

# YLD...In Brief

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

December 2014

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Serving Our Seniors: **Dayan Hochman, Tomas Garcia**  
Wills for Heroes: **Erin Atkins, Spencer Edelman, Joachim Marjon, Ken Stalter**  
Law Day Call-In Program: **Spencer Edelman, Ken Stalter**  
Law Day Essay Contest: **Robert Lara**  
Homeless Legal Clinics: **Donna Lynch**  
Constitution Day: **Erin Atkins, Sean FitzPatrick, Robert Lara, Joachim Marjon, Ken Stalter**  
YLD/UNM SOL Mentorship Program: **Tomas Garcia, Ben Sherman**  
YLD/UNM SOL Speed Networking Program: **Robert Lara, Ben Sherman**  
YLD/UNM SOL Mock Interview Program: **Spencer Edelman, Tomas Garcia**  
Summer Fellowship Program: **Tomas Garcia, Robert Lara, Ben Sherman**  
YLD In Brief: **Ben Sherman**  
Judicial Brown Bag Luncheon Program: **Spencer Edelman**  
Bylaw Review Committee: **Ken Stalter**  
Interview Project: **Robert Lara**  
YLD CLE 2014 (Formerly Bridge the Gap): **Robert Lara, Ben Sherman**  
YLD CLE 2014 Annual Meeting: **Robert Lara, Ben Sherman**  
Next Steps Challenge: **Ken Stalter**  
Subgrant Proposal: **Sean FitzPatrick**

## Message from the YLD Chair...

By Benjamin I. Sherman



As 2014 comes to an end, I am proud to report that the State Bar of New Mexico Young Lawyers Division was able to continue its long-standing tradition of providing excellent public service and member service programs. In fact, 2014 marked a year of many new records: from the extremely successful Veterans Civil Justice Legal Initiative to the YLD/UNMSOL Mentorship Program, a record number of attorney and paralegal volunteers served a record number of members of the legal community and the community at-large.

But before I delve into some of the highlights, it must be kept in mind that it was the combined effort of some very hard-working and talented individuals that made the year such a success. To that end, I want to personally thank all of the 2014 YLD board members for their leadership skills and for offering constant support. But it certainly doesn't stop with the YLD Board; to all of the volunteers, both "young" and "old" who donated their time, money, space, skills, and support for the many public and member service projects over the past year, I extend a most heartfelt thank you. YLD could not do it without you and I am forever indebted to the tireless assistance of all of the lawyers, paralegals, legal assistants, law students, and State Bar staff that made the following programs a huge success.

Now for some of the records, starting with the VA free legal clinics. Held the second Tuesday of every month from 8:30 a.m. – noon. at the VA Medical Center in Albuquerque, these clinics, through the efforts of attorney and paralegal volunteers, continued to provide much needed legal counseling to 500-600 local veterans. A special thank you to YLD Immediate Past Chair Keya Koul, Krista Ganes-Chavez, Linda Murphy, Keith Meir, and former ABA/YLD District 23 Representative Greg Gambill for spearheading this program and making sure it ran smoothly every month.

I am especially excited to report that for the first time, on May 21, a VA free legal clinic was held in San Juan County. Thank you to Cathryn Abeyta from DNA – People's Legal Services, for your tireless efforts in making the inaugural clinic a huge success, with 33 veterans served! If you have not volunteered for a VA clinic yet, please consider volunteering in the near future. The veterans of New Mexico deserve our support.

Another YLD public service program, Wills for Heroes, saw a record number of participants this year. In this program, attorney volunteers draft wills, powers of attorney, and healthcare directives for free for our state's first-responders, including police officers, paramedics and firefighters. The Paralegal Division provides witnesses and notaries to finish the wills and other legal documents. This year, YLD hosted five separate Wills for Heroes events throughout the state—Santa Fe, Hobbs, Socorro and Albuquerque—assisting more than 90 first-responders! A special thank you to YLD Vice Chair Spencer Edelman for again serving as the main point-of-contact for the Wills for Heroes program. In addition, thank you to YLD Board Member Robert Lara for implementing the first-ever Wills for Heroes in Socorro during the 3rd Annual New Mexico Fire & EMS Expo, an effort that the YLD hopes to continue; YLD Board Member Joachim Marjon, for holding the first-ever Wills for Heroes in Santa Fe; and YLD Board Member Tim Scheiderer, for setting up the first-ever Wills for Heroes in Hobbs. Thanks also to all of the hardworking attorney and paralegal volunteers who took time out of their busy schedules to give back to the first-responders who help keep our community safe!

This year's YLD Law Day Call-in event took place on April 26 and saw a record number of callers seeking legal advice from around the state. Volunteer attorneys staffed phones in four locations

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# Veterans Civil Justice Initiative Helps Record Number of Vets

BY Keith Mier

In the fall of 2012, Jennifer Broomfield, a licensed social worker, lawyer, and Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist at the New Mexico Veterans Affairs Health Care System (NMVAHCS), approached the State Bar of New Mexico Young Lawyers Division (YLD) to explore how to expand the pro bono legal services available to military veterans from the State Bar of New Mexico and legal service providers from around the state, and how to partner with other community stakeholders to address clinical recovery and community integration when delivering legal services. The YLD Board was eager to help. Through the efforts of the YLD Board, specifically attorneys Greg Gambill, a member of the YLD who has since moved his practice to Colorado, and Keya Koul, Krista Ganes-Chavez of the Paralegal Division of the State Bar, D.D. Wolohan, Program Manager, Communications and Member Services for the State Bar of New Mexico, Joe Conte, Executive Director of the State Bar of New Mexico, and Camila Lopez and Earl Roybal of the NMVAHCS Veterans Justice Outreach Program, the exploration led to a formal agreement between the NMVAHCS and State Bar of New Mexico for the purpose of implementing a civil law clinic supporting the Veterans Civil Justice Initiative (VCJI) in New Mexico.

The VCJI expands civil legal services to military veterans in a big way and improves the quality of legal services the Bar provides to our nation's veterans. The VCJI offers veterans a broad range of veteran-specific and non-veteran-specific legal services during monthly clinics held from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. **on the second Tuesday of every month in the Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Conference Room (Building 45) at the Raymond G. Murphy Medical Center (VA hospital) in Albuquerque.** Breakfast is provided and a brief orientation for volunteers is conducted from 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. At the time signing up for the first time, volunteers are provided with a comprehensive Orientation Memo and detailed directions to the clinic. The Clinic partners not only with the NMVAHCS and its services, but many organizations including New Mexico Legal Aid, the Volunteer Attorney Program (VAP), the Supreme Court Library, the Second Judicial District Court Self Help Center, the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services, Goodwill Industries of New Mexico, Law Access New Mexico, Senior Citizens Law Office, United South Broadway Corp., and others. The clinic has been in operation for approximately 16 months and has assisted over 55 veterans per clinic, which is a staggering number given the three-hour timeframe. Overall the clinics have served more than 830 veterans. The clinic on Tuesday, December 9, will be the last for calendar year 2014, and organizers expect to serve more than the average, which will bring the number of veterans served since the clinic's inception very close to 900.

The NMVAHCS has been more than a great host, and the organization's leadership continues its consistent support of the monthly clinics. Currently, Camila Lopez and Lisa Anderson, both Veterans Justice



VA hospital volunteers Kathleen Samuel, left, and Taryn Alvarez assist veterans when they come in to sign up for the free civil legal program. More than 800 veterans have been served by the YLD project.

Outreach Specialists, and a wonderful group of NMCAHCS staff, support the clinics directly ensuring the monthly sessions continue to serve as many veterans as possible.

However, the continued success of the legal clinics is largely dependent on volunteers, and the wonderful legal community throughout New Mexico has responded. Attorneys from across New Mexico with specialties spanning the gambit of civil legal services consistently volunteer, and many have attended since the Clinic's inception. The Paralegal Division of the State Bar coordinates paralegal volunteers who conduct the client intake process, and do an exceptional job of talking and listening to the veterans helping to narrow their potential legal issue making the veterans' interactions with attorneys much more successful. Students from the University of New Mexico School of Law also volunteer and assist with pairing veterans and attorneys with the appropriate expertise to address the veteran's issues. The individuals from partner organizations are also invaluable to the program providing a number of services in addition to the legal advice provided the veterans. The overall program should be considered a large success, and the root of that success is the line of caring people willing to serve our communities veterans.

For those who would like to volunteer, or would like further information, please contact any one of the YLD Board members. In addition please contact Keya Koul at [keyakoul@gmail.com](mailto:keyakoul@gmail.com), Krista Ganes-Chavez at [kgianes@nmjsc.org](mailto:kgianes@nmjsc.org), or Keith Mier at [kcm@sutinfirm.com](mailto:kcm@sutinfirm.com). ■

# Wills for Heroes Assists First Responders Statewide

By Vice Chair Spencer Edelman

This year the Young Lawyers Division, together with the Paralegal Division and members of the State Bar continued to give back by helping protect those that protect us. Organized by members of the YLD, these programs are staffed by volunteer attorneys and paralegals to fill a vital need.

Wills for Heroes provides free wills and other estate planning documents for qualified first responders. The program originated after Sept. 11, 2001, when Anthony Hayes asked what lawyers could do to help in response to the terrorist attack. He quickly identified a crucial need. Very few of the first responders who selflessly responded to the attack had any estate planning documents. Following those first efforts to provide pro bono services to New York's first responders, the program was expanded to help police, firefighters, and EMTs around the country.

Wills for Heroes has been growing in New Mexico for the past several years. One of the best things about the program is that lawyers with no experience in drafting wills or estate planning documents can guide



*YLD Vice Chair Spencer Edelman prepares a will for a first-responder during the the NM State Fair*

first responders through a few simple questions, and the first responders can leave that day with a will in hand.

This year New Mexico hosted three Wills for Heroes clinics and more are in the works. Mark Baraibar, Tim Scheiderer, and the Lea County Bar Association took the lead in hosting a clinic in Hobbs at City Hall. Robert Lara worked with the New Mexico Fire Marshall to host a clinic in Socorro at the Third Annual Fire & EMS Expo at the New Mexico Firefighters Training Academy. And Spencer Edelman worked with the New Mexico State Police and EXPO New

Mexico to host a clinic at the New Mexico State Fair. Each program was a success and plans for two more clinics this year are in the works.

If you are interested in volunteering at an upcoming clinic, please keep an eye out for e-mails from the State Bar and announcements in the *Bar Bulletin*. If you are interested in helping the YLD host a clinic for a group of first responders in your area, please contact Spencer Edelman at [spencer.edelman@modrall.com](mailto:spencer.edelman@modrall.com). ■

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## Message from the Chair *continued from cover*

and answered a stream of phone calls from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. YLD was able to assist approximately 335 members of the public on family law, immigration, criminal matters, landlord-tenant, bankruptcy, and personal injury. Thank you to all of the volunteers who gave up their Saturday to help the community!

Perhaps one of my personal favorite programs that YLD offers is the YLD/UNMSOL Mentorship Program. This year, the YLD enjoyed a new record number of participants in the program, with more than 75 pairs of law students and attorneys. That's 150 individuals committing to participate! The YLD/UNMSOL Mentorship program pairs 1L, 2L, and 3L law students with volunteer attorneys based on the students' career interests and attorney practice areas. On Saturday, Sept. 6, fellow YLD Board Members and incoming Vice Chair Tomas Garcia, myself, Student Bar Association President Victor Sanchez, and Student Bar Association Treasurer Stephanie Crespín met at the law school to complete the daunting task of pairing the students and attorneys. I want to thank those individuals for their time (six hours!) and efforts in helping to ensure the program's success.

On September 25, law students met their attorney mentors for the first time during a fun and exciting kickoff event on the back patio of the law school that included food, drinks, music, and even a little rain... ok, a lot of rain. Feedback on this program continues to be positive, and we are grateful for the generous donation of time that all of the attorney volunteers commit to their mentees. At the time of this writing, the next mentorship event is a holiday social mixer on Nov. 13 at Backstreet Grill

in Old Town. Of course, the mentorship program would not be possible without the efforts of Assistant Dean for Career Services Heather Harrigan, and Employer Liaison and Career Advisor Stevie Nichols. Thank you for your continued support!

Other record-setting YLD programs are described inside *YLD ... In Brief*.

Finally, the young lawyers of New Mexico continued to be well-represented on a national level, sending delegates to all four ABA/YLD Conferences, and won a prestigious award for the ABA/YLD Next Steps Diversity Challenge. New Mexico was also fortunate enough to have the distinct honor of having two members of the State Bar selected to serve as ABA/YLD Scholars: Incoming YLD Vice Chair Tomas Garcia and YLD Board member Dayan Hochman. I would also be remiss not to thank Greg Gambill for his excellent leadership over the past two years as ABA/YLD District 23 Representative, a role which required him to represent Arizona and New Mexico on a national level. We wish Greg the best of luck at his new firm in Colorado.

As can plainly be seen, 2014 was a busy year for the young lawyers of New Mexico. Through hard work, dedication, and fun...yes, we had fun, the YLD was able to set new records and achieve new goals. The real kudos go to the many attorney and paralegal volunteers who donated so much of their time, the staff members of the State Bar, and my fellow YLD board members. It has been my distinct pleasure and an honor to represent the more than 1,600 young lawyers in this State, and I thank you for the opportunity. ■



## ABA/YLD Annual Meeting: Boston

By: Chair-Elect Ken Stalter

In early August, thousands of attorneys from across the nation flocked to Boston, site of the American Bar Association's 2014 Annual Meeting. New Mexico young lawyers have historically been well-represented at the event, and this year was no exception. New Mexico Young Lawyer's Division Board members Sean FitzPatrick, Day Hochman and Ken Stalter attended as voting delegates at the ABA YLD assembly. Young lawyers Steven Johnston and Daniel Abeyta also attended, appearing on behalf of San Juan County to accept the Harrison Tweed Award for indigent representation.

In addition to participating in the ABA YLD's assembly, New Mexico's young lawyers attended trainings on legal topics ranging from emerging issues in food safety to the collateral consequences of criminal conviction. The delegates also met with representatives of the ABA's sections and divisions.

Though the Red Sox were out of town, New Mexico's young lawyer delegates were nevertheless able to take advantage of Boston's deep history through visits to Boston Commons and Harvard Square. Stalter even treated his fellow young lawyers to an impromptu tour of his alma mater. State Bar President Erika Anderson was able to carve a little time from her schedule to share desserts and career advice with New Mexico's young lawyer delegation at the famous Mike's Pastry in Boston's historic North End. ■



YLD Board Members Sean FitzPatrick, Ken Stalter, and Day Hochman

## YLD/UNM SOL Mentorship Program

By YLD Board Member Tomas Garcia

This year more than 80 young lawyers volunteered to mentor students from the University of New Mexico School of Law over the course of the school year. Originally intended as a way to connect 1Ls with young lawyer mentors, the program has grown to include 2L and 3L student participants. Mentors provide guidance to the students on topics such as navigating law school, the job search process, résumé preparation and more. As an indication of the past success and growing popularity of the program, a record number of students, 112, signed up to participate this year. While most attorney mentors practice in Albuquerque, this year the YLD drew on volunteers from Santa Fe, Las Cruces, Farmington, and other communities throughout the state. YLD hosted a kickoff BBQ at the law school in September, where students and attorney mentors gathered to meet each other for the first time. After the kickoff event, students and mentors develop their relationships independently over the course of the school year. ■



YLD/UNMSOL Mentorship Program Kick-off Event on the law school patio

# Committee on Diversity in the Legal Profession Continuing To Raise Awareness on Diversity Issues

By Denise M. Chanez, Committee Member

Over the past few decades, the number of diverse lawyers in the legal profession has grown. That increase in numbers, especially in a state as diverse as New Mexico, might cause some to wonder whether there is any work left to do in the area of diversity. The Committee on Diversity in the Legal Profession is proving that when it comes to raising awareness of diversity issues, there is always more that can be done.

In fact, this past summer, the Committee tackled head-on the issue of whether diversity still matters in the legal profession during a CLE program at the State Bar's annual meeting. The CLE was co-sponsored by the Young Lawyers Division, the Senior Lawyers Division, the Paralegal Division, the New Mexico Hispanic Bar Association and the New Mexico Black Lawyers Association. Panelists Raymond Hamilton, Arturo Jaramillo and Sarita Nair presented historical and current data on the state of diversity in the State Bar of New Mexico. They also discussed the reasons why diversity in the legal profession still matters, as well as the movement toward inclusiveness initiatives that promote full and equal participation by diverse lawyers in the profession. The CLE program generated ideas about other diversity issues. And, as a result, the Committee is planning a follow-up CLE presentation that will focus on the impact of the legal system on people of color.

Raising awareness of diversity issues through CLEs is just one of the Committee's many ongoing efforts. The Committee is also concentrating on collaboration with other bar organizations, legal entities and law student groups at the UNM School of Law to support each other's diversity initiatives and programs. Recently, the Committee organized two well-attended and successful events in which leaders of the diverse bar organizations and law student groups talked about their respective initiatives and exchanged information about their organizations. To ensure that each organization is connected and informed about each other's initiatives, the Committee is starting an email listserv where

information can be shared, as well as a calendar of events for all of the organizations' programs. This marks the first organized effort between diverse bar organizations and law student groups to work together on diversity initiatives.

The Committee is also now responsible for administering the Arturo L. Jaramillo Summer Law Clerk program. The program provides summer law clerk experience to first-year law students in medium and large law firms, state and local public agencies, and corporate law departments. Although any first-year law student can apply, the program has a long track record of providing job opportunities to diverse law students. The Committee is actively working to improve the program and reach out to new employers so that even more students have the opportunity to participate.

While the Committee is undertaking new efforts, like the diversity collaboration initiative and the Summer Law Clerk program, the Committee has not forgotten about its important role in reporting on the status of diversity in the profession. The Committee is perhaps best known for its reports on the "Status of Minority Attorneys in New Mexico." The Committee's 2009 report included a set of recommendations related to various issues in the report. Among those was a recommendation to provide more frequent reporting on the status of diversity in the New Mexico bar. The Committee is now working on producing an abbreviated report with demographic information about diverse lawyers in New Mexico. It hopes to publish the report sometime in 2015.

There is still much work to be done on diversity issues in the State Bar of New Mexico. If you are interested in serving on the Committee, or if you have any ideas to present to the Committee, please contact Keya Koul, chair, at [keyakoul@gmail.com](mailto:keyakoul@gmail.com). ■



*The Committee for Diversity in the Legal Profession met for the Diversity Collaboration Kick-off Event on Sept. 6 at UNM School of Law.*



# Constitution Day and the Annual Retreat

By Vice Chair Spencer Edelman

Every year during the week of Sept. 17, YLD coordinates a celebration of the ratification of the Constitution by teaching fifth graders about this important document. This year members of the State Bar throughout the state stepped up to make this year's Constitution Day the largest yet, with 125 elementary schools and 7,993 students participating. In each case the 5th grade classes were paired up with volunteer attorneys who went through fun lesson plans to teach these youngsters about their rights and responsibilities under the Constitution. In addition to receiving lessons from attorneys who want to inspire the next generation, each child received a free pocket Constitution.

Although we can't highlight everyone's experience with the program, we couldn't pass up the opportunity to share a couple of anecdotes from this year's Constitution Day:

Peter Ossorio taught fifth graders in Chaparral. He reported back that he and the 115 fifth graders had a great time and he made such an impression that several of the students asked for his autograph!

Bobbie Collins taught Mr. Reyes class at Longfellow Elementary in Albuquerque and reported back that both she and the kids enjoyed it, and she pledged to continue to volunteer for Constitution Day in the future!

Geoff Nims may have gotten the most attention for his efforts. He taught at Bosque Farms Elementary and his presentation was covered by a reporter from the *Valencia News-Bulletin*!

In order to reach more fifth graders in Farmington as well as to promote teamwork amongst the YLD board members, the board held its annual retreat in Farmington the weekend of Sept. 19. On the morning of the 19, board members went to McKinley Elementary School as part of Constitution Day. After a fun morning teaching, the board members attended a luncheon to honor the San Juan County Bar Association for their receipt of the American Bar Association's Harrison Tweed Award for outstanding pro bono service.

This year's retreat and public service project would not have been possible without support from some wonderful people and organizations: the 12th Judicial District Bar Association; the San Juan County Bar Association; the State Bar Bankruptcy Section; the State Bar Criminal Law Section; Dixon, Scholl & Bailey; the Edward Group; the Modrall Sperling Law Firm; SaucedoChavez; Christina Rosado; and Tim Scheiderer. The YLD Board thanks you all for helping bring Constitution Day to Farmington! ■



YLD Board Members Tomas Garcia, Ben Sherman, Joachim Marjon, and Spencer Edelman in Farmington



Sarah Maestas Barnes teaching 5th grade students about the Constitution



Magistrate Judge Mateo Page teaching 5th grade students about the Constitution



Peter Ossorio meeting with 5th grade students in Chaparral

# Law Day Call-in

By YLD Board Member Erin Atkins

**O**n Saturday morning, April 26, the phones were ringing, and attorneys across the state were there to help.

This spring, the Young Lawyers Division united lawyers across judicial districts and provided free phone consultations to the public for its annual Law Day Call-in. YLD Chair Ben Sherman promoted the event on KOAT-7 and the calls flooded in! The event was a phenomenal success, with a record 335 members of the public receiving free legal advice. More than 230 callers were from the Albuquerque region, and some of these calls were transferred to outlying areas in the state, where volunteering attorneys were prepared to assist and offer free legal counseling.

Family law questions dominated, but there were also questions regarding consumer issues, estate planning, administrative law, disability, criminal law, employment law, landlord/tenant rights, civil rights, personal injury, real property, medical malpractice, and immigration law. Callers reached out from Abiquiu to Dexter, from Glorietta to Lovington and from Peralta to Truce or Consequences.

YLD thanks the many volunteer attorneys, judges and legal professionals who made this day such a success! ■



YLD Call-in volunteers in the southern region of the state



John Hakanson takes a call from the community

# ABA YLD Fall Conference

By YLD Board Member Tomas Garcia

**N**ew Mexico YLD Board members Spencer Edelman, Tomas Garcia, and Dayan Hochman attended the ABA YLD Fall Conference in Portland, Oct. 9-11. At the ABA YLD affiliates' showcase event, the New Mexico contingent highlighted its ongoing work on veterans' legal clinics, which are held monthly at the Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center in Albuquerque. During the Fall Conference, YLD board members participated in a national summit on access to justice and the future of legal services led by a distinguished panel including ABA President William Hubbard, Judge Ann Aiken from the U.S. District Court for the District of Washington, and Washington Supreme Court Justice Barbara Madsen. Board members also volunteered at a legal services clinic for homeless youth in Portland. ■



Spencer Edelman and Oregon Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas A. Balmer at the ABA YLD Fall Conference in Portland



Greg Gambill, Tomas Garcia, and Mary Modrich-Alvarado accepting the first-place award for the Next Steps Challenge from ABA YLD Chair Mario Sullivan and representatives from sponsor Wal-Mart



Tomas Garcia and Dayan Hochman at the ABA YLD Scholars Dinner in Portland



# Law School Activities

By 2014 YLD Chair Ben Sherman

**Y**LD understands that the law students of today will be the young lawyers of tomorrow. That is why we are committed to putting on quality programs to assist law students in reaching their professional goals. Historically, YLD has enjoyed a close relationship with the University of New Mexico School of Law, and 2014 was no exception. From conducting mock interviews at the law school, to hosting a State Bar Open House and organizing the popular Speed Networking event, 2014 was a banner year for the YLD's involvement with the law school.

On Saturday, Feb. 15, approximately 20 attorney volunteers gathered at the law school to interview 40 students during the annual YLD Mock Interviews. Students were matched with attorneys based on practice areas and given the opportunity to rehearse their interview skills. Attorneys spent a half hour interviewing the student as if he or she were applying for an associate position, and then spent another half hour providing valuable feedback and discussing the practice of law. Students dressed professionally and submitted a résumé and cover letter to their attorney volunteer. The law students greatly appreciated the opportunity to practice their interview skills and also enjoyed the feedback they received. Thank you, YLD Vice Chair Spencer Edelman, for organizing such a valuable learning experience.



*Attorney volunteers at the Mock Interview Program*

On Sept. 9, YLD hosted the 2nd Annual State Bar of New Mexico Open House for law students. With close to 100 people in attendance, law students were greeted by the staff of the State Bar and introduced to all of the great resources and opportunities the State Bar offers law students.

A couple years ago, YLD realized that law students did not have much interaction with the State Bar and were left “in the dark” when it came to the ways in which they could benefit. In response, YLD created this open house, in which practice section leaders joined the State Bar president in discussing why students should join and participate in State Bar events.



*State Bar President Erika Anderson speaks to law students and attorneys at the YLD Open House event*

For just \$10 a year, law students can be members of the bar and can attend daylong CLE programs, receive the weekly *Bar Bulletin* and participate in YLD activities. Perhaps the biggest benefit, however, is the ability to network with other attorneys and join practice sections.

Speaking of networking opportunities, on Oct. 28, YLD hosted the annual Speed Networking event at the State Bar Center and drew more than 75 participants! Volunteer attorneys gathered to talk with law students in a relaxed and fun environment before attendees were split in half, with attorneys at one end and law students at the other end. Next, the attorneys stood in a big circle facing outwards. Then the law students formed a circle around the attorneys, facing inwards. With the students and attorneys standing face-to-face, the clock began to tick. Students had about 2 minutes to deliver their “elevator speech” before the chime rang, signaling it was time to move one space to the next attorney. After about an hour of practice, the students gained valuable networking skills and made new professional contacts.



*Volunteer attorneys and law students rotating every two minutes during the popular YLD Speed Networking Event*

A special thank you to UNM Assistant Dean of Career Services Heather Harrigan, SBA President Victor Sanchez and Vice President Darin McDougall, for making this event run smoothly. And to all the attorney volunteers who participated, we thank you for supporting the professional development of tomorrow's lawyers! ■

# Appellate Section Brown-Bag Lunch Program

By Appellate Section YLD Liaison Elizabeth Martinez

In May 2014, the YLD became a co-sponsor of the Appellate Practice Section's quarterly brown-bag lunch program. The lunch programs, which are open to all YLD members, allow practitioners to meet with New Mexico Supreme Court justices and Court of Appeals judges in an informal setting to discuss issues relating to appellate practice. The program also provides an opportunity for YLD members to meet and learn from established appellate practitioners.

Since becoming involved, YLD has co-sponsored a June lunch with Justice Petra J. Maes and a September lunch with Judge M. Monica Zamora.

These meetings have proven to be both well attended and very enjoyable both for the guest and the section members who have come to share lunch and conversation. Chief Justice Barbara J. Vigil will join Appellate Practice Section and YLD members for the final lunch of the year at noon on Friday, Dec. 12, at the State Bar Center.

These meetings are informal, and we encourage those attending to bring their own brown-bag lunch. Space is limited, so please e-mail Appellate Practice Section Board member Dolph Barnhouse if you plan to attend, at [dbarnhouse@indiancountrylaw.com](mailto:dbarnhouse@indiancountrylaw.com). ■