

YLD BOARD

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YLD LIAISONS

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Tax, **Matthew M. Montoya**
Trial Practice, **Carter B. Harrison**

2018 PROGRAM CHAIRS

Annual Public Service Project for Outlying Areas,
Tomas Garcia, Billy Jimenez and Mariah McKay
CLE at State Bar of New Mexico Annual Meeting,
Sean FitzPatrick and Kaitlyn Luck
Constitution Day, **Sonia Russo, Anna Rains and Mariah McKay**
Diversity Collaboration, **Allison Block-Chavez**
#Fit2Practice, **Sean FitzPatrick and Kaitlyn Luck**
Home Safe Home, **Sonia Russo and Shasta Inman**
Homeless Legal Clinics, **Kaitlyn Luck**
Interview Program, **Erin Atkins**
Lunch with Judges Program,
Allison Block-Chavez and Erin Atkins
Law Camp, **Billy Jimenez, Shasta Inman and Sonia Russo**
Law Day Call-in, **Sean FitzPatrick and Anna Rains**
State Bar Student Essay Contest, **Darin McDougall**
Social Media, **Tomas Garcia and Sean FitzPatrick**
Summer Fellowship Program,
Allison Block-Chavez and Tomas Garcia
Veteran's Clinic, **Sean FitzPatrick**
Wills for Heroes, **Allison Block-Chavez and Billy Jimenez**
YLD CLE, **Sean FitzPatrick**
YLD/UNM School of Law Programs,
Darin McDougall and Billy Jimenez
YLD... In Brief, **Tomas Garcia**



Message from the YLD Chair

According to the American Bar Association, there were about 5,500 active lawyers in New Mexico in 2017. Approximately 1 out of every 3 lawyers in New Mexico is a young lawyer. You are a young lawyer if you are 36 and under or have been in practice five years or less. I have a question for the approximately 1,700 New Mexican young lawyers. How are you doing?

Law school debt, only a few job prospects, and little free time outside of work are just a few challenges faced by young lawyers. When I graduated, I wasn't sure exactly what the YLD was doing for me and I discussed it with a colleague of mine. His advice: do something about it. As a result, I became involved with the YLD and have had rewarding experiences that I would have completely missed out on had I not caught the YLD bug at a Constitution Day event. Now, six years later, I challenge you to do the same.

Is there something the YLD can do that would make being a lawyer in New Mexico better? What changes would you make? The YLD has done and continues to do some amazing things.

We have a great mentorship program through the University of New Mexico Law School. Come volunteer and remind law students that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Or give a mock interview and pepper them with questions you wish someone had prepared you for.

If networking isn't really your thing, come to one of the great public service projects the YLD puts on. For example, the Wills for Heroes program is a great event where simple wills are created for first responders. Or if you want to work with a younger crowd, give a presentation to fifth graders about the Constitution during the Constitution Day activities.

If you just need a healthy break from work and stress, we will be putting on a few Fit2Practice events this year after the success of last years programming. Come learn tips to manage stress or pound it out on the pavement at a 5k run/walk.

If you can't seem to find an activity that interests you, make one! For example, the YLD chair for 2017, Tomas Garcia, saw an opportunity to unite young lawyers from the southwest at a regional conference and put in the time and work to hold the third annual ABA YLD Mountain West States Regional Summit right here in Albuquerque.

Over the next year the YLD will be holding too many events to mention here. But I do want to thank those that make it possible including all the attorneys, paralegals, firms, practice sections, and State Bar staff. The YLD will be posting events on a regular basis on our new social media outlets on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @NewMexicoYLD.

Without a strong legal community none of these events would be possible. So, come to an event, drop me a line or take up the mantle of leadership. You have an amazing opportunity as a New Mexico Young Lawyer to shape the future of your career and of the legal community.

Sean M FitzPatrick

Sean M. FitzPatrick
sfitzpatrick@fitzpatricklawllc.com

Meet the Board



Sean M. FitzPatrick

Chair

Director-at-Large, Position 3

Sean FitzPatrick is a graduate of UNM School of Law and currently practices plaintiff's civil litigation in Albuquerque, N.M. through his firm FitzPatrick Law, LLC. FitzPatrick worked as a prosecutor in Farmington, N.M. litigating a variety of felony and misdemeanor cases for a few years after law school. FitzPatrick is excited to bring new programming to the State Bar of New Mexico as the chair of the Young Lawyers Division including the Fit2Practice program and a new social medial presence to connect lawyers to State Bar activities. FitzPatrick continues to serve in many of the YLD programs as either a member or as co-chair of the program including Wills for Heroes, Veterans Legal Clinic, and the UNM School of Law Mentorship Program. Outside of work, you can find FitzPatrick running, biking, or participating in other type 2 fun activities with his wife Eva.



Sonia Raichur Russo

Chair-elect

Director-at-Large, Position 4

Sonia Raichur Russo is a law clerk to the Honorable Gregory J. Fouratt, U.S. Magistrate Judge for the District of New Mexico. She previously served as the law clerk to the Honorable Henry M. Bohnhoff of the New Mexico Court of Appeals. This year for the New Mexico YLD, Russo will co-chair Home Safe Home, the local implementation of the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division's ("ABA YLD's") 2017-2019 public service project; Constitution Day; and Law Camp. At the national level, Russo is the ABA YLD's Public Service Coordinator, and ABA President Linda Klein appointed Russo to serve on the Standing Committee on Gun Violence from 2016 to 2018. Russo earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Brown University and her law degree from Boston College Law School. At her law school commencement ceremony, Russo was awarded the Susan Grant Demarais Award for Excellence in Clinical Work for her work as a student attorney in the BC Law Prosecution Clinic. Her interests include travel, tennis, and myriad visual and performing arts.



Allison Block-Chavez

Vice Chair

Director-at-Large, Position 1

ABA House of Delegates

Representative

Allison Block-Chavez, is an attorney at Aldridge, Hammar, Wexler & Bradley, PA, in Albuquerque, where her law practice focuses on real estate, business transactions, creditors' rights, adult guardianships and conservatorships, estate planning, and probate matters. Block-Chavez 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 addition to serving on the board for the Young Lawyers Division, she also serves on the board for the Elder Law Section of the State Bar of New Mexico. She is New Mexico's young lawyer delegate to the ABA House of Delegates.



Shasta N. Inman

Director-at-Large, Position 2

Shasta N. Inman is in solo practice, serving as guardian ad litem in abuse and neglect cases and handling adult guardianship and family law matters. She earned her law degree and a Master of Arts in Gender & Women's Studies from the University of Arizona, James E. Rogers College of Law. Before moving to Albuquerque in December 2016, Inman clerked for the Hon. Peter Hochuli at the Pima County Juvenile Court in Tucson. She is very excited to join the YLD and Children's Law Section boards this year, after serving as YLD liaison to the Children's Law Section last year. In her spare time, she enjoys playing video and board games, and hanging out with her rabbit, Peanut Bunny.

Meet the Board



Billy J. Jimenez

Director-at-Large, Position 5
ABA YLD District #23
Representative

Billy J. Jimenez is an associate at the Adams+Crow Firm, where he practices in the area of civil litigation, environmental law, and construction law. He currently serves as the ABA YLD District #23 Representative and is also holds Director-at-Large, Position 5 on the New Mexico YLD Board. As the ABA District Representative, he attends board meetings of the State Bar of Arizona YLD, the Maricopa County Bar Association YLD, and the Pima County Bar Association YLD. During his time with the New Mexico YLD, he has been actively involved with Wills for Heroes, Law Day Call-in, Constitution Day, and the NMHBA's Annual Law Camp. Jimenez is also a board member with the Albuquerque Center for Hope and Recovery, and is the President of the Albuquerque Collegiate Charter School Foundation Board. He received his law degree from UNM and was recipient of the MALSA 3L of the Year award and Clinical Legal Education Association Outstanding Student Award.



Mariah McKay

Region 1 Director
Eleventh Judicial District

Mariah McKay is currently an Assistant District Attorney for the Eleventh Judicial District Attorney's Office, Division One, in Farmington, New Mexico. Before coming to the District Attorney's Office, McKay was a Staff Attorney for DNA-People's Legal Services, as well as the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) project manager. McKay attended law school at American University Washington College of Law, in Washington, DC. While in DC, McKay participated in both government and private sector internships. In Farmington, McKay is an active member of the San Juan County Sexual Assault/ Domestic Violence Community Coordinated Response Team. As a native of Wyoming, McKay is happy to be back in the West and looks forward to serving San Juan County in any way that she can.



Kaitlyn A. Luck

Region 2 Director
First, Fourth, Eighth and 10th
judicial districts

Kaitlyn Luck, a Texas native, is an associate attorney at Montgomery & Andrews, P.A. where she practices in the areas of civil litigation and administrative law. While in law school at Texas Tech University, she was published in and served as a Comment Editor on the Texas Tech Administrative Law Journal. She currently serves as a commissioner of the New Mexico Commission on Access to Justice and participates in the Wills for Heroes and Homeless Legal Clinics in Albuquerque and Santa Fe. In her free time, she enjoys hiking and snowboarding with her fiancé and dogs.



Anna Casey Martin

Region 3 Director
Fifth and Ninth judicial districts

Anna C. Martin is a Hobbs, N.M. native. She earned her Bachelor in Business Administration degree from New Mexico State University, her Masters of Science in Personal Financial Planning from Texas Tech University and her law degree from Texas Tech University School of Law. She is an associate at Sanders, Bruin, Coll & Worley PA in Roswell. Martin is a civil litigation attorney who primarily focuses her practice on family law and estate planning. She has been the Region 3 Director since March of 2015. Martin is an active member of the Chaves County Bar Association, was the 2015 Chaves County Law Day Chair, participates in Big Brothers Big Sisters and is a 2014 Roswell Leadership graduate.

Meet the Board



Erinna "Erin" Marie Atkins
Region 4 Director
Third, Sixth and Twelfth judicial districts and Sierra County

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 public defender and indigent defense cases in Otero County. 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 the vice-chair of the Legal Education Committee for NMSU-Alamogordo, a commissioner for the NM Commission for Community Volunteerism, as a board member for the Young Lawyer’s Division, 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.



Darin Kyle McDougall
Region 5 Director
Second and Thirteenth judicial districts and Catron, Socorro and Torrance counties

Darin Kyle McDougall graduated from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 2015. Prior to graduation, McDougall began work in indigent criminal defense through clinical and practical programs at the School of Law. Upon graduating, he chose to serve the community through his work at the Law Offices of the Public Defender. Currently he is an Associate Attorney at the Law Offices of Lynda Latta specializing in family law and criminal defense. McDougall has served as the Region 5 Director on the New Mexico Young Lawyers Division board since January 2017. He is a member of various Bar sections and is involved in volunteer legal clinics. McDougall also co-chairs several YLD programs that do outreach to law students such as the Mock Interview, Law Student Mentorship, and Speed Networking programs. McDougall is also the Chair of the YLD’s Law-Day Essay contest.



Tomas J. Garcia
Immediate Past Chair

Tomas J. Garcia is the immediate past chair of the Young Lawyers Division. He is a litigation associate at Modrall Sperling in Albuquerque. Garcia coordinates the YLD’s Summer Fellowships Program and the Annual Public Service Project in Outlying Areas. Garcia is a fellow of the American Bar Foundation and he is a member of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee for the American Bar Association’s Litigation Section. An Albuquerque native, Garcia received his law degree from Georgetown University Law Center, his master’s degree from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and his bachelor’s degree from Yale University.

Young Lawyers Divion Region Map

- Region 1 11th Judicial District
- Region 2 First, Fourth, Eighth and 10th judicial districts
- Region 3 Fifth and Ninth judicial districts
- Region 4 Third, Sixth and 12th judicial districts and Sierra County
- Region 5 Second and 13th judicial districts and Catron, Socorro and Torrance counties

