

YLD...In Brief

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

December 2016

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Constitution Day, **Sonia Russo,**

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Diversity Collaboration, **Jordan Kessler**

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YLD/UNM SOL Speed Networking,

Sean Fitzpatrick, Tomas Garcia

YLD/UNM SOL Mock Interview Program,

Sean Fitzpatrick, Tomas Garcia

YLD/UNM SOL Open House, **Allison Block-Chavez**

Law Camp, **Spencer Edelman**

Anti Bullying Campaign, **Tomas Garcia,**

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Judicial Brown Bags, **Spencer Edelman, Robert Lara**

2018 ABA/YLD Annual Convention, **Sonia Russo,**

Evan Cochnar

2016 Regional ABA Conference, **Tomas Garcia**

Summer Fellowship Program, **Robert Lara**

YLD ... In Brief, **Ken Stalter, Spencer Edelman**

Annual Public Service Project in Outlying Areas,

Ken Stalter, Evan Cochnar

Interview Program, **Tomas Garcia**

YLD CLE, **Spencer Edelman**

CLE at Annual Meeting, **Robert Lara**

Message from the YLD Chair...

By Spencer Edelman



As this year winds down, I can't help but reminisce about not just this year, but the seven years I have been involved with the Young Lawyers Division. It seems such a short time ago that I was being admitted as a member of the bar, listening to Martha Chicoski, then the chair of the YLD, discussing what the YLD did and why it is a valuable part of any New Mexican young lawyers' career. After having lived that advice I was proud to pass it along to those joining the bar in 2016. The YLD truly is the home

for young lawyers in New Mexico.

The work the YLD performed this year has been substantial and could not have happened without the commitment from our volunteers. Constitution Day, Wills for Heroes, Veterans Legal Clinics and the Law Day Call-in were enormous successes, providing public service to those who need it most. These programs are entirely volunteer driven and without your support of the YLD could not happen. Additionally, the Paralegal Division, the State Bar of New Mexico's substantive law sections and of course the Board of Bar Commissioners provided invaluable help to allow the YLD to perform its mission. If you haven't yet had the chance to participate in one of our programs there will be opportunities for years to come because the YLD's leadership is as strong as ever.

One of the unique things about the YLD is that it is always looking towards the future. As my time fades I am positive that the board led by incoming Chair Tomas Garcia, Chair-elect Sean Fitzpatrick and Vice Chair Sonia Russo will continue to build and improve on the work of those that have come before. The programs on tap for next year are exciting and I can't wait to see what else the next generation of leaders has in store. Thank you for allowing me to push the ball forward. It has been an honor to serve New Mexico's young lawyers and I am thrilled to practice with all of you for years to come.

American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Update

By Billy J. Jimenez

YLD District #23 Representative, New Mexico/Arizona

The American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division recently held its Fall Meeting in Detroit on Oct. 20-22. Sessions focused on Michigan's recent struggles with municipal insolvency and safe drinking water, but also highlighted the City of Detroit's resiliency and efforts to revitalize development and education programs. The State Bar of New Mexico Young Lawyers Division was one of three affiliates recognized nationally at the Fall Meeting as an Affiliate Star by the ABA YLD Council for its Constitution Day Program.

The next ABA meeting is the Mid-Year Meeting in Miami on Feb. 2-7, 2017. Consider attending the ABA Mountain States Regional Summit that will be held in Albuquerque

in March 2017. The Summit will have sessions focused on leadership and region-specific issues, and law students will be invited to attend. Additional information on the Regional Summit will be available soon.

The ABA YLD encourages NM YLD members to join one of its 35 committees related to specific areas of law and specialty groups. Committee members have the opportunity to connect with attorneys across the nation that have similar interests and practice areas. If you are interested in joining a committee or have any questions about getting involved with the ABA YLD, please feel free to contact me at bjimenez@mstlaw.com.

American Bar Association House of Delegates Update

By Allison Block-Chavez

Director-at-Large, Position 1

ABA House of Delegates Representative

I am your New Mexico young lawyer representative to the American Bar Association's House of Delegates. Recent ABA rule changes require that each state have a member of the House of Delegates who is a young lawyer (under the age of 36 or practicing for 5 years or less). The ABA House of Delegates is the policy making body of the association and meets twice a year to consider and vote on a broad range of issues related to the legal profession.

In August I attended the ABA Annual Meeting in San Francisco where the House of Delegates considered and passed a number of resolutions. The House of Delegates amended the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct to add an anti-discrimination and anti-harassment provision. The new rule, Rule 8.4(g), prohibits lawyers from engaging in conduct, related to the practice of law, that the lawyer knows or reasonably should know is bias or discriminatory. The House of Delegates adopted a resolution to urge federal, state, and local law-enforcement authorities to provide an accurate translation of the *Miranda* warning in Spanish. The House of Delegates also amended the ABA Standards

and Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools that re-categorized student field placements to be in-line with externships and clinical courses. The amendment also allows students receiving credit for field placements to also receive compensation. While many were concerned that such a change would alter the nature of a field placement, the proponents prevailed arguing that the goal of this change is to expand the number of placements available and to aid in reducing student debt.

The next ABA meeting is the February mid-year meeting in Miami. The State Bar of New Mexico Young Lawyers Division prides itself on having an active and involved ABA YLD delegation and encourages all New Mexico young lawyers to join the ABA and get involved.

If you have any questions about the ABA or are interested in past or future resolutions that are before the ABA House of Delegates, please feel free to contact me at ABlockChavez@ABQLawNM.com.

ABA President Paulette Brown's New Mexico Visit

By Tomas Garcia

Chair-elect

Director-At-Larch, Position 2

American Bar Association Immediate Past President Paulette Brown, the first African American woman to lead the nation's largest lawyer professional association, visited New Mexico in April as part of her "Main Street ABA" initiative. President Brown addressed new State Bar of New Mexico admittees at the swearing-in ceremony in Santa Fe, visited with members of the UNM School of Law community during an afternoon reception and joined former ABA President Roberta Cooper Ramo (the first woman to lead the ABA) for a discussion about the American Bar Association and the role of the ABA within the legal profession. The discussion was moderated by YLD Chair Spencer Edelman. Finally, President Brown, joined by diverse members of the YLD, visited an Albuquerque branch of the Boys and Girls Club of New Mexico to talk to elementary and middle school-aged children about the legal profession.



Former ABA President Roberta Cooper Ramo, ABA Immediate Past President Paulette Brown, and YLD Chair Spencer Edelman



State Bar of New Mexico Committee on Diversity Co-chair Leon Howard, ABA Immediate Past President Brown, ABA Secretary Torres, and Committee on Diversity Co-chair Denise Chanez



YLD Chair Spencer Edelman, State Bar of New Mexico Executive Director Joe Conte, ABA Secretary Mary Torres, ABA Immediate Past President Brown, ABA Board of Governors member Orlando Lucero, and YLD Chair-elect Tomas Garcia

2016 Summer Fellowships

My name is Jazmin Irazoqui-Ruiz and I am third-year law student at the University of New Mexico School of Law. I am one of the two fortunate students who received the Young Lawyer's Division Public Interest Fellowship for the summer of 2016. The fellowship funding allowed me to intern fulltime with the New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty in June. I formed part of the Public Benefits Team where I was supervised by three amazing attorneys: Sovereign Hager, Louise Pockock and Maria Griego-Paiz. During my time at the NMCLP, I had the opportunity to assist public benefits clients with their Temporary Assistance for Needy Families cases. Under direct supervision of the Public Benefits Team Attorneys, I advocated for (1) clients' erroneous sanctions to be lifted, (2) for clients who were victims of domestic violence or who were in their last trimester of pregnancy to be rightfully assigned less work activity hours under the TANF program, and (3) assisted clients in obtaining interview accommodations with the Income Support Division. It was a rewarding and inspiring experience to have assisted clients who, despite living under the federal poverty level and facing adversity, continued to persevere. I truly felt like I was making a difference as an intern for the NMCLP and I was constantly reminded that I made the right choice by going to law school to pursue a career in public interest law. I am grateful for the YLD prioritizing and nurturing students' interest in public service through this fellowship and I hope many more students continue to take advantage of this opportunity in the future.

Jazmin Irazoqui-Ruiz

Juris Doctor Candidate, UNM School of Law Class of 2017



*New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty summer clerks and interns from left to right:
Sarah Hyde (Education Team), Lenaya Montoya (Healthcare Team),
Adam Oakey (Education Team), Jazmin Irazoqui-Ruiz (Public Benefits Team),
Sarai Torres (Education Team)*

This summer I was granted the opportunity to intern with Pegasus – Legal Service for Children thanks to the YLD Summer Fellowship for which without, I would not have been able to manage this position. Prior to starting law school, children's law was fascinating to me and being able to have this experience made it even more clear that children's law is where I need to be. Over the summer, I had the privilege of working primarily with the Kinship Guardianship program under Larry Kronen. From attending intakes to drafting petitions, I was able to gain both practical experience and a sense of accomplishment with each new case. While my main assignment was assisting within the Kinship Guardianship program, I was free to assist other attorneys in the office which led to exposure to Guardian Ad Litem arrangements as well as getting to attend hearings for an emancipation case. The experience I got while interning at Pegasus was not only practical for the type of work I hope to go into, but it was also an emotional experience. Every single day it was obvious how much the work means to these attorneys and being a part of that was very rewarding and humbling to know such an impact on a child's life can really be made. From day one, everyone in the office was kind and welcoming and I feel as though I was able to build relationships that I wouldn't have gotten the chance to build without the YLD's help. I am extremely grateful to have been able to spend my summer as part of the impact with such a brilliant and caring group of attorneys. Thank you, YLD, for this experience.

Jessica Perez

Juris Doctor Candidate, UNM School of Law Class of 2018



Pegasus – Legal Service for Children staff back row from left to right: Matthew Bernstein, Ella Brown, Jackie Sagastume, Larry Kronen; front row from left to right: Nicole Saunders, Miriam Rea, Liz McGrath, Jessica Perez

Constitution Day 2016

By Erin Atkins
Region 4 Director

During the week of Sept. 11-17, attorneys from across the state participated in Constitution Day presentations for fifth grade classrooms in the YLD's Annual Constitution Day celebration. The Young Lawyers Division Board organized volunteer judges and attorneys and matched them with schools in their local areas. This year's Constitution Day participation was the largest to date—106 schools participated! Each of the 8,016 students received a free U.S. Constitution booklet provided by the YLD. The 101 attorney and judge volunteers led games, discussions and even passionate debates with the students. Ben Cross, senior court attorney at the Ninth Judicial District Court, coordinated presentations for 1,300 students and with help from other volunteers presented to these students in their district. He eloquently shared his experience with the following: "We want students to know American history and the tenets of the Constitution. But, most importantly, we want students to know that they are treasured and that they can aspire to be whatever they want in life; even President. Just read Article II of the Constitution..."

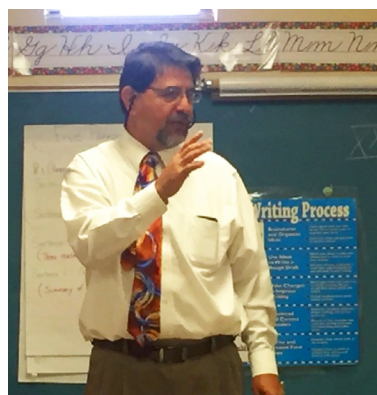
This event was a great success! The YLD wishes to thank all who participated and inspired the young students of New Mexico. To view more Constitution Day experiences, visit www.nmbar.org/yld > Constitution Day.



Ninth Judicial District Court Judge
Fred T. Van Soelen



from left to right: Second Judicial District Public
Defenders Noah Gelb, Darin McDougal and
Sophie Asher



Attorney Mick Gutierrez



from left to right: Senior Court
Attorney Ben Cross and Chief Judge
Drew D. Tatum of the Ninth Judicial
District Court

YLD/UNM School of Law Mentorship Program Kickoff BBQ

By Tomas Garcia
Chair-elect
Director-AT-Large, Position 2

UNM School of Law first-year students and YLD attorney mentors kicked off the 2016–2017 Mentorship Program with a BBQ at the UNM School of Law campus in September. Law students met and mingled with prospective mentors and engaged in a structured speed networking activity. At the conclusion of the event, law student participants completed surveys and, for the first time in the program's history, students were offered the chance to identify specific attorney mentors with whom they wished to be matched. Approximately two-thirds of the first-year law school class signed up to participate in the Mentorship Program this year and several dozen YLD attorneys volunteered to mentor law students.



Law students Taylor Bui, Derek Sanchez, Cruz Lopez, Jessica Perez, and David Jenkins



Attorney mentors and student mentees practice their speed networking on the UNM School of Law patio

Wills for Heroes

By Sean FitzPatrick
Vice Chair
Director-At-Large, Position 3



Many first responders around the country are without wills. There is an unmet need to help these individuals should tragedy strike. This is a reality that Anthony Hayes sought to address after the Sept. 11 attacks when it became clear there were very few first responders who had estate planning documents. The program was expanded beyond New York and has grown to become what it is today.



Santa Fe Wills for Heroes from left to right, (back row) Taylor Lieuwan, Eddy Gallegos, Sean FitzPatrick, Lyn Herbert, Melissa Martinez, Jennifer Van Wiel, Kay Homan, Shannon Bulman, Linda Murphy, Kait Alley, Yvonne Chicoine, Spencer Edelman; (front row) Jordan Kessler, Brian Parrish



Alamogordo Wills for Heroes from left to right, (back row) Judge James Waylon Counts, Kathy Sanchez, Deena Daniel, Khouloud Pearson, Forrest and Amelia Pearson, Jamshid Askar; (front row) Josie Techau, Dorothy Murphy, Terri Melendy. Not pictured: Petria Schreiber, Roxanne Esquibel, Michelle Haley, Canon Stevens, Thomas Overstreet, Irene Mirabal Counts, and Erin Atkins.

While this program is free to first responders, the YLD has been tracking how much time volunteers donate to the program. More than 400 attorney hours have been donated by attorneys in New Mexico. More than 200 wills and other estate planning documents were generated through the Wills for Heroes program. Based on average attorney fees per hour in New Mexico, that equates to just over \$95,000 in legal services provided! This number does not include the non-attorney volunteers and paralegals that are critical to the process of notarizing and witnessing the estate planning documents.

However, the benefit of this program can't just be measured by how much it would cost without volunteers. Arguably, its true benefit is allowing first responders to focus on their job and not worry about the affairs of their estate should the unthinkable happen.

Thank you to all who have made this program a success. To those who haven't volunteered yet, let me repeat the words of YLD Board member Spencer Edelman: one of the best things about this program is that lawyers with no experience in drafting wills or estate planning documents can guide first responders through a few simple questions, and the first responders can leave that day with a will in hand. If you are interested in helping the YLD host a clinic, keep an eye out for emails from the State Bar and announcements in the *Bar Bulletin*.