

YLD BOARD

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YLD LIAISONS

Appellate Practice, **Randy Taylor**

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Children's Law, **Jessica Perez**

Elder Law, **Katie Roehlk**

Family Law, **Lauren Riley**

Health Law, **Brenna Gaytan**

Immigration Law, **Andres Santiago**

Indian Law, **Alyssa Mercado**

Natural Resources, Energy & Environmental Law,

Hailey Adams

Prosecutors, **Johnn Osborn**

Real Property, Trust and Estate, **Toby Lutenegeer**

Solo and Small Firm, **Brian Smith**

Tax, **Matthew Montoya**

2019 PROGRAM CHAIRS

Annual Public Service Project for Outlying Areas,

Mariah McKay

CLE at the State Bar of New Mexico Annual meeting,

Billy Jimenez and Breanna Contreras

Constitution Day Week, **Mariah McKay and Darin McDougall**

Diversity Collaboration, **Allison Block-Chavez**

#Fit2Practice, **Mariah McKay, Alex Reynolds**

and Sonia Russo

Home Safe Home, **Sonia Russo**

Homeless Legal Clinics, **Crystal Anson – Albuquerque,**

Joseph Walsh - Santa Fe

Law Day Call In, **Allison Block-Chavez**

Law Camp, **Shasta Inman**

Lunch with Judges Program,

Evan Cochnar and Jessica Streeter

Membership Engagement, **Sonia Russo, Billy Jimenez,**

Evan Cochnar and Shasta Inman

State Bar Student Essay Contest, **Darin McDougall**

Social Media, **Sean FitzPatrick, Sonia Russo**

and Shasta Inman

Wills for Heroes, **Mariah McKay, Allison Block-Chavez,**

Evan Cochnar and Jessica Streeter

Veterans Clinic, **Sean FitzPatrick**

UNMSOL Career-related programs

(mentorship, mock interview, speed networking),

Darin McDougall, Billy Jimenez and Evan Cochnar

UNMSOL Summer Fellowship program, **Allison Block-Chavez**

YLD CLE (Non-Annual Meeting), **Breanna Contreras**

YLD In Brief, **Sean FitzPatrick**



Message from the YLD Chair

When I first moved back to Albuquerque after law school, attending events sponsored by the State Bar of New Mexico Young Lawyers Division was a crucial part of how I built my network here. Like me, I'm sure many of you have had to figure out how to succeed in your workplace, how to obtain the substantive knowledge you need to be an excellent attorney in your field, and pondered career and job changes.

As the 2019 Chair of the YLD, my top priority is providing programs and resources that support you. Whether through networking, professional development, or public service, if you want to get involved, we have an opportunity for you.

We have a lot to offer you in 2019. This year, we'll offer more #fit2practice events that are designed to strengthen your mental, emotional, and physical health. Some of these events will be for CLE credit! We will also host receptions for the spring and fall swearing-in ceremonies, and I hope you'll join me in warmly welcoming the newest members of our profession.

You are a member of the YLD if you're 35 years old or younger, or if you've been practicing for five years or less, whichever period of time is longer. We offer you numerous ways to engage in fellowship through public service. I know that time is a valuable resource for all of us, but I hope you'll agree with me that public service is always worth your time. You can be part of something bigger than yourself and know that you've helped provide access to legal services for someone who needed it. As lawyers, we are uniquely trained to provide a crucial service to the community, and the YLD provides many opportunities to serve through programs like the Veterans Legal Clinic, Homeless Legal Clinics, Wills for Heroes, Constitution Day Week, and Law Day Call In. In addition, as part of the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division's National Week of Service, we will host a Home Safe Home Pro Bono Fair on March 16 that will connect you with community organizations that need volunteer attorneys to help fight domestic violence.

If you have an idea for a program we can offer, or if you want more information on how you can be involved, reach out and let me know! Email me at soniarusso09@gmail.com, or call me at (505) 269-0369. The YLD is here for you, and I'm excited to hear about new ways that we can support you. Please also follow @NewMexicoYLD on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for program information and updates from us! I look forward to a great year of building friendships and serving our community.

Sincerely,

Sonia R. Russo

Sonia R. Russo

Meet the Board



Sonia Raichur Russo
Chair
Director-at-Large, Position 4

Sonia Raichur Russo is a law clerk for New Mexico Court of Appeals Judge J. Miles Hanisee. She previously clerked for U.S. Magistrate Judge Gregory Fouratt in the District of New Mexico and New Mexico Court of Appeals Judge Henry Bohnhoff. She also serves as the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division's Public Service Director and is on the Federal Bar Association Young Lawyers Division's Board of Directors. Prior to clerking, Sonia prosecuted violent felonies, including homicides and domestic violence, at the Second Judicial District Attorney's Office in Albuquerque, NM. Sonia started her career as a litigation associate at Modrall Sperling, also in Albuquerque.

Sonia 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, Sonia 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 going on adventures with her adopted shelter dog, Milo, travel, performing and visual arts, and tennis.



Allison H. Block-Chavez
Chair-elect
Director-at-Large, Position 1

Allison Block-Chavez is an attorney at Aldridge, Hammar, Wexler & Bradley, 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. 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
Vice Chair
Director-at-Large, Position 2

Shasta N. Inman is in solo practice, working primarily in Children's Law & Adult Guardianship. 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. She currently serves on the Children's Law Section Board as Secretary and is a prior YLD Liaison to the Elder Law Section. Shasta is also an American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Scholar for 2018-2019. In her spare time, she enjoys playing video and board games, and hanging out with her rabbit, Peanut Bunny.



Evan Cochnar
Director-at-Large, Position 3

Evan Cochnar serves as Director-at-Large Position 3, and previously served on the YLD board as Region 1 Director. He is a graduate of the University of New Mexico and Syracuse University College of Law. He currently works as a criminal prosecutor at the Second Judicial District Attorney's Office in Albuquerque, having previously worked at the City of Albuquerque, and at the 11th Judicial District Attorney's Office in Farmington, New Mexico. He has also worked at the United States Attorney's Office for the District of New Mexico, and in the United States Senate for former Senator Jeff Bingaman. In his free time, Evan enjoys running, traveling, and getting into adventures.

Meet the Board



Billy J. Jimenez

Director-at-Large, Position 5

Billy Jimenez serves as Director-At-Large, Position 5. He is an associate attorney at the ADAMS+CROW LAW FIRM, practicing in the areas of civil litigation, administrative law, and environmental law. Billy has been on the YLD Board since 2015, first serving as the ABA YLD District Representative for New Mexico and Arizona. He has co-chaired the Wills For Heroes and UNM School of Law Mentorship Programs, and serves as YLD's representative for the NMHBA/UNM Law Camp and the Annual ABA YLD Mountain States Regional Summit.



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, Mariah was a Staff Attorney for DNA-People's Legal Services, as well as the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) project manager. Mariah attended law school at American University Washington College of Law, in Washington, DC. In Farmington, Mariah is an active member of the San Juan County Sexual Assault/ Domestic Violence Community Coordinated Response Team and the San Juan County Bar Association. As a native of Wyoming, Mariah is happy to be back in the west, and appreciates the opportunity to serve San Juan County, and the Young Lawyers of New Mexico.



Breanna Contreras

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

Breanna Contreras is an intellectual property attorney with Bardacke Allison LLP in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She was born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico and received her undergraduate degree from University of New Mexico before attending Notre Dame Law School where she served as Vice President of the Hispanic Law Students Association. Breanna represents a variety of clients in brand strategy, trademark and copyright registration and licensing, and enforcement of intellectual property rights. Among the clients Breanna is proud to represent are her hometown hero UFC fighter Holly Holm and Fresquez Productions in matters ranging from UFC contracts to sponsorship and endorsement deals. Most recently, Breanna was named a 2018 Rising Star by Super Lawyers, an accolade reserved to only the top 2.5% of attorneys in the Southwest.

Breanna is actively involved in her community, and serves on a number of boards, including for the Catholic Foundation of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe and the Intellectual Property Law Section of the State Bar of New Mexico. She has served as an adjunct faculty member for the Santa Fe Community College where she taught Legal and Business Issues in the Arts, and regularly gives Continuing Legal Education conferences on contemporary intellectual property law issues. Before law school, Breanna worked as a bilingual legal assistant at Catholic Charities of Central New Mexico, where she served immigrant victims of domestic violence in pursuing non-immigrant legal status.



Alex E. Reynolds

Region 3 Director
Fifth and Ninth judicial districts

Alex E. Reynolds is a Texas native who works as an associate at the law firm Sanders, Bruin, Coll & Worley, P.A. His practice areas include personal injury, general civil litigation, and medical malpractice. He earned his bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University and subsequently earned an MBA from the University of Texas at Tyler. After earning his MBA, Alex returned to Texas Tech to earn his J.D. concurrently with a Master of Science in Personal Financial Planning. While at Tech, Alex served as president of the local Federalist Society chapter and remains a supportive member. Outside of work, Alex is an avid racquetball player and enjoys reading a variety of subjects.

Meet the Board



Jessica Streeter

Region 4 Director
Third, Sixth and Twelfth judicial
districts and Sierra County

Jessica Streeter practices family law at Streeter & Martinez-Salopek, LLC. Previously, Streeter worked as a Special Assistant Attorney General for the Human Services Department and as a trial attorney at the Law Offices of the Public Defender. Streeter was a member of the Roswell juvenile drug court team, has been a CLE presenter on jurisdictional issues in family law, and serves on the board of a non-profit organization. A Las Cruces native, Streeter earned her B.A. from NMSU and her J.D. from the UNM School of Law. While in law school, Streeter was awarded the ABA/BNA Award recognizing Excellence in Health Law. She was an editor of the National Resources Journal, a tutor of Legal Writing and Research, and served as Mentorship Chair and Co-President of the Mexican American Law Student Association. In her spare time, Streeter enjoys traveling and spending time with family and friends.



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. 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.

Darin has served as the Region 5 Director on the New Mexico Young Lawyers Division board since January 2017. He is a member of various State Bar sections and is involved in volunteer legal clinics. Darin co-chairs several YLD programs that do outreach to law students such as the Mock Interview, Law Student Mentorship, and Speed Networking programs. Darin also works on the Constitution Day project and a student essay contest. Darin is on an ongoing mission to remind the attorneys of New Mexico that our noble profession can be fun and fulfilling through volunteerism and professional courtesy.



Sean M. FitzPatrick

Immediate Past Chair

Sean FitzPatrick is a graduate of UNM School of Law and currently practices plaintiff's civil litigation focusing on personal injury in Albuquerque, NM at FitzPatrick Law, LLC. FitzPatrick prosecuted a variety of felony and misdemeanor cases after law school at the 11th Judicial District Attorney's office. 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.

Young Lawyers Division 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

