

# YLD...In Brief

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

November 2012

## YLD BOARD

Chair, **Samantha Hults**  
Chair-elect, **Keya Koul**  
Vice Chair, **Ben Sherman**  
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Director-At-Large, Position 3, **Robert Lara**  
Director-At-Large, Position 4, **Ben Sherman**  
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## YLD PROGRAM CHAIRS

YLD CLE 2012:  
**Samantha Hults and Greg Gambill**  
Law Day Call-in Programs 2012:  
**Albuquerque: Keya Koul**  
**Farmington: Ken Stalter and Mary Alvarado**  
**Roswell: Jared Kallunki**  
**Las Cruces: David Lutz and Samantha Barncastle**  
Law Day Essay Contest (YLD Volunteer Coordinator):  
**Robert Lara**  
In Brief: **Tina Cruz**  
Junior Judges (began in 2006):  
**Matt Page and Tina Cruz**  
YLD/UNM Law Mock Interview Program:  
**Samantha Hults and Matt Page**  
Summer Fellowship Program (began in 2005):  
**Samantha Hults**  
UNM Law/YLD Mentorship &  
Speed Networking Program:  
**Keya Koul and Ben Sherman**  
Wills for Heroes (began in 2008):  
**Samantha Hults and Ben Sherman**  
Homeless Legal Clinic:  
**Santa Fe: Donna Lynch**  
**Albuquerque: Laurel Nesbitt**  
**Law Cruces: Stacy Learman**  
Serving our Seniors (began in 2011):  
**Matt Page and Samantha Hults**  
Project Salute: Young Lawyers Serving Veterans  
(began in 2012):  
**Samantha Hults**  
Judicial Brown Bag Luncheon Program  
**Martha Chicoski, Ken Stalter, Samantha Barncastle**

## Message from the YLD Chair...

By *Samantha M. Hults*



The year is drawing to a close, and I am proud to report that the State Bar Young Lawyers Division has achieved many goals in 2012. This year the YLD continued to grow and participate in its long-standing service projects, while starting and implementing many new ones. As an affiliate of the ABA/YLD, the New Mexico YLD was one of a handful of state affiliates that successfully carried out the local implementation of Project Salute: Young Lawyers Serving Veterans. We planned and held two clinics this year, providing a number of veterans with valuable information about their rights and eligibility to receive benefits. The New Mexico YLD received honorable mention at the ABA/YLD Annual Meeting for its dedication to this project and its effort to aid members of the uniformed services. I am proud of the YLD for this accomplishment and know that this project will continue to flourish. I would like to thank the ABA/YLD for its continued support and partnership to provide legal services to those in need.

The YLD also continued to provide outreach to its members in all areas of the state. One example is the YLD's Judicial Breakfast/Luncheon Program. YLD members were provided a number of opportunities to attend small group lunches and breakfasts to gain insight and knowledge about the practice of law from those serving on the bench. We would like to thank all of the judges that participated in this program from throughout the state—from Farmington to Carlsbad. When I tell young attorneys from other states about this program, they are astounded that members of the judiciary in New Mexico take time to meet with young attorneys to provide mentorship advice and answer questions. The close-knit membership and bond we feel within our great legal community is one that is unique to our state and one which members of the YLD are grateful for. We cannot thank the members of the judiciary enough for taking time out of their demanding schedules to participate in this program. We would like to give special thanks to Justice Edward Chávez, who has traveled to Aztec, Carlsbad, Farmington, Albuquerque and Roswell (to name a few places) to meet with YLD members in those areas. We are fortunate for his dedication and outreach.

Although I could go on and on about the numerous projects and accomplishments of this past year, you can continue to read about the numerous projects and events held in 2012 written by those who truly make the Division a success—members of the 2012 YLD board and division. There is no way to sufficiently thank the members of the board for making this year such an extraordinary one. While many times people see my face or hear me speak as chair on behalf of the YLD, it is the board as a whole that makes this organization successful. The commitment of the board is the reason this organization has such a strong presence within the State Bar today and will continue to be a valued asset long after the term “young lawyer” no longer applies to me.

I am sincerely grateful for having had the opportunity to serve as the 2012 chair. The experience has been life changing and one I will always cherish throughout my career. I became involved with the YLD because I wanted to make a difference in my community and to use my legal skills to help others. However, in the process, the YLD has helped me more than I ever thought or knew it could. This organization continues to amaze me, and I

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# 2012 ABA/YLD Annual Meeting

by Ken Stalter

Officers of the State Bar Young Lawyers Division recently attended the American Bar Association Annual Meeting in Chicago. From Aug. 2–5, State Bar YLD Chair Samantha Hults, Chair-Elect Keya Koul, Vice Chair Ben Sherman, ABA/YLD Delegate Greg Gambill, and Region 1 Director Ken Stalter represented the Division at the meeting.

In addition to the opportunity to enjoy a weekend of mostly great weather and the opportunity to network with attorneys from around the country, State Bar YLD members served as delegates to the 2012 ABA/YLD Assembly. The Assembly included an opening rendition of the national anthem by Chicago's Martin Temple A.M.E. Zion Church Choir and several engaging presentations, most notably a speech by former U.S. Solicitor General Theodore B. Olson on the lack of needed funding for our nation's courts.

The Assembly featured a review of the ABA/YLD's project for the 2011–2012 year, Project Salute: Young Lawyers Serving Veterans. This is a nationwide project which we have successfully implemented here in New Mexico. Through the project, young lawyers help veterans pursue their entitlements to federal benefits and assistance.

Also featured at the Assembly was the ABA/YLD's new project for 2012-2013, the American Voter. This project will focus on educating new voters about the history of voting rights and the importance of voting. Because the project is focused on future voters and high school students in particular, the project will feature strong Internet, mobile, video and social media components.

Finally, the ABA/YLD Assembly passed resolutions urging :

- federal legislation to address human trafficking,
- state bar associations to include commitments to civility in attorneys' oaths,
- all branches of government to review laws regarding the use of deadly force in self-defense, and
- governments to require judges at all levels to be members of the bar.

The Assembly also reaffirmed a previously adopted policy against the sharing of legal fees with non-lawyers. A resolution to include a technology component in mandatory continuing legal education failed.

*Ken Stalter is currently the Region 1 director of the SBNM YLD and was recently elected to serve as vice chair in the coming year. He is a prosecutor with the Eleventh Judicial District Attorney's Office, Division 1, in Farmington.*



*2012 ABA/YLD Annual Meeting: Gala Samara Gomez (Pennsylvania YLD), Ken Stalter, Roula Allouch (Kentucky YLD), Ben Sherman, Samantha Hults, Keya Koul, Greg Gambill and Allison Biles.*



# "YLD Weekend" in Northern New Mexico/ Constitution Day

by Ben Sherman

On Sept. 20, members of the board of the Young Lawyers Division arrived at the El Monte Sagrado Resort in Taos to hold their annual retreat and participate in Constitution Day activities. The board selected Taos in order to serve the community of Northern New Mexico while fostering closer ties to the young lawyers that live and practice in Taos and the surrounding areas. It also gave the board the opportunity to visit the northern part of New Mexico after spending last year's annual retreat in Las Cruces.

Board members woke up early Friday morning and, with hundreds of copies of the United States Constitution in hand, drove to Questa to teach local elementary school students about the importance of the Constitution and the freedoms it contains. While one group of volunteers branched out to visit three different classrooms at Questa Elementary School, Immediate Past Chair Tina Cruz traveled to the small town of Costilla, just south of the New Mexico/Colorado border, to visit with another group of students. After a traditional New Mexican lunch on the Taos Plaza, the board again packed up their U.S. Constitutions and headed to Enos Garcia Elementary School in Taos to present to six different classrooms. That afternoon, Cruz visited with the fifth grade class at Arroyos del Norte Elementary School in Arroyo Seco. The board was greatly impressed by the critical thinking skills of all the students and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

On Friday night, the board sponsored a meet-and-greet at the Gorge Bar and Grill with the goal of providing a much-needed networking event with young attorneys in Northern New Mexico. While the turnout was lower than expected, everyone in attendance had a great time socializing and sharing their experiences of practicing law in New Mexico. The board is committed to providing networking opportunities to young lawyers across the state and hopes to host future meet-and-greet events in less central locations. The board ended Friday night with dinner overlooking the Taos Plaza and, for the more adventurous, dancing at a local nighttime hotspot.

After meeting for a cozy breakfast at the El Monte Sagrado restaurant, the board headed up to the conference room for its official meeting. The board voted on revisions to its bylaws and adopted new and exciting changes to the way the board will operate in the future. In addition, the board elected its officers for 2013: Chair Keya Koul, Chair-Elect Ben Sherman, and Vice Chair Ken Stalter. The board also discussed the many upcoming volunteer and service events for young lawyers, including Wills for Heroes, Serving Our Seniors, Project Salute, the UNMSOL/YLD Mentorship Program, and many others.

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*YLD Board Members Ben Sherman (above left), Ken Stalter (upper right) and Joachim Marjon (lower right) visit with students during Constitution Day presentations.*

# YLD Wills for Heroes Program Hits the Las Cruces Area

by Samantha M. Hults

This year the YLD continued to expand its Wills for Heroes Program to areas across New Mexico. In conjunction with the Pro Bono Committee of the Third Judicial District Court, the YLD held a Wills for Heroes event in Las Cruces on Oct. 13. With the assistance of local paralegals, attorney volunteers provided free estate planning in the form of wills, advanced health care directives and powers of attorney to 28 first responder fire fighters, police officers and their spouses/domestic partners. This was the first time a Wills for Heroes event was held in the Las Cruces area since the YLD's implementation of the program in 2007.

As the daughter of a retired fire fighter, it has been important for me to see this program continue to expand and become available throughout the state. It is a small way in which the YLD can thank the men and women who put their lives at risk every day. For this, the YLD thanks all the volunteer attorneys and paralegals for their time, commitment and dedication to our communities in New Mexico.



I would personally like to thank YLD Board Members Samantha Barncastle and Greg Gambill for assisting in the implementation and planning of this event. Also, a special thanks to Katherine Blackett of the Pro Bono Committee of Third Judicial District Court for helping to coordinate local attorney volunteers, and Las Cruces Fire Chief Travis Brown for aiding in the distribution of information about the program to first responders in Southern New Mexico. Without their help, this event would not have been possible.

*Samantha Hults is the chair of the YLD and is an assistant city attorney for the City of Albuquerque. Her practice focuses primarily on employment law and labor law.*



## ABA/YLD 2012 Fall Conference:

# Fostering Closer Ties Between the ABA Young Lawyers Division and the State Bar of New Mexico Young Lawyers Division

by Greg Gambill

The American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division held its 2012 Fall Conference in Charleston, South Carolina Oct. 18–20. Attending on behalf of the SBNM YLD were Chair-Elect Keya Koul and Board Members Joachim Marjon and Greg Gambill. Also in attendance was Dan Hill, who is an SBNM YLD member and an ABA/YLD liaison to the ABA's Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section.

The conference began on Thursday morning with a meeting of the ABA/YLD Council. Much of the business of the ABA/YLD that comes up between the ABA's Annual Meeting in August and Mid-Year Meeting in February is conducted here. Gambill is a member of the Council because of his appointment as the 2012-2014 ABA/YLD district representative for New Mexico and Arizona (District 23). The role of the district representative is to communicate to the council the public service and member service activities of the YLD groups, or "affiliates," located in his or her respective district (District 23 has four, one in New Mexico and three in Arizona), and to bring to bear resources from the ABA/YLD to affiliates in need of assistance with their public service and member service projects.

A reception was held on Thursday evening for first-time attendees and 16 ABA/YLD scholars. The reception gave new attendees and scholars the opportunity to meet with and get to know their ABA/YLD Council members. An orientation to the services provided by the ABA/YLD to its members followed the reception. Hill participated as a first-time attendee, and Gambill participated as a Council member.



*South Carolina Supreme Court Associate Justice Costa M. Pleicones and Chief Justice Jean Hoefer Toal discuss the ethical issues presented by the Web and social media.*



*The New Mexico crew enjoy the South Carolina Aquarium.*

The second day of the conference began with a plenary session for all attendees, followed by a morning of CLE programming, including one panel that included four aspiring, current, and former legislators from South Carolina, all of whom were also lawyers. The lunch program was also a CLE on the ethical issues presented by the Web and social media, which was presented by Chief Justice Jean Hoefer Toal and Associate Justice Costa M. Pleicones of the South Carolina Supreme Court. An afternoon of CLE programming followed, as well as meetings of the various leadership boards and committees of the ABA/YLD.

The second day was capped by a dinner and dance at the South Carolina Aquarium. The New Mexico crew dined with Roula Allouch and Ross Feldman. Allouch is a Kentucky attorney who is coordinating this year's ABA Next Steps Challenge, which is aimed at enhancing diversity and inclusion in the legal profession. Feldman, an attorney with the Federal Trade Commission in Washington, D.C., handles consumer protection matters and was a speaker at the conference.

The next meeting of the ABA/YLD will occur Feb. 7-9, 2013, at the Hilton Anatole during the ABA's Midyear Meeting in Dallas, Texas. SBNM YLD members interested in attending

should contact Gambill, [glg@nmcounsel.com](mailto:glg@nmcounsel.com).

*Greg Gambill is an attorney at Bannerman & Johnson PA in Albuquerque. He practices in the areas of commercial litigation, health care, and professional liability.*

# UNM School of Law Programs

by Susan Barela

As a third-year student at the University of New Mexico School of Law, I serve on the board for the Student Bar Association (SBA) as the first vice president. My hope is to practice law in New Mexico, give back to my community, and develop myself as a leader while further developing the culture of service we have here in the New Mexico legal community.

Recently, I was fortunate to participate in two YLD events. The YLD, in collaboration with the SBA, held its annual Law Student/Attorney Speed Networking Event Oct. 17 and launched the YLD/UNM Law Student Mentor Program Oct. 24.

The Speed Networking Event, now in its third year, paired UNM law students with practicing attorneys. The goal of speed networking is to create a new environment where the participants have the chance to network with everyone in the room. At this event, each attorney spoke one-on-one with a law student in three-minute intervals, allowing every law student and attorney the chance to speak with one another at least once. This style breaks the ice and forces interaction unlike the standard business networking event. The event has grown substantially this year, pairing 35 students and 35 attorneys. Students gained valuable insight in how to quickly make an impression and even received feedback from attorneys that night.

The YLD collaborated with the law school on their second event this month with their YLD/UNM Law Student Mentor Program. The newly revamped program provides any interested student



*Annual Law Student/Attorney Speed Networking Event*

with an attorney mentor. The mentors were matched by practice area interests, ensuring each student receives special guidance in his or her anticipated field of practice. At the first kickoff event, 60 law students and 60 attorney mentors enjoyed dinner and met for the first time. In addition to meeting one-on-one with their mentors, students will have the opportunity for at least two more group socials. The YLD will be sponsoring a mixer at Seasons Restaurant on Nov. 29 and bowling on Jan. 16, 2013.

I saw firsthand a group of dedicated attorneys volunteering and working together with one common mission: “to promote the integrity and respect of the legal profession, provide services and outreach to its members, and support and encourage public service.” Over the course of planning and organizing these two events with YLD Chair-Elect Keya Koul, Vice Chair Ben Sherman, UNM School of Law Assistant Dean of Career Services Heather Harrigan, and SBA President Lauren Gilmore, I learned how vital the YLD is to the New Mexico legal community in shaping young lawyers into leaders who will further develop the culture of service.

The UNM School of Law SBA expresses our thanks to both the State Bar and the YLD for recognizing the need for mentorship and for your ongoing sponsorship.

*Susan Barela is a third-year student at the University of New Mexico School of Law and serves as the Student Bar Association first vice president. As such, together with Lauren Gilmore (SBA president), she serves as the student director on the YLD board of directors.*

## Message from the Chair *continued from cover...*

am so thankful to have worked with such a creative, enthusiastic and dedicated group of attorneys.

I know that Keya Koul, the incoming 2013 chair, is destined to lead this organization on to great things with the help of Chair-Elect Ben Sherman, who is a true leader and the calm amidst the storm. Incoming Vice Chair Ken Stalter, who as a first-year 2012 board member spearheaded a number of outreach programs for members in the Farmington and Aztec area, will be a true asset to the YLD's executive committee as he further develops his knowledge of this

wonderful organization. I am also proud that in 2013 the ABA/YLD regional representative for New Mexico and Arizona will be our own Greg Gambill. Greg has been a dedicated member of the YLD long before serving on the board and his enthusiasm and devotion are inspiring. The incoming 2013 board is a dynamic group of young lawyers that I know will achieve any goal they set out to accomplish. With that, I wish them the best of luck and humbly offer them my services. Thank you all, again, for making this a truly wonderful and astounding year for the YLD.



# YLD Assists Low-Income Seniors With Estate Planning Needs

by Matt Page

The YLD board of directors is pleased to add the Serving Our Seniors program to its list of service projects offered to those in need of legal help. The program was introduced nationally by the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division as its 2010-2011 national public service project. The project was launched in Santa Fe in the fall of 2010 at the ABA/YLD Fall Conference. According to the ABA/YLD, “the primary goals of the Serving Our Seniors program are: 1) to educate seniors about their estate planning options; and 2) to empower them to take steps now to plan for their future and protect themselves from becoming victims of fraud and abuse. [T]he ABA/YLD and its members represent a new front in the battle to ensure that low-income seniors have basic estate plans in place throughout the nation.”

The YLD has sponsored four Serving Our Seniors events in New Mexico so far. In addition to Santa Fe in 2010, two projects were administered in 2011 in Santa Fe and Las Cruces and in Moriarty in 2012. At the Moriarty event, seven YLD attorneys assisted 14 low-income seniors with estate planning and helped three others with referrals to other State Bar services. One participant at the Moriarty



event commented about how much fun she had participating in the program. Another participant was very grateful to the attorneys for their help because according to her, “I wouldn’t even know where to start if I had to do this on my own.”

At a Serving our Seniors event, attorneys are available to prepare wills, advance health care directives, and power of attorney forms. Those seniors participating must be age 62 or older and must have an estate valued under \$350,000. Seniors are required to schedule an appointment for a particular event and bring with them a completed intake form. Each appointment takes approximately one-and-a-half hours. If you are interested in helping YLD coordinate a Serving Our Seniors event in your area or need additional information, contact Matt Page at [mateopage@hotmail.com](mailto:mateopage@hotmail.com) or at 505-401-3442.

*Matt Page has served on YLD’s board of directors for the last four years. He is currently the co-chair of the Serving Our Seniors program. He is an assistant district attorney in the Seventh Judicial District, Torrance County.*

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## “YLD Weekend” *continued from page 3...*

The board came together for a final luncheon Saturday afternoon to reflect on the amazing weekend before packing their cars and driving home to mark the end of another fun and productive annual YLD Board Retreat.

*Ben Sherman is the current vice chair of the YLD and the founder of Ben Sherman Law LLC in Albuquerque. His practice focuses primarily on criminal defense and workers’ compensation/personal injury.*



*Susan Barela, Joachim Marjon, Lauren Gilmore, and Keya Koul*



*Matt Page, Jared Kallunki, Samantha Hults, Ken Stalter, Greg Gambill, Tina Cruz, Ben Sherman, Joachim Marjon, and Keya Koul.*



## **Dates To Remember**

### **2012 Bridge the Gap CLE: Reinventing Your Law Practice With Ari Kaplan**

November 16, 2012, State Bar Center, Albuquerque

### **ABA/YLD Leadership Appointment Application Process Opens**

December 1, 2012

### **ABA/YLD Mid-Year Meeting**

February 7–9, 2013, Dallas, Texas

### **Deadline to submit applications for an ABA/YLD Leadership Appointment**

February 15, 2013

### **ABA/YLD Outstanding Young Military Service Lawyer Award Nominations Process Opens**

March 15, 2013

### **Deadline to submit nominations for ABA/YLD Outstanding Young Military Service Lawyer Award**

April 15, 2013

### **ABA/YLD Spring Conference**

May 16–18, 2013, Minneapolis, Minnesota

### **State Bar of New Mexico Annual Meeting– Bench and Bar Conference and YLD Annual Meeting**

June 27–29, 2013, Santa Fe, New Mexico