

YLD...In Brief

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

February 2008

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Dismas House Life Skills - **Briana Zamora**

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In Brief - **Erika Anderson**

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Las Cruces: **Roxanna Chacon**

UNM/YLD Mentor Program -

Erika Poindexter and Valerie Reighard

Mock Interview Program

Briana Zamora and Martha Chicoski

Summer Fellowship - **J. Brent Moore**, chair

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Greetings from the Chair



J. Brent Moore

As the incoming Chair of the Young Lawyers Division (YLD), it is my great pleasure to address the membership of YLD and other members of the State Bar of New Mexico. As some of you may know, membership in YLD automatic and

YLD has approximately 1,400 members. The membership is comprised of the members of the State Bar under the age of thirty-six (36) and those members who have been admitted to the practice of law in any state less than five (5) years. Every year the goal of YLD is to assist our members and future members (law students) by easing the transition from law school into productive and responsible members of the State Bar of New Mexico.

YLD had an extremely productive year in 2007, and I am excited to continue this momentum in the coming year. In 2008, YLD will continue to provide assistance to the Homeless Legal Aid Clinics in Las Cruces and Albuquerque, and will assist the new clinic that is starting in Santa Fe. YLD will continue its public service projects, which include the Annual Call-In Program for Law Day, Dismas House Project, Junior Judges Program, and Choose Law Program. YLD also will sponsor events for YLD members like our Brown Bag lunches with State and Federal Judges and the Bridge-the-Gap CLE, and YLD will sponsor programs for law students like the Mentorship Program, Mock Interview Program, and Summer Fellowship Program.

In addition, YLD will start a new service project in 2008, which promises to be extremely worthwhile. This project is called Wills-for-Heroes. The Wills-for-Heroes program is designed to provide free legal services in the areas of wills and probate to emergency personnel. This program brings together first responders with volunteer attorneys, laptop computers, witnesses and

notaries, and assists these first responders in executing signed, witnessed, and notarized estate planning documents in one hour. Anyone interested in participating in this program should contact me at brent.moore@state.nm.us or Roxanna Chacon at lcrdrmc@nmcourts.com. YLD is excited to implement this program in New Mexico and will showcase this program at the State Bar Convention this summer.

On that note, the Board of YLD wants to encourage all of our members to attend the State Bar Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona, on July 17-20, 2008. The convention will have both great programming and accommodations, and YLD will hold its annual meeting at the convention on July 19, 2008. Any young lawyer who wants to get involved is encouraged to attend this meeting. Because attending this convention may be difficult for young lawyers, YLD will be offering registration rebates to young lawyers who would like to attend the convention. These rebates are intended to offset the cost of attending the convention, and more information on these rebates will be forthcoming in the future.

Finally, I want to welcome several new members to the Board of YLD. Clara Moran, Tina Cruz, and Reagyn Germer joined the Board in 2008, and I look forward to working with each of them. I'm sure that the energy and ideas of these new Board members will make YLD even stronger. YLD is an exciting division of the State Bar, and as the Chair, I invite anyone who wants to get involved in any of our projects to contact me or attend one of our upcoming events.

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Meet the Board



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 the Chair in 2007. She was also nationally selected to be a member of the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Affiliate Assistance Team, where she provided support to other affiliates throughout the country and assisted with programming for national conferences. She is on the Board of Directors for the First Judicial District Bar Association in Santa Fe and is serving as 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.



ROXANNA M. CHACON, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, is a 2001 graduate of the University of New Mexico School of Law and a 1997 graduate of New Mexico State University. Chacon is a Staff Attorney for the Third Judicial District Court - State of New Mexico. Before working for the Court, she practiced in the area of civil litigation for law firms in Las Cruces and Albuquerque.

Chacon is a Past Chair of the New Mexico Young Lawyers Division and currently holds the position of Director-at-Large. She is the current Chair of the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division's Public Service and National Conferences Team. She is also a board member on both the University of New Mexico School of Law Alumni Board and the NM Hispanic Bar Association. In 2003, Chacon was named the "Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year" by the State Bar of New Mexico.



MARTHA CHICOSKI works as an assistant city attorney in the City of Albuquerque legal department, where her practice focuses on civil rights defense. Previous experience includes Robles, Rael & Anaya, P.C., Walz & Associates, and the NM Public Defender Department. She is currently vice-chair of the YLD Board. Additionally, as the YLD Region 5 Director, Chicoski represents the 2nd and 13th judicial districts, along with Catron, Socorro and Torrance counties. She is chair of *Junior Judges*, and co-chair of *Choose Law*, the UNM Law School/YLD Mock Interview program, and the inaugural *Justice for All Ball* host committee. A 2007 recipient of the ABA/YLD Minorities in the Profession Committee scholarship, Martha is now a member of the ABA/YLD Affiliates Assistance Team. Chicoski received her J.D. from Suffolk University Law School and her B.A. in Criminal Justice from the George Washington University. She is admitted to practice in New Mexico and Massachusetts, as well as before the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico.



ERNESTINA (TINA) CRUZ was recently appointed to the Young Lawyers Division Board of Directors and currently serves as a Director-at-Large (Position No. 3). She has participated in various YLD sponsored events, including the Bar Exam, Junior Judges and the Mock Interview programs. Currently, she is involved in the Wills for Heroes program and is helping organize the Equal Access to Justice/Young Lawyers Division's First Annual Justice for All Ball. While in law school, Cruz was the President of the Mexican American Law Students Association (MALSA). Presently, she is a member of the NMDLA Board of Editors, NM Hispanic Bar Association, Board of Bar Examiners, and serves on various State Bar Committees.

Cruz is a shareholder at the Narvaez Law Firm, P.A. in Albuquerque. Her practice focuses on employment and civil rights litigation.



REAGYN A. GERMER was born and raised in Colorado. She graduated from University of Chicago, A.B., in 1999 and received her law degree from University of Colorado School of Law in 2003. Germer is currently an associate with Finch & Olson, P.A. in Farmington. Her practice consists of general civil matters in the courts of the Navajo Nation, New Mexico, Arizona, and the Hopi Tribe, a contract representing Respondents in abuse and neglect proceedings, and a contract with DNA-People's Legal Services. She also serves as a Shiprock Bar Commissioner with the Navajo Nation Bar Association. Germer was previously with the Native American Disability Law Center (formerly known as the Native American Protection and Advocacy Project) for approximately three years focusing on providing legal services to the members of the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe. Germer lives in Aztec with her husband, Monte Mills, and their dogs, Barkley and Luna.

Meet the Board



DUSTIN K. HUNTER is a name partner in the Roswell, New Mexico 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. Hunter is currently serving a second term as a Board of Director on the New Mexico Young Lawyers Division for Region 3, which encompasses Southeastern New Mexico, serves as a member of the State Bar of New Mexico's Quality of Life Committee and also the City of Roswell Hearing Officer for the Motor Vehicle Seizure, Forfeiture and Violent Crimes Ordinance. On a national level, Hunter serves on the ABA YLD Affiliate Newsletter as an Associate Editor where he writes on issues pertaining to leadership, motivation and management. He was named to the Madison United Who's Who Registry from 2005-2007 and is a proud 2006 graduate of the Roswell Chamber of Commerce "Leadership Roswell" program. Hunter also volunteers and provides pro bono services to elderly individuals through the Lawyer Referral for the Elderly Pro Bono Service of the New Mexico State Bar and private referrals. Hunter obtained his Juris Doctorate from Texas Tech University School of Law, graduating *magna cum laude*. He 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. Hunter attended undergraduate at Cameron University on a full academic and leadership scholarship, graduating *magna cum laude* with a B.A. in Political Science. While at Cameron, he was elected and served as the Student Body President and was named to Cameron's Top Twenty Students two years in a row. Hunter has been married for sixteen years to his best friend, Jennifer, and has two children, a daughter named Lauren and a son named Ethan. He is an active member of Church on the Move where he serves as an usher and care group leader. His hobbies include competitive sports, hiking, real estate investment and residential remodeling.

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, Lutz attended law school at Cornell Law School where he earned his JD with a Specialization in International Legal Affairs in 2000. After law school, Lutz 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.



J. BRENT MOORE is the Chair of the Young Lawyers Division. He represents Region 2 of the Young Lawyers Division, which covers the First, Fourth, Eighth, and Tenth Judicial Districts. 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, Moore is the Acting General Counsel and Deputy Superintendent for the Insurance Division of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission. 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, 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.



CLARA MORAN is currently an Assistant Trial Attorney with the Bernalillo County District Attorney's office in Albuquerque. Moran works within the Metropolitan Court Division of the Bernalillo County District Attorney's office. She has prosecuted various types of misdemeanor cases and worked as the sole prosecutor within the Domestic Violence Pilot Project, a program of pooled resources between the Bernalillo County District Attorney's office and Governor Richardson's office. She has been part of several seminars and CLEs on evidence based prosecution in domestic violence cases. Currently, her primary responsibility is training new attorneys within the Metro Division.



EDMUND PEREA comes to UNM School of Law from the Albuquerque Police Department where he served over 23 years. He grew up in Albuquerque and received his undergrad from UNM. He has also completed course studies at University of Virginia, Northwestern University and Hamline University. During his tenure as SBA president, he has focused on Leadership and Professionalism as the theme. He has instituted Leadership training for student organization president's, created Leadership series of outside speakers and established professional development, lunch w/ a District Judge opportunities for the student body.

Meet the Board



NASHA Y. TORREZ is a native Northern New Mexican who received her bachelor's degree in business administration in 2000 from the Anderson Schools of Business and worked as an advocate for people with disabilities in San Diego at the non-profit law firm. She represented clients at administrative hearings, presented substantive legal trainings at national conferences, and worked heavily in the monolingual Spanish speaking and Native American communities. Torrez attended the UNM School of Law, graduating in 2006. She received the Dean's Award for outstanding contributions to the law school community for her leadership work in establishing a minority mentorship program. Torrez then practiced at the Rodey Law Firm in the litigation department, focusing on immigration, labor and employment law. She currently is the Associate General Counsel for New Mexico State Governor Bill Richardson.



BRIANA ZAMORA is a native New Mexican and a 2000 graduate of the University of New Mexico School of Law. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Government from New Mexico State University and a Juris Doctorate from the University of New Mexico School of Law. After graduation from law school, Zamora worked for the State of New Mexico in several legal capacities. Then, she was asked to join the law firm of Butt, Thornton & Baehr as an Associate Attorney practicing primarily in the areas of worker's compensation, personal injury defense and criminal defense. Most recently, she started her own law practice where she handles legal matters involving criminal defense, workers compensation and personal injury. She has been active in the New Mexico Young Lawyers Division for four years and recently was voted as Chair Elect to serve as Chair in 2009. Her volunteer activities include the Dismas House Project, the UNM/YLD Mock Interview Program and The Choose Law Program. Zamora is also a board member of the New Mexico Hispanic Bar Association and is the American Bar Association Young Lawyer's Division Representative for the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA). Zamora and her husband Kyle Nayback are the proud parents of their 6-month old daughter Addison and they currently live on the Westside of Albuquerque.

Wills for Heroes – 2008 Service Project

By: Roxanna Chacon

This year the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division (“ABA YLD”) is partnering with the Wills for Heroes Foundation, a not-for-profit organization, to provide basic estate planning services to emergency first responders free of charge. A number of young lawyer bar associations across the country have implemented or are in the process of implementing the program in their respective states. The State Bar of New Mexico Young Lawyers Division has decided to undertake this project for the 2008 bar year.

The program provides basic estate planning services to emergency first responders free of charge. The way the program works is emergency first responders complete an estate planning questionnaire prior to arriving at a Wills for Heroes event. Once on-site at the event, participants are assigned to a volunteer attorney who examines the questionnaire and inputs the information into a laptop preloaded with the appropriate software. Participants then receive a basic will that is notarized free of charge.

Unfortunately, many first responders in New Mexico do not have estate plans. With the support of the ABA YLD, the New Mexico Young Lawyers Division, the Wills for Heroes Foundation and you as an attorney volunteer, we can remedy this problem. The New Mexico Young Lawyers Division hopes to implement the program throughout the state in Albuquerque, Las Cruces, Santa Fe, Farmington and Roswell. If you are interested in assisting with this project please contact Roxanna Chacon at lgldmc@zianet.com or lcrdmc@nmcourts.com.



STATE BAR OF NEW MEXICO'S ANNUAL MEETING

Let's meet!

The Fairmont
Scottsdale Princess
Scottsdale, Arizona
July 17 – 20, 2008



Toll Free Resort Reservations 1-800-441-1414
Group Name: State Bar of New Mexico
Call CLE for registration details 505-797-6020

