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Real Property, Trust and Estate, **Toby Lutenegeer**  
Solo and Small Firm, **Brian Smith**  
Tax, **Matthew Montoya**  
Trial Practice, **Carter B. Harrison**

## 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** and **Sean FitzPatrick**  
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, **Billy Jimenez**,  
**Evan Cochnar** and **Shasta Inman**  
State Bar Student Essay Contest, **Darin McDougall**  
Social Media, **Sean FitzPatrick** and **Shasta Inman**  
Wills for Heroes, **Mariah McKay**, **Allison Block-Chavez**,  
**Evan Cochnar** and **Jessica Streeter**  
Veterans Clinic, **Sean FitzPatrick** and **Lindsay Cutler**  
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

The New Mexico Young Lawyers Division continues to be committed to you, its members, while providing public service to our state and mentorship opportunities to aspiring attorneys. The YLD program chairs and liaisons have worked hard this past year to deliver new programming and we have big plans for 2020!

This past year we focused on attorney well-being through our #Fit2Practice initiatives. Volunteers for Wills for Heroes provided approximately 80 simple estate plans to first responders across the state. Young lawyer volunteers have mentored and supported middle school and law students on their path to becoming lawyers through the annual Law Camp program and UNM School of Law mentorship programs.

The YLD looks forward to an exciting 2020. In our quarterly newsletter, we will be highlighting young lawyers doing interesting work. If you know a young lawyer that is doing exciting work in their practice or community, or if you want to share a project that you are passionate about, contact me to be featured in our Young Lawyer Spotlight.

Additionally, the YLD is working with the New Mexico Supreme Court, Committee on Diversity in the Legal Profession, and the State Bar on judicial pipeline programming. Part of this programming will include more Lunch with Judges (and Justices) events through the state and programming to provide information and encourage aspiring judges.

We want all New Mexico young lawyers to engage with the Division and participate in its many programs. If you would like the YLD to organize a program in your community, contact us! If you are interested in mentoring students and creating a pipeline to becoming a lawyer or a judge, we have the opportunity for you! If you are want to obtain pro bono hours and a rewarding experience, participate in our Wills for Heroes programs across the state or come to our regular Veterans or Homeless legal clinics. If you're interested in getting involved on a national level, the YLD can guide you on how to get started with the American Bar Association.

The YLD is here for you and we want to support you as you grow as an attorney. I invite you to participate to our next event in your community, meet colleagues and share ideas. Please feel free to reach out me to learn about getting involved. I am honored to serve as the YLD Chair and I am excited to share the year ahead with you!

**Allison Block-Chavez**  
*2019 YLD Acting Chair*

# Program Updates

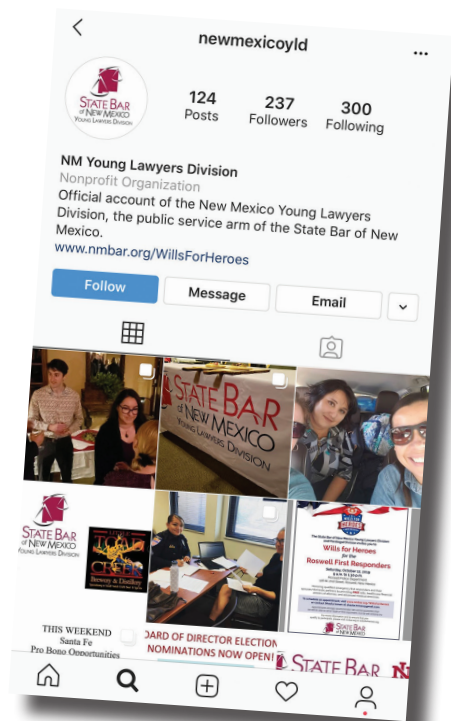
## #Fit2Practice

This year the New Mexico YLD continued its commitment to provide activities that focus on well-being. From discounted tickets at Ski Santa Fe for YLD Ski Day, complimentary registration at the Chips and Salsa 5k, an uplifting start to the day at the Annual Meeting Poolside Yoga, a morning nature walk along the Bosque of the Rio Grande or the NMLYD Yoga brunch at La Cumbre Brewing Company, the YLD recognizes that healthy lawyers make for better practitioners. Follow our social media pages to get the scoop on the next event, or send us a message on an event you would like to see the YLD participate in.



## Social Media

The New Mexico YLD social media pages continues to grow this year this year! Follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram @NewMexicoYLD to stay up to date on upcoming pro bono and other volunteer opportunities, CLE programs, mentorship and networking events. Our goal is to get information to you without clogging your email inbox, and also engage our membership! Look for personalized hashtags at future events so you can follow along with the discussion, and tag @NewMexicoYLD when you are at legal fairs and networking events, mentoring UNMSOL students, or being otherwise involved with the YLD.





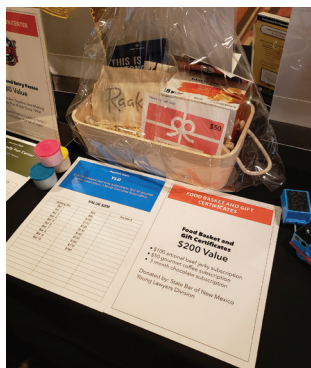
## State Bar of New Mexico Annual Meeting



The New Mexico YLD sponsored several #Fit2Practice events at the 2019 State Bar of New Mexico Annual Meeting. There was an early morning nature trail hike and sunrise yoga for those who wanted a healthy way to start their day.

The YLD's contribution to the silent auction benefiting the State Bar Foundation included a "subscribe to YLD" theme with monthly subscriptions to coffee, chocolate, and artisanal beef jerky!

After a long day of Continuing Legal Education, the YLD with the help from a number of sponsors hosted the Party Summons for all state bar members to come interact with the Young Lawyers of New Mexico. Senior lawyers, newly admitted attorneys, and everyone in between gathered to share their experiences at the Annual meeting so far and make new connections.



**SUMMONS TO APPEAR**  
Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town  
Date: Friday, Aug. 2

**NOTICE OF PARTY SUMMONS**  
You have been served with this Notice of the Young Lawyers Division Annual Meeting Party beginning at 7 p.m. Friday evening in the Texas Tech Red Raider Hospitality Lounge.

Pursuant to NMRA 1-004(J) and (K) and NMSA 14-11-10, you are hereby notified that aforementioned event will be a good time for all in attendance.

Enjoy guitar music by Albuquerque attorney Justin Muehlmeier.

**NOTICE!**  
FOOD, DRINKS, AND MUSIC PROVIDED.

## Public Service Project in Outlying Areas

Recognizing the need for legal services and bar engagement in the outlying areas of New Mexico, this year, the Young Lawyers Division traveled to Silver City to put on a Wills for Heroes Program and host a networking event at the Little Toad Creek restaurant. Afterwards the YLD collaborated to plan the next years events and come up with ways to better serve the membership and public.



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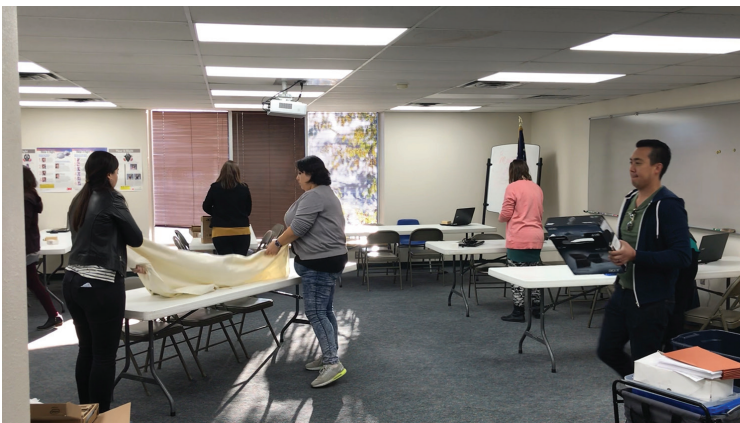
## Wills for Heroes



The YLD The YLD organized four Wills for Heroes events across the state. In May, we worked with the Albuquerque Police Department to provide much needed legal documents to its officers and their spouses. YLD and paralegal volunteers advised clients and prepared over 40 wills and powers of attorneys. In October, YLD program chairs traversed the state from Santa Fe to Roswell and then to Silver City with computers and printers in tow. During those three back-to-back events, YLD and paralegal volunteers prepared another 40 wills and powers of attorney.

For volunteers participating at a Wills for Heroes event is a rewarding pro bono experience. First responders are always very appreciative of volunteers spending their Saturday morning helping them to put their estate and legal affairs in order in the event that tragedy hits. If you are interested in participating, volunteering requires only a Saturday morning

and program coordinators are onsite to guide and support volunteers. The YLD provides computers with software pre-loaded to prepare the documents and breakfast. In 2020, we have events tentatively planned for February 29, 2020 with the Bernalillo County Fire Department and March 28, 2020 with the Carlsbad Fire Department. Contact us to volunteer!



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## Veteran's Legal Clinic



The YLD continues to partner with the Veteran's Affairs Department to provide a legal clinic for veterans at the New Mexico Veteran's Memorial. This Veteran's Civil Justice Initiative has been an ongoing program the YLD puts on approximately once per quarter. Through these clinics, veterans with a variety of legal issues are able to consult with experienced attorneys and if no resolution is possible immediately, they are referred to civil legal services providers or pro bono representation. Thanks to partnerships with groups such as United South Broadway, the Volunteer Attorney Program, New Mexico Legal Aid and other service provers, veterans in need can receive assistance with housing, employment and other civil issues. The program could not exist without the help of volunteer attorneys and paralegals. Thank you to everyone who assisted in 2019!

**Visit [www.nmbar.org/yld](http://www.nmbar.org/yld) to  
volunteer for the 2020 clinics!**



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## American Bar Association YLD Mountain West Regional Summit

Each year at the Mountain West Regional Summit young lawyers gather to put on the Regional Summit. This year it was in Steamboat Springs Colorado. A number of CLE's pertaining to the issues that Young lawyers face were presented. Not only legal education, but public service, and networking opportunities were a focus of this years event with Young lawyers providing service at Lift Up (including some healthy exercise clearing snow from their greenhouse). Lift Up provides emergency assistance to unemployed or impoverished individuals and families in Routt County.

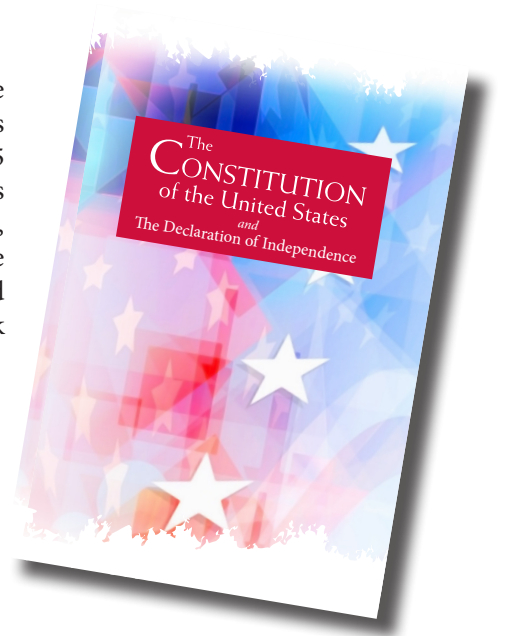
Stay tuned to our social media for next year's Regional Summit information.



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## Constitution Day

In September of 2019, attorneys, teachers, and students from across the state participated in Constitution Day. New Mexico attorneys gave presentations about the United States Constitution to fifth graders in approximately 25 different schools. Speakers chose from a variety of scenarios to teach students about the importance of the constitution. From aliens coming to take away rights, unless students voted which ones to keep, to a mini trial to determine who took the presenters pen, students engaged in critical thinking on what their rights mean and why they are protected. The Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar wishes to thank all the participants who made Constitution Day a great success.



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## UNM School of Law Mentorship Program

The Every year the YLD pairs law students with young lawyers as part of the YLD/UNM School of Law mentorship program. In September, lawyers and law students descended upon UNM School of Law to network and develop professional skills. This year the mentorship program worked with the Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program to put on Mocktail Bar at the program's kickoff event which had over 100 attendees.



## Mentorship Program

The second event included a Speed Networking and Holiday Happy Hour event held at Casa Rondena Winery. These hosted events allow law students to get the inside scoop and practical tips on what it will be like to go through law school and enter the job market in a few short years. The program has a renewed focus on discussing professionalism and dealing with ethical issues combined with its ongoing focus on mentorship, networking, and well-being. Future events will include the Mock Interview program and coordination with the YLD's #Fit2Practice programs.



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## UNM School of Law Mock Interview Program

The New Mexico YLD's Mock Interview Program allows UNM School of Law students to practice their interview skills with mock job interview by a volunteer attorney. This program is part of our ongoing partnership with UNM School of Law to help prepare New Mexico's soon-to-be lawyers for successful practice. This program also helps train the attorney volunteers, many of whom are young lawyers, on better interview techniques. On January 27, 2018, 23 attorney volunteers completed mock interviews with 44 law students with a special focus on professionalism, interview techniques, and how to deal with classic bad interview questions.





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## Essay Contest

The State Bar of New Mexico, the Young Lawyers Division and The Modrall Sperling Law Firm continued the annual Student Essay Contest where high school juniors and seniors are given a legal prompt and asked to write a 1,000 word essay. This program is sponsored in honor of James E. Sperling and encourages high schoolers to think critically about deep, complex legal issues. The essays that win every year can be on par legal briefing filed by many attorneys and that trend continued with this year's winner, Savannah Higgins of West Las Vegas High School.

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## 2019 STATE BAR STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST



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## Continuing Legal Education

YLD partnered with the Intellectual Property Section to put on a day-long CLE in Santa Fe about the brewery and creative industries. Craft and regional brewers presented alongside the attorneys who represent them on a broad range of technical legal issues, including trademarks and brand protection, brewery corporate formation and capital raising issues, employment and drug testing policies, and acquisitions of local breweries by bigger brands. Attendees also learned about unique intellectual property issues in the estate planning context. The CLE was held at the New Mexico History Museum on the Santa Fe Plaza, and attendees finished the day with a reception at the Draft Station to enjoy local brews and pizza. This co-sponsored CLE with the Intellectual Property Section is the first day-long CLE of its kind by the YLD, which plans to partner with other sections in the future to produce interesting and engaging CLE content for its members. If you have an idea for a CLE you'd like to plan for 2020, please get in touch with Breanna Contreras, Region 2 Director of the YLD, at [breanna@bardackeallison.com](mailto:breanna@bardackeallison.com)



BOW & ARROW  
BREWING CO.



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## Lunch with Judges

Lunch with Judges is designed to allow YLD members to meet with members of the bench in an informal setting to help young lawyers establish personal connections and receive invaluable early career advice, as well as give judges a chance to hear the issues and concerns of new attorneys.

New Mexico YLD held a Lunch with Judges on November 1, 2019, hosted by Modrall Sperling, with Justice C. Shannon Bacon, Judge James A. Parker, Judge Steven C. Yarbrough, Judge John F. Robbenhaar and Judge Jerry H. Ritter. The YLD board is hoping that this event will be the kickoff for a regularized schedule of such events throughout 2020!



## A Look Back at 2019

