of her legal career working for a private civil and intellectual property law firm, and the second half working for the Human Services Department and the Thirteenth Judicial District Court. She has served on the boards of the State Bar's Intellectual Property Law Section and Animal Law Section and the New Mexico Women's Bar Association. Simone runs the pro bono legal clinics in the Thirteenth Judicial District and serves on its pro bono committee.



Mitchell Mender

Mitchell Mender is a Public Defender in Portales, NM. Mitch is a graduate of Brigham Young University. He graduated Vermont Law School in their accelerated juris doctorate program. He started his career as a prosecutor with the Ninth Judicial District Attorney's Office. He was awarded prosecutor of the year for the Ninth Judicial District in 2018 and 2019. Mitch serves on the local Drug Court representing his office. 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

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.

9th and 10th Judicial Districts (Curry, Roosevelt, DeBaca, Harding, and Quay Counties)

12th Judicial District (Lincoln and Otero Counties)

Erinna M. Atkins

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Out-of-State District



Sean M. FitzPatrick

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.

Senior Lawyers Division Delegate



Daniel J. Behles

Dan Behles is of Counsel to the Albuquerque bankruptcy firm of Askew & White, LLC. 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. He sits on the board of directors of the Senior Lawyer's Division, and has been a Southwest Superlawyers for over 10 years.

Young Lawyers Division Chair



Jessica A. Perez

Jessica Perez is an Assistant District Attorney in the 13th Judicial District Attorney's Office within the Sandoval County office. There, she works primarily as a felony trial attorney, handling cases

involving drug trafficking, felony domestics, and juvenile delinquency cases involving serious violent and sexual offenses. She also manages the review of expungement cases and handles the extradition hearings along with serving as the prosecutor representative within the specialty courts for the Sandoval Office. Jessica graduated from the University of New Mexico School of Law in May 2018. In addition to serving on the Young Lawyer's Division Board, she serves as a delegate for the State of New Mexico within the ABA YLD Assembly.

Paralegal Division Liaison



Linda Sanders

Linda Sanders is the 2022 Chair of the State Bar of New Mexico Paralegal Division. She works as a paralegal at Hurley Toevs Styles Hamblin & Panter, PA in the Trust & Estate Litigation Group. Probate, estate and trust litigation has been the focus of Linda's career for the last 12 years. As a member of the Paralegal Division, Linda has served as Chair of the Pro-Bono/Community Services and CLE Coordination Committees, as well as Division Secretary. Linda's hobbies and interests include reading (in particular historical fiction and non-fiction), spending time with her husband exploring New Mexico's backcountry in their OHV, and training dogs for competitive field work.