

YLD...In Brief

The Official Newsletter of the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of New Mexico

April 2007

Greetings from the Chair:

Erika E. Anderson

As the new Chair of the Young Lawyers Division, it is with great enthusiasm and pleasure that I am able to address the accomplishments and goals of the Young Lawyers Division for 2007. The Young Lawyers Division had an exciting, busy and productive past year, and I am excited to continue this momentum in 2007.

Every year the Young Lawyers Division is committed to helping law students make the transition from law school to becoming a young lawyer. In January the Young Lawyers Division co-sponsored a resume party with the Older & Wiser Law Students. This is a program where law students work with practicing attorneys to help improve their résumés. The Young Lawyers Division has again co-sponsored a mentorship program with the University of New Mexico School of Law. The mentorship program matches law students with young lawyers who have similar interests and is a way for law students to get guidance and advice from young attorneys. In February the Young Lawyers Division offered a mock interview program. The mock interview program is a program where young lawyers interview law students and provide constructive feedback on their interviewing skills. For the past couple years, the Young Lawyers Division has also offered

\$3,000 summer scholarships to two law students who show an interest in working in the public sector. The scholarships allow law students to pursue a fellowship in the public sector that they might not otherwise be able to do because of funding concerns. In November the Young Lawyers Division will again sponsor "Bridge the Gap," a CLE that focuses on topics of interest to a new lawyer like "How to take a Deposition" or "Discovery 101."

The Young Lawyers Division also has a commitment to doing community service projects throughout New Mexico. Every year the Young Lawyers Division provides funding for the Homeless Legal Aid Clinic in Las Cruces and Albuquerque. The Young Lawyers Division also hosts an annual call-in program for Law Day in Las Cruces, Roswell, Farmington and Albuquerque. Last year the Young Lawyers Division started the Junior Judges program. This is a program that places young lawyers into elementary schools to help empower students to make smart choices when it comes to cheating, bullying and other potentially negative behavior. The Young Lawyers Division also started the Dismas House Project. Dismas House is a transitional living program for individuals who are reentering the

community after being incarcerated. The Dismas House project is currently seeking volunteer attorneys to help teach programs in family law, criminal law, landlord/tenant law, and the restoration of diver's licenses.

This year the Young Lawyers Division is interested in expanding its Junior Judges program and adopting a new community service project. The Young Lawyers Division hopes to expand the Junior Judges program to Santa Fe and Las Cruces. The Young Lawyers Division is also planning to introduce an American Bar Association Young Lawyer program called "Choose Law: A Profession for All" into the Albuquerque public junior high schools and high schools. Choose Law is a program that encourages students, especially students of color, to choose law as a profession. It also educates students on what steps they need to take early in their education if they intend to eventually apply to law school.

The Young Lawyers Division has already hosted two brown bag lunches this year. These brown bag lunches are an excellent way for young lawyers to meet the judges and to learn their expectations. The first brown bag lunch was held on March 15 in Law Cruces with several state court judges. The second one was held on March 27 in Albuquerque with several federal court judges.

The Young Lawyers Division wants to encourage young lawyers to get involved and to attend this year's State Bar annual convention to be held July 12-15, 2007 in Mescalero, New Mexico. In addition to the great programming and having Justice Sandra Day O'Connor as the keynote speaker, the State Bar is offering a \$175 rebate for the first fifty young lawyers who register for the annual convention! The

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Region II Update.....	2
Region III Update.....	2
The Fifth Judicial District Court Gets a Makeover.....	3
Meet the Board.....	4-5
Junior Judges and Choose Law.....	6
ABA/YLD Report.....	6

continued on page 2

YLD BOARD

Erika Anderson, Chair
Briana Zamora, Director-At-Large #1
Nasha Martinez, Director-At-Large #2
Joseph A. Sapien, Director-At-Large #3
Roxanna Marie Chacon, Director-At-Large #4
Erika Anderson, Director-At-Large #5
Joseph Sawyer, Region 1 Director
J. Brent Moore, Region 2 Director
Dustin K. Hunter, Region 3 Director
David Lutz, Region 4 Director
Martha Chicoski, Region 5 Director
S. Carolyn Ramos, Past Chair
Ed Perea, UNM Student Liaison

YLD SECTION LIAISONS

Appellate Practice - **Darin Foster**
Bankruptcy Law - **Arin Berkson**
Business Law - **Jocelyn Castillo**
Children's Law - **Kathryn Terry**
Commercial Litigation - **Patrick Griebel**
Criminal Law - **Marc Lilley**
Employment & Labor Law - **Tina Cruz**
Health Law - **Sandra Beerle**
Indian Law - **Mark Baker**
International & Immigration Law -
Nasha Martinez
Natural Resources, Energy &
Environmental Law - **Carol Parker**
Prosecutors - **Marguerite Carr**
Public Law - **Sharon Shaheen**
Real Property - **Patrick Dolan**
Solo & Small Firm Practitioners - **Joseph Sapien**
Taxation - **Tammi Kipp**
Trial Practice - **Molly Schmidt-Nowara**

YLD PROGRAM CHAIRS

Bridge the Gap 2007 - **Roxanna Chacon**
Call-in Programs 2007 -
Albuquerque: **Mo Chavez**
Las Cruces: **David Lutz**
Farmington: **Joe Sawyer**
Roswell: **Dustin Hunter**
Choose Law - **Martha Chicoski**
Dismas House Life Skills - **Briana Zamora**
Homeless Legal Clinic -
Albuquerque: **Laurel Nesbitt**
Las Cruces: **Steven Almanza**
In Brief - **Carolyn Ramos**
Junior Judges -
Albuquerque: **Martha Chicoski and**
Briana Zamora
Las Cruces: **Roxanna Chacon**
Santa Fe: **Molly Schmidt-Nowara**
UNM/YLD Mentor Program -
Roman Romero and Valerie Reighard
Mock Interview Program
Briana Zamora and Martha Chicoski
Summer Fellowship - **Brent Moore**, chair
Web Liaison - **Dustin Hunter**

Young Lawyers Division

Greetings from Chair

continued from cover

Young Lawyers Division will hold its annual meeting on July 14, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. Any young lawyer who wants to get involved is encouraged to attend this meeting.

Many of the Young Lawyers Division Board members continue to have funded leadership positions with the American Bar Association. Morris (Mo) Chavez is the Minorities in the Profession Chair. Briana Zamora is on the National Conferences Team and is also a delegate for the National Hispanic Bar Association. Roxanna Chacon and I are on the Affiliate Assistance Team. As Affiliate Assistance Team members, Chacon and I recently presented at the Rocky Mountain regional conference in Las Vegas, Nevada on Increasing Diversity Awareness in Your Bar. Martha Chicoski also received one in ten Minorities in the Profession scholarships.

Finally, most of our recent elections have been contested, representing a strong interest among young lawyers to serve on the Young Lawyers Division Board. I want to welcome Martha Chicoski, Nasha Martinez and David Lutz to the Board. The energy and new ideas from these new Board members will make our Young Lawyers Division even stronger.

The Young Lawyers Division is a mandatory bar with about 1,400 members. It is an exciting division to be a part of, and as the Chair, I want to encourage anyone who wants to get involved in any of these existing projects, or if anyone has an idea for a new project, to contact me or attend one of our upcoming events.

Region II Update - Santa Fe

Brent Moore

The Young Lawyers Division Region II, which includes the Santa Fe area, recently co-hosted an event called *Thirsty Thursdays*. This event was an opportunity for young lawyers in the area to socialize with other attorneys outside of work. The event was very successful and attracted about thirty lawyers from the area. Region II hopes to co-host another *Thirsty Thursday* later this year. Region II is also working hard to implement the Junior Judges and Choose Law programs into the Santa Fe schools. The Junior Judges program is designed for elementary schools and is a program that teaches students how to make smart decisions. The Choose Law program is designed for junior high and high schools. This program encourages students, especially minority students, to choose law as a profession.

Region III Update - Las Cruces

Roxanna Chacon and David Lutz

The young lawyers in Region III put on an annual Law Day event which includes going into local schools to provide education about the legal profession, man a legal services call in clinic once per year, host a breakfast with local judges and also assist with providing pro bono legal services to the elderly and others through the State Bar's referral programs and through private referrals.

The Fifth Judicial District Court Gets a Makeover

Dustin K. Hunter

If you have not appeared in Southeastern New Mexico's Fifth Judicial District Court (comprising Chaves, Eddy and Lea counties) recently, you are in for a few surprises. The Fifth has had an extreme makeover in that a majority of the District's nine judges have been appointed or elected within the past two years and stood for general election last November. In order of seniority, the new Fifth Judicial District Judges are: the Honorable Freddie J. Romero, the Honorable Ralph D. Shamas, the Honorable Jane Shuler Gray, the Honorable Steven Bell and the Honorable Thomas Rutledge.

While the judges' individual paths to the bench are unique in each case, they have many things in common. All of the judges were and are respected trial lawyers. Among the five new judges, they have hundreds of jury and bench trials and countless arbitrations and mediations. They all also have a broad base of experience and background in numerous areas of the law, as well as expertise in many areas, making them well qualified for their role as judges in courts of general jurisdiction. Let me help you get to know them better.

The Honorable Freddie J. Romero. In February of 2005, Judge Romero was appointed by Governor Bill Richardson to the Division II seat of the Fifth Judicial District Court, replacing the Honorable Alvin F. Jones who was retiring. Before that, Judge Romero was in private practice in Roswell since 1982 where he practiced in many areas, but primarily in general civil litigation. Judge Romero received his B.A. in Government from New Mexico State University and his Juris Doctor from the University of New Mexico School of Law. Judge Romero was born in Roswell and was raised in the Hondo Valley. His family has been in New Mexico for generations and has been in the southeast area of the State since 1860. In addition to pursuing his legal career, Judge Romero, as an attorney, served on numerous boards and organizations devoted to the Chaves County community, children, and social work. He was recently appointed to the Juvenile Justice Advisory Commission. Although he has a general

docket of cases, including criminal, civil, and domestic matters, he is the only judge handling the juvenile delinquency docket for Chaves County. Judge Romero had no opponent in last November's election and now holds his seat on a retention basis. Judge Romero hears cases primarily in Chaves County where his chambers are located.

The Honorable Ralph D. Shamas. When Judge William P. Lynch decided to leave the Fifth Judicial District Court bench to take a position as a U.S. District Magistrate Judge, Ralph Shamas felt compelled to seek his judiciary position out of a deep sense of public service, even though it meant leaving behind a very successful law practice. After he applied, Judge Shamas was selected by the non-partisan judicial selection committee of his peers as the only candidate to be recommended to the Governor for appointment to the position. Governor Bill Richardson appointed Shamas to the Division VI seat in June of 2005. Judge Shamas was born and raised in Roswell. He attended undergraduate at the University of New Mexico and law school at the University of Iowa School of Law. After law school, he returned to Roswell to practice law, where he was engaged in private practice for 33 years before deciding to become a judge. He is a former member of the American Association of Trial Lawyers and the New Mexico Trial Lawyers Association where he was on the Board of Directors in 1984 and 1985. His areas of practice included civil litigation and criminal law. Judge Shamas had no opponent in last November's election and now holds his seat on a retention basis. Judge Shamas hears cases primarily in Chaves County where his chambers are located.

The Honorable Jane Shuler Gray. In 2006 Judge Shuler Gray was appointed by Governor Bill Richardson to fill Position V of the Fifth Judicial District bench, a seat formerly held by her brother, James L. Shuler. Judge Gray was in practice for 30 years before her appointment. She became the first and is currently the only female judge in the history of the Fifth Judicial

District. She is a native New Mexican who was born and raised in Carlsbad. She attended the University of New Mexico for her undergraduate work and was one of only eight women in a class of 150 at Pepperdine University School of Law when she graduated in 1977. Judge Shuler Gray's career has been characterized by service to the bar and to others, including serving as a Commissioner on the State Bar of New Mexico Board of Bar Commissioners and on numerous boards and organizations focused on the needs of children. Judge Shuler Gray is also a nurse, having obtained her nursing degree after nearly 20 years of practice as an attorney. Judge Shuler Gray won a contested primary and a general election last year and now holds her seat on a retention basis. Judge Shuler Gray hears cases primarily in Eddy County where her chambers are located.

The Honorable Steven L. Bell. Judge Bell was appointed by Governor Richardson as a District Judge with the creation of the Division X Position. During his 28 years in private practice, he practiced entirely at one firm in Roswell where he represented the State of New Mexico, the City of Roswell, the City of Carlsbad and numerous other metropolitan and municipal entities, as well as local, regional and national businesses. In addition to his work as an attorney, he was a board member for numerous organizations, including the United Way of Chaves County. He has been listed as one of the "Best Lawyers in America" since 2001. Judge Bell attended undergraduate school at Texas Tech University and Law School at the University of Texas School of Law. Judge Bell won a contested election in November and now holds his seat on a retention basis. Judge Bell hears cases primarily in Chaves County where he has his chambers.

The Honorable Thomas A. Rutledge. Judge Rutledge is the only judge of the new judges in the Fifth Judicial District who was not appointed by Governor Richardson. Division IX is a new position created by the legislature in 2006. Thomas Rutledge won the seat in the November 2006

continued on page 7

Meet the Board



Erika E. Anderson

Erika E. Anderson is an associate attorney with Long, Pound & Komer, P.A. in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She does civil litigation and works primarily on cases involving civil rights, employment, business and personal injury law. Anderson received her undergraduate degree from the University of Colorado in 1992, her masters in counseling from the University of New Mexico (UNM) in 1995 and her J.D. from the UNM School of Law in 2001 where she was on the dean's list and honor roll and received the *A. McLeod Award for Skill in Advocacy*. Anderson clerked for eight judges in the Fifth Judicial District, which encompasses Southeastern New Mexico, and for the Honorable Gene Franchini and the Honorable Richard C. Bosson on the New Mexico Supreme Court. She is a member of the U. S. District Court for the District of New Mexico and the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. She has served on the New Mexico Young Lawyers Division since 2003 and was elected the Chair for 2007. She has been nationally selected to be a member of the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Affiliate Assistance Team, where she provides support to other affiliates throughout the country and assists with programming for national conferences. She is also on the Board of Directors for the First Judicial District Bar Association in Santa Fe and will be its president in 2008. In October of 2006, she was named "40 Under 40" by the *New Mexico Business Weekly* as an individual who is under forty years of age making positive contributions to the profession and community. Prior to becoming a lawyer, Anderson worked for four years as a counselor for adolescents and their families.



Dustin K. Hunter

Dustin K. Hunter is a name partner in the Roswell, firm of Kraft & Hunter, LLP. He practices in a wide range of civil and corporate matters, including family law, business litigation, insurance coverage and litigation, contracts and personal injury. Dustin grew up in a small town in Southern Oklahoma and attended undergraduate at Cameron University on a full academic and leadership scholarship, graduating magna cum laude with a B.A. in Political Science. Dustin obtained his Juris Doctorate from Texas Tech University School of Law, graduating magna cum laude. He also attended law school on a full academic and leadership scholarship, was a member of the Texas Tech Law Review and was named to the Order of the Coif. Dustin currently serves as a Board of Director on the New Mexico Young Lawyers Division for Region III, which encompasses Southeastern New Mexico, was recently appointed as a member of the State Bar of New Mexico's Quality of Life Committee and also recently appointed as the City Hearing Officer for the Motor Vehicle Seizure, Forfeiture and Violent Crimes Ordinance for the City of Roswell. He is also a proud 2006 graduate of the Roswell Chamber of Commerce "Leadership Roswell" program.

David Lutz

David Lutz, Region IV Director, was born in Las Cruces and grew up in Albuquerque and Las Cruces. He graduated from Oñate High School in 1993 and graduated from Claremont McKenna College with a B.A. in History in 1997. From there, David attended law school at Cornell Law School where he earned his JD with a Specialization in International Legal Affairs in 2000. After law school, David worked at Baker Botts, LLP in Dallas, Texas in the firm's Litigation Department. He returned to New Mexico in 2004 and is currently a partner at Martin, Lutz, Roggow, Hosford, & Eubanks, P.C. in Las Cruces where his practice is general with an emphasis on commercial litigation. David announces that there will be a brown-bag lunch for young lawyers with Judge Murphy on March 15. He is also looking to implement the Junior Judges program here in Las Cruces in the near future and seeks volunteers in that regard. For more information or to volunteer, please contact at David at dplutz@osogrande.com.



Brent Moore

Brent Moore is the Chair-Elect of the Young Lawyers Division. He represents Region 2 of the Young Lawyers Division, which covers the First, Fourth, Eighth, and Tenth Judicial Districts. Mr. Moore is also the fellowship coordinator for the YLD Summer Fellowship program and a Board member of the Natural Resources, Energy, and Environmental Law Section of the State Bar. Currently, Mr. Moore is the Deputy Superintendent for the Insurance Division of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission. Mr. Moore is a 1994 graduate of Texas Christian University and a 1998 graduate of the University of New Mexico School of Law in 1998. After graduating from law school, Mr. Moore participated in the Legal Honors Program for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington, D.C. Upon completing the program, he was Agency Counsel for the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency and an Assistant General Counsel for the New Mexico Environment Department.

Meet the Board



S. Carolyn Ramos

Carolyn is a shareholder and director with the law firm of Butt Thornton & Baehr PC in Albuquerque, New Mexico where she practices primarily in the defense of trucking, medical malpractice, product liability, and other personal injury cases. She was born and raised in New York City and earned her bachelors degree from Middlebury College in 1993. From there, she became a Teach for America Corps Member, teaching bilingual elementary school in Washington, D.C. In 2000, Carolyn earned her juris doctorate from the University of New Mexico School of Law where she was the recipient of the Lewis Sutin Award for Excellence in Trial Advocacy, the National Association of Woman Lawyers Award and Honors in Clinical Law. She is Secretary/Treasurer of the New Mexico Defense Lawyers Association, Immediate Past Chair of the Young Lawyers Division, a member of the New Mexico and National Hispanic Bar Associations, American Bar Association, Defense Research Institute, Supreme Court Rules of Evidence Committee and a panelist on the New Mexico Medical Review Commission. Carolyn is also a member of the first graduating class of the State Bar of New Mexico Lawyers' Leadership Training Institute. Most notably, Carolyn is mom to two-year old Santiago and wife of Albuquerque, financial planner Chad Cooper.



Joseph A. Sapien

Joseph is a native New Mexican born in Albuquerque, New Mexico and raised in Bernalillo, New Mexico. Joseph earned his undergraduate degree in finance from the Anderson Schools of Management at the University of New Mexico (UNM) in 1990 graduating *cum laude*. After college, he was employed with the State Farm Insurance Companies at the Sunland Regional Office in Tempe, AZ. He returned to Albuquerque in October 1997 working with State Farm in the newly formed Casualty/Litigation claim unit. Joseph entered the University of New Mexico School of Law (UNMSOL) in the fall of 1999 and earned his Juris Doctor in May 2002. After passing the bar exam he began his legal career in September 2002 with Butt Thornton & Baehr, P.C. working in the areas of general liability, products liability, workers compensation, and trucking and transportation. In November 2005 Joseph and his brother Phillip G. Sapien formed Sapien Law LLC. The firm practices in the areas of personal injury, criminal defense, wrongful death, workers compensation, contract disputes and formation, business law, insurance claim settlements and estate planning. Joseph is a member of the American Bar Association (ABA), a member of the Executive Committee and a board member of the New Mexico Hispanic Bar Association (NMHBA), member of the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA), a member of the Albuquerque Bar Association, member of American Association of Justice (AAJ), board member of the Solo and Small Firm Practitioners Section and is serving on the board of the Young Lawyers Division, At Large Position #3 until his terms ends in late 2007.



Joseph F. Sawyer

Joseph F. Sawyer is a native New Mexican and Assistant District Attorney working in the Eleventh Judicial District in Farmington. He is a graduate of the University of New Mexico (1995) and the University of Notre Dame Law School (1999). Mr. Sawyer and his wife Ana Lucia have two little girls: Natalia, age 2 1/2 and Mariana, age 1 year.



Briana Zamora

Briana is a native New Mexican. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Government from New Mexico State University in 1996 and from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 2000. She is an Associate at Butt Thornton & Baehr PC where she practices primarily in the areas of workers compensation, personal injury defense and criminal defense. Previously, she worked as an Assistant Public Defender, Assistant Attorney General and Workers' Compensation Mediator. Briana currently serves on the Board of Directors of the New Mexico Young Lawyers Division, the New Mexico Hispanic Bar Association and Dismas House of New Mexico. In addition, she is the National Representative of the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) for the Young Lawyers Division of the American Bar Association. Briana is the co-chair of the New Mexico Young Lawyer's Division Mock Interview Program and the "Tools of Success" Dismas House Program.

Junior Judges and Choose Law: YLD'S Ongoing Commitment to Community Service

Martha Chicoski

Community service has always been a top priority for the New Mexico Young Lawyers Division, and this year is no different from any other. *Junior Judges* and *Choose Law* are only two examples of YLD's dedication to giving back to the community. The purpose of *Junior Judges* is to teach 3rd, 4th and 5th graders to judge for themselves what the right thing to do is in situations such as cheating, bullying, gangs and weapons, and drugs and alcohol. There is no cost to the schools. All that is needed by the school is a VCR and a willingness to have students engage in this interactive program about the potential consequences of misbehaving. The curriculum is taught in approximately one-hour segments.

Last year, during its inaugural year in this state, fifteen Albuquerque public elementary schools participated, with forty-five attorney volunteers generously donating their time to this new endeavor. *Junior Judges* was a tremendous success thanks to these attorneys who took time from their busy schedules to talk with the students about making the right decision when faced with difficult peer situations. The YLD Board is currently engaged in efforts to bring *Junior*

Judges to other areas in the state, such as Santa Fe, Farmington, and Las Cruces.

This year's program took place in Albuquerque public schools on Friday, April 13th. At the time this article was written, approximately sixty classes in eighteen schools APS elementary schools had expressed interest in the program. *Junior Judges* will be held in Las Cruces at the end of May.

Switching gears to older students, this year's ABA/YLD public service project is entitled *Choose Law: A Profession for All*. The purpose of *Choose Law* is to educate junior high and high school students about the legal profession, and to encourage students of color to consider a career in law. The ABA/YLD is committed to increasing diversity within the legal profession by assisting and encouraging students of color to become attorneys.

Choose Law is composed of two motivational tools: a video and a written guide. The video features attorneys and judges of color discussing some of the challenges they faced,

some of their more rewarding experiences as attorneys, and the importance of diversity in the profession. Among those included in the video are our very own past YLD-chairs Morris Chavez and Carolyn Ramos! The written guide is designed to provide students with a description of the legal profession in a simple and straight-forward manner, as well as describe the steps needed in order to become an attorney.

Members of the YLD Board are currently working with the New Mexico Hispanic Bar Association and UNM School of Law on ways to bring *Choose Law* into New Mexico schools. For more information about *Choose Law*, please contact either Briana Zamora at bhzamora@btblaw.com, or Martha Chicoski at mmchicoski@gmail.com.

The YLD Board is excited to continue its tradition of providing quality public service programs to our communities. We truly appreciate the time and dedication that so many fellow attorneys give to all YLD-sponsored programs to help make them successful.

A Word From Our ABA/YLD District 23 Representative, Liz Hill

Greetings. As many of you know, the American Bar Association ("ABA") is a very large professional organization that provides law school accreditation, continuing legal education, information about law, programs to assist lawyers and judges in their work, and initiative to improve the legal system for the public. As a new lawyer, an organization of this magnitude may seem overwhelming and possibly irrelevant to your everyday life. Well, I'm here to tell you that the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division ("YLD") helps bridge that gap while providing a wealth of opportunities that you can apply to your life and your

practice regardless of where you live or what you do.

The YLD mission is to further the Association's goals and purposes, and thereby to serve the community and the legal profession; to represent young lawyers in the Association, and to represent the Association to young lawyers; to help shape the policies and priorities that affect young lawyers and the legal culture in which they practice; and to create a deliberative forum for the exchange and expression of young lawyers' views, and a voice to advocate those views. It accomplishes its mission through

the combined efforts of the Assembly, Council, Executive Board, committees, special projects, liaisons to other Association entities, and the Division's affiliated state and local bar young lawyer groups. The Division's meetings and conferences include several different kinds of programming - public service, affiliate outreach, bar leadership, member service, professional development, and continuing legal education - that benefit both affiliate organizations, and individual young lawyers. Its committee structure is extensive, with over 30 substantive and standing committees that generate programs

continued on page 7

Fifth Judicial

continued from page 3

general election and took office the next month. Judge Rutledge graduated from the University of New Mexico in 1970 and then served in the U.S. Army, including time in the Republic of Viet Nam from 1970 to 1972. He then attended law school at the University of New Mexico School of Law and graduated in 1975. After practicing in Albuquerque for a couple of years, he moved to Carlsbad, where he served as an Assistant District Attorney for seven years before running and being elected the Fifth Judicial District Attorney in 1985, a position which he retained until December of 2004 when he stepped down to teach criminal justice at the College of the Southwest until December 2006. Judge Rutledge served and continues to serve the community through numerous board memberships including the Carlsbad Boys & Girls Club and the Carlsbad Riverwalk Recreation Complex. Judge Rutledge holds his seat on a retention basis. He hears cases primarily in Eddy County where he has his chambers.

I had an opportunity to ask each of the judges what advice they would give to young lawyers appearing before them. Their top five suggestions are set out below.

TOP FIVE LIST OF THINGS YOUNG LAWYERS SHOULD DO:

5. Spend Time on Your Written Product.

Judges read everything that is filed.

4. Be As Prepared As You Can Be. Being prepared is the touchstone of a good lawyer. One judge advises that “if you have prepared for court, be confident in your ability and knowledge. Great speaking will come in time, but knowledge and confidence will carry the day until then.”

3. Do Not Be Afraid to Ask for Help or Guidance.

Several judges recounted stories where advice was given to them by a senior judge after a hearing or trial and the invaluable lessons they learned though

those conversations. They want to continue this with the next generation’s lawyers.

2. Treat Other Attorneys (and Everyone Else) With Respect.

Although ours is an adversarial system, you do not have to be adversarial or personal with the opposing attorney. One judge explained that “I have never seen a single lawyer gain an advantage by unprofessional conduct, but the reverse is not true.”

And the number one thing that the judges wanted young lawyers to know . . .

1. Protect your Reputation at All Costs.

Credibility with the Court and with other lawyers is the most important asset that you have as a lawyer. Young lawyers should strive to always be honest and straightforward, deal fairly with other lawyers, keep your word and cooperate. As one judge explained, “lawyers’ ethical rules are baselines, not goals.”

ABA/YLD Report

continued from page 6

on topics as diverse as health care law, family law, dispute resolution, and programs that promote child advocacy and protection, minorities in the profession, ethics, law practice management, and women in the profession.

This year, the YLD will present the “101 Practice Series” as its Member Service Project. The focus is on the lawyers that are new to our profession and who are in their first three years of practice. The goal is to provide these new lawyers with basic training in both substantive and practical aspects of a law practice.

The Public Service Project is Choose Law. The goal is to encourage individuals of color to become attorneys through use of a new video, a written curriculum, a website, and attorney volunteers. The students will be taught the importance of the legal profession and how the law affects all aspects of their lives. They will also be taught that the

legal profession is an honorable profession and that attorneys of color have played a crucial role in its development. Finally, the students will be taught that there are wonderful and diverse opportunities for individuals pursuing legal careers, but that they must begin now by obtaining a good education, making good grades, and staying out of trouble if a career in the law is what they truly desire.

In sum, the YLD provides its members with a wealth of personal and professional opportunities-- networking, committee participation, public service, educational courses, useful newsletters and national conferences, to name a few.

Membership in the YLD is open to all members of the ABA under the age of 36 years or admitted to practice for less than five years. There are no membership dues, but the ABA membership is required. If you are an ABA member, and under the age

of 36 or admitted to practice less than five years, you are automatically a member of the YLD.

The next ABA YLD conference will be held this May in Montreal, Canada. There is no better time than now to get involved. If you are interested, or just want more information, simply contact **yld@staff.abanet.org**, myself, or your local affiliate Chair Erika Anderson.

On behalf of the ABA YLD, I hope you will take advantage of the ABA YLD and all it has to offer. The best to you in all your future endeavors.

Warmest Regards,

Liz Hill
ABA YLD District 23 Representative
travlizhill@cox.net

THANKS FROM THE YLD

The YLD would like to extend its sincerest thanks to the following individuals who took time out of their schedules to participate in the Junior Judges Program:

Erika Anderson
Angela Arellanes
Amy Bailey
Kimberly Bell
Rachel Berenson
Alissa Berger
Martha Chicoski
Beth Collard
Tamara Couture
JoHanna Cox
Michael Duran
Darin Foster
Julie Gallardo

Glenna Hayes
Scott Jaworski
Heather Kenney
Jane Laflin
Carolyn Ramos
Clement Rogers
Laura Sanchez
Hon. Frank Sedillo
Denise Soto Hall
Nathan Sprague
Jennifer Wernersbach
Paul Yarbrough
Briana Zamora

Many thanks also go out to the Judges who offered their time and wisdom to young lawyers at the most recent YLD Judicial Brown Bag Luncheons in Albuquerque and Las Cruces.

From the United States District Court:

The Honorable James O. Browning
The Honorable Judith C. Herrera
The Honorable Lorenzo F. Garcia
The Honorable William P. Johnson

From the Third Judicial District Court:

The Honorable Michael Murphy
The Honorable James Martin

Announcements

The Young Lawyers Division will be holding its annual meeting on Saturday, July 14, 2007 at 10:00 A.M. during the State Bar's Annual Convention at the Inn of the Mountain Gods in Mescalero. The YLD will also host a reception on Friday, July 13, 2007 from 5:30 - 7:00. Location to be announced. All members and guests are encouraged to attend.