

YLD BOARD

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2020 PROGRAM CHAIRS

Ask-A-Lawyer Call-In

Mariah McKay, Allison Block-Chavez

Constitution Day

Mariah McKay, Shasta Inman, Taylor Bui

Continuing Legal Education

Breanna Contreras, Jaime Mayfield

#Fit2Practice

Sean Fitzpatrick, Lindsay Cutler

Judicial Clerkship Committee

Allison Block-Chavez

Law Day Essay Contest

Shasta Inman

Lunch with Judges

Breanna Contreras, Jessica Streeter, Evan Cochnar

Networking

Deian McBryde, Evan Cochnar, Taylor Bui

Podcasts

Sean FitzPatrick, Deian McBryde, Evan Cochnar

Allison Block-Chavez

Social Media

Sean FitzPatrick

Student Loan Debt

Lindsay Cutler, Evan Cochnar, Allison Block-Chavez

Summer Fellowships

Lindsay Cutler, Sean Wang

Summer Law Camp

Jessica Perez

UNMSOL Programs

Shasta Inman, Jessica Perez, Sean Fitzpatrick, Damon Hudson

Veterans Civil Legal Clinics

Lindsay Cutler, Jessica Streeter, Sean Fitzpatrick

Wills for Heroes

Allison Block-Chavez, Sean Wang, Damon Hudson

YL Spotlight

Deian McBryde, Sean Wang, Allison Block-Chavez



Message from the YLD Chair

I am honored and privileged to continue to serve as the Chair to the New Mexico Young Lawyers Division in 2020. To start the New Year and the new decade, the New Mexico YLD is focused on new and expanded programming focused on the success of New Mexico young lawyers. I would like to share with you a few of the YLD's initiatives for the year.

New for 2020 is YLD programming to support young lawyers navigate repayment of their student loans. We all know that the nation is facing a student loan debt crisis. 44 million Americans are saddled with student loan debt and one in four borrowers are behind or delinquent on their loan payments. The YLD is working with the national Student Borrower Protection Center, the New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty, and the New Mexico Attorney General's Office to develop in person and online educational programming to help borrowers take control of their debt. Programming will focus on the difference between private and federal loans and income-based repayment plans among other issues. Understanding the basics of student loans will allow borrowers to better navigate the student debt maze.

Another highlight this year is the YLD's Lunch with Judges program, which is one of the YLD's most popular networking and professional development programs. In January, Senior Justice Barbara Vigil hosted the YLD at the New Mexico Supreme Court. Justice Vigil led us on a tour of the court and shared with us the rich history of the building and legacy of the justices. Justice Vigil, along with the other justices, lunched with young lawyers and discussed issues facing young lawyers including professionalism, work life balance, and navigating the pathway to the judiciary. The YLD will be providing more Lunch with Judges events across the state to give young lawyers more opportunities to interact with our New Mexico judiciary in an informal setting.

Moreover, I encourage all young lawyers to attend the State Bar of New Mexico's Annual Meeting in Santa Fe June 17-20, 2020. The Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the New Mexico Judicial Conclave and the highlights of the agenda include mindfulness, implicit bias in the law, and the generational divide within the bar. The YLD will be hosting its annual programming of #Fit2Practice activities and its Friday night networking reception. The YLD will be hosting Coffee with the Judiciary as part of its Lunch with Judges program where young lawyers will have the opportunity to meet in small groups to candidly talk to judges about their experiences as lawyers and judges. Furthermore, the Annual Meeting is a great opportunity for young lawyers to participate with the YLD, interact with the Bar and the judiciary, and obtain CLEs. I hope to see you there!

If you are wondering about the other programs that the YLD has scheduled for the year, please visit the YLD on the State Bar's webpage at NMBAR.org/YLD. Information on all of our programs is described there along with a calendar of our upcoming events. Interact, view past posts, and keep up with the YLD on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter by following @NewMexicoYLD.

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Meet the Board



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

Allison Block-Chavez, is a partner and attorney at Aldridge, Hammar & Wexler, PA, in Albuquerque, where her law practice focuses on fiduciary services, adult guardianships and conservatorships, estate planning, probate matters, real estate, and creditors' rights. 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. She currently serves as the Chair to the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of New Mexico. She is New Mexico's young lawyer delegate to the ABA House of Delegates.



Shasta N. Inman
Chair-elect
Director-at-Large, Position 2

Shasta N. Inman (Chair-Elect) is in solo practice, working primarily in Children's Law & Adult Guardianship in counties throughout Central New Mexico. 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 in December 2015, after receiving a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln (Go Big Red!). In addition to being NM YLD Chair-Elect, Ms. Inman currently serves on the Children's Law Section Board as Budget Officer, and previously served three years as Children's Law Secretary and one year as YLD Liaison. Ms. Inman is also a prior YLD Liaison to the Elder Law Section.

In the American Bar Association, Ms. Inman is Vice Chair of the ABA YLD Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity (SOGI) Committee and YLD Liaison to the ABA SOGI Commission. She had the honor of participating in the ABA YLD Scholars Program for 2018-2019, and currently serves on the Resolutions and Affiliate Assistance Teams.



Evan Cochnar
Director-at-Large, Position 3

Evan Cochnar serves as YLD director-at-large position 3, having 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 litigation manager at New Mexico State Risk Management Division, Legal Bureau. His experience also includes extensive work in criminal prosecution, working as an Assistant District Attorney in the Second Judicial District Attorney's Office, and in Farmington at the Eleventh Judicial District Attorney's Office. He has also worked at the United States Attorneys 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 adventures in general.



Lindsay Kyle Cutler
Director-at-Large, Position 4

Lindsay Cutler joined the YLD Board of Directors in 2019 as a Director-at-Large. Lindsay is an Attorney with the New Mexico Center on Law & Poverty's Economic Equity Team. Lindsay practices housing and consumer law and her areas of advocacy include administrative advocacy, policy reform, litigation, and community education.

Lindsay is a graduate of the University of Mary Washington and UCLA School of Law. Following her undergraduate degree, Ms. Cutler worked in the Laguna Pueblo and Albuquerque Public Schools fostering access and increasing opportunities for families and communities to engage in their children's education. During law school, Ms. Cutler externed with the Navajo Nation and DNA-People's Legal Services and led chaired UCLA's El Centro Veterans' Clinic.



Deian McBryde
Director-at-Large, Position 5

Deian McBryde practices family law and mediation and champions the cause of new lawyers with previous careers before law school. He is a member of several national councils, boards, and committees for the American Bar Association, and a member of the prestigious Family Law Institute of the National LGBT Bar Association. He also established the first scholarship at UNM School of Law for non-traditional career path students. Before becoming an attorney, Deian worked in business, employee development, technology, and the arts. www.mcbrydelaw.com

Meet the Board



Mariah McKay
Region 1 Director

Mariah McKay is currently an Assistant District Attorney for the Eleventh Judicial District Attorney's Office, Division 1, in Farmington, New Mexico. She has been an attorney in San Juan County, New Mexico for the last three years. She currently serves as the Regional Director for San Juan and McKinley County, and the Vice Chair on the New Mexico YLD Board. During her time with the New Mexico YLD, she has been involved with Wills for Heroes, Constitution Day, and other outreach programs in rural areas in New Mexico. McKay, is grateful for the continued opportunities to serve San Juan County, and the State of New Mexico.



Breanna Contreras
Region 2 Director

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.



Shuhao Wang
Region 3 Director

Sean Wang is an associate attorney at Trenchard & Hoskins, where he represents plaintiffs in workers compensation and personal injury cases. He previously worked as a public defender in Roswell. During law school at Northwestern University in Chicago, he had interned at the Cook County public defender and spent a summer volunteering at the Capital Defender in Mississippi. Sean currently lives and works in Roswell.



Jessica Streeter
Region 4 Director

Jessica Streeter serves as Region 4 Director and practices family law at Streeter Law Firm, LLC. A Las Cruces native, Jessica earned her B.A. from NMSU and her J.D. from the UNM School of Law. Before private practice, Jessica was an attorney for the State of New Mexico as an attorney for the Child Support Enforcement Division and as a public defender in Albuquerque and Roswell. Jessica co-chairs the Lunch with Judges program and the Veterans Civil Legal Clinic program.

Meet the Board



Jessica A. Perez
Region 5 Director

Jessica Perez serves as the Region 5 Director on the New Mexico Young Lawyers Division. She is a graduate of UNM School of Law and currently works as an Assistant District Attorney in the 13th Judicial District, Sandoval County. There she prosecutes a variety of felony cases as well serves as the Children's Court Attorney handling a variety of juvenile delinquency cases. While in law school, Jessica was a part of the New Mexico Young Lawyers Division through her position as Student Bar Association President and is thrilled to be part of the board now. In her spare time, she enjoys playing Dungeons & Dragons and scrolling through Pinterest for crochet project ideas.

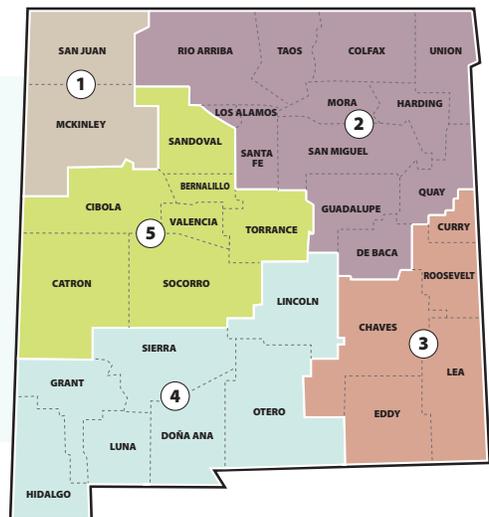


Sean M. FitzPatrick
Immediate Past Chair

Sean FitzPatrick is a graduate of UNM School of Law and is a sole practitioner at his firm FitzPatrick Law, LLC founded in 2016. FitzPatrick currently practices plaintiff's civil litigation focusing on injury and insurance law in Albuquerque, NM. FitzPatrick worked as a prosecutor in Farmington, NM litigating a variety of felony and misdemeanor cases for a few years after law school. FitzPatrick has served on the Young Lawyers Division board for the past several years. Outside of work, you can find FitzPatrick running, biking, or participating in other type 2 fun activities with his wife Eva and new baby Liam.

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



Message from the YLD Chair *continued from page 1*

The New Mexico Young Lawyers Division is one of the most active YLD's in the nation. The YLD cannot provide its programming and events without the support and encouragement of many people, including State Bar President Tina Cruz, the Board of Bar Commissioners, and State Bar leadership and staff. Additionally, our YLD and State Bar members are the people power behind the success of our programs. We rely on you, the YLD and State Bar members, to volunteer for pro bono events and attend events. I personally thank you for your continued participation, which has resulted in the YLD's continued success.

I invite you to continue to participate in YLD events. The YLD is here for young lawyers and we want to support you as you, the young lawyer, grow as an attorney. Join us in your community or come to Santa Fe for the Annual Meeting. I am honored to continue to serve as the YLD Chair and I look forward to the year ahead with you! ■