

YLD BOARD

Chair, **Tomas J. Garcia**

Chair-elect, **Sean FitzPatrick**

Vice Chair, **Sonia Raichur Russo**

Director-at-Large, Position 1, **Allison Block-Chavez**

Director-at-Large, Position 2, **Tomas J. Garcia**

Director-at-Large, Position 3, **Sean FitzPatrick**

Director-at-Large, Position 4, **Sonia Raichur Russo**

Director-at-Large, Position 5, **Robert Lara Jr.**

Region 1 Director, **Vacant**

Region 2 Director, **Kaitlyn A. Luck**

Region 3 Director, **Anna C. Rains**

Region 4 Director, **Erinna "Erin" Marie Atkins**

Region 5 Director, **Darin Kyle McDougall**

Past Chair, **Spencer L. Edelman**

ABA District 23 Representative, **Billy J. Jimenez**

Student Director (non-voting), **Jessica Perez**

ABA House of Delegates Representative (non-voting),

Allison Block-Chavez

YLD LIAISONS

Animal Law, **Nina Eydelman**

Appellate Practice, **Nicholas Hart**

Bankruptcy Law, **Jacqueline Ortiz**

Business Law, **Luis Carrasco**

Children's Law, **Shasta Inman**

Criminal Law, **Daniel Apodaca**

Employment and Labor Law, **Kellie Garcia**

Family Law, **Brianna Feerer-Huss**

Health Law, **Erica Chavez**

Immigration Law, **Sarah Thomas**

Indian Law, **Elizabeth Reitzel**

Intellectual Property Law, **Breanna Houghton**

Natural Resources, Energy and Environmental Law, **Anne Minard**

Prosecutors, **John Osborn**

Public Law, **Kevin Sanders**

Real Property, Trust and Estate, **Bridgett Mullins**

Solo and Small Firm, **Iris Ring**

Taxation, **Brooke Alexander-Acosta**

Trial Practice, **Brian McMath**

2017 PROGRAM CHAIRS

2017 Regional ABA Conference,

Tomas Garcia and Billy Jimenez

Annual Public Service Project for Outlying Areas, **Spencer Edelman**

CLE at Annual Meeting—Bench & Bar Conference, **Robert Lara**

Constitution Day, **Kaitlyn Luck and Anna Rains**

Diversity Collaboration, **Allison Block-Chavez**

Homeless Legal Clinics, **Kaitlyn Luck**

Interview Program, **Erin Atkins**

Lunch with Judges Program, **Tomas Garcia and Billy Jimenez**

Law Camp, **Billy Jimenez and Sonia Russo**

Law Day Call-in, **Erin Atkins and Anna Rains**

Seniors Estate Planning, **Allison Block-Chavez**

State Bar Student Essay Contest,

Darin McDougall

Summer Fellowship Program, **Robert Lara**

Veteran's Clinic, **Sean FitzPatrick and Spencer Edelman**

Wills for Heroes, **Tomas J. Garcia**

YLD CLE, **Tomas Garcia and Spencer Edelman**

YLD/UNM School of Law Mentorship Program, Mock Interviews

and Open House, **Sean FitzPatrick and Darin McDougall**

YLD In Brief, **Spencer Edelman**

Message from the YLD Chair



This has been an incredible year for the Young Lawyers Division. With the dedication and hard work of our program chairs and young lawyer volunteers, we increased our member service offerings this year in an effort to increase member participation. We hosted a regional American Bar Association Young Lawyers conference in Albuquerque, offered continuing legal education programming at tremendous value, and introduced Lunch with Judges, a program to bring young lawyers together with members of the New Mexico judiciary in an informal setting. The YLD also continued to expand long-running community service programs, including Constitution Day, the Law Day Call-in Program, and the Veterans Legal Clinics.

With support from the State Bar Paralegal's Division, we produced hundreds of wills, advanced healthcare directives, and power of attorney documents for emergency first responders in Albuquerque, Rio Rancho, Roswell, Farmington and Taos through our Wills for Heroes Program.

Now in its tenth year of operation, Wills for Heroes was recognized at this year's State Bar Annual Meeting as the Outstanding Legal Program of the Year. Fittingly, longtime Wills for Heroes volunteer and program chair, Spencer Edelman, was also recognized as Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year. Spencer's individual recognition is a reminder that the YLD's public and member service programs are made possible only because of the tremendous efforts of our member volunteers. If you are new to the YLD this year, or if you have not yet had a chance to participate in a YLD program, I urge you to join us!

As my year as YLD Chair draws to a close, I'm excited for the year ahead. I know that the YLD Board, led by incoming Chair Sean FitzPatrick, will continue to drive the Division forward with fresh ideas, exciting member service programming, and, as always, passion to serve our community. I am honored to have served New Mexico's young lawyers and the State Bar and I hope to see you at the next YLD event!

Sincerely,

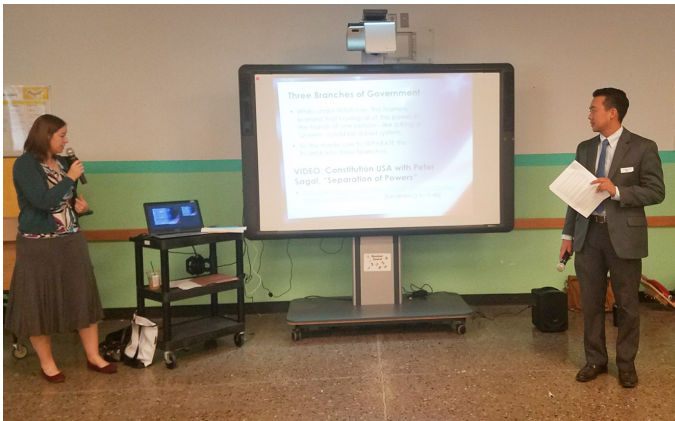
Tomas Garcia

Program Updates

Constitution Day



Judge Advocate Office from Holloman Air Force Base presenting to Holloman Middle School



Attorneys Shasta Inman and Billy Jimenez presenting at Chaparral Elementary in Albuquerque



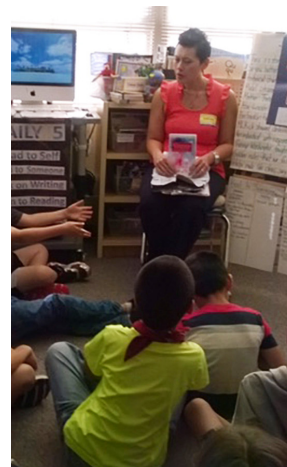
Attorneys Noah Gelb, Sophie Asher, Darin McDougall, Emily Powers, and Painted Sky fifth grade teacher Matthew Bazan presenting at Painted Sky Elementary in Albuquerque

During the week of September 11-15, 131 attorneys from across the state participated in Constitution Day presentations for 84 fifth grade classrooms in front of approximately 5,200 students in the YLD's annual Constitution Day celebration.

Of particular note, the Judge Advocate Office at Holloman Air Force Base created an interactive exercise where each student was asked to sign one of two bills, acting as the legislative branch of the U.S. government. First Lieutenant Fabiani Duarte (49th WG JA Legal Assistance Chief) said, "I really enjoyed seeing the students consider which bill they would sign and then formulate arguments with their friends at the cafeteria tables for why their initiative had greater merits than their opponents'. I can confidently say we saw some budding lawyers and paralegals at Holloman Middle School."

Las Cruces attorney, John D. Watson, created a puzzle with each piece marked either as "E" – Executive Branch; "L" – Legislative Branch; or "J" – Judicial Branch, stating "the lesson I wanted to get across was that it would take all of the students, working together, to complete the puzzle and make it work. Ms. Deschamps (the teacher) relayed that the children have continued to take the puzzle apart and put it back together in the several weeks since my presentation. I had a wonderful time with the students and at least a couple of the students appear to have had a very 'strong' take away lesson about their upcoming future."

***This event was a great success!
The YLD wishes to thank all who participated.***



Attorney Kara Shair-Rosenfeld presenting at Los Ranchos Elementary in Los Ranchos De Albuquerque

#Fit2Practice

The YLD's new Fit to Practice program is an extension of the American Bar Association's Fit to Practice health and wellness initiative. The ABA's program, popularized by its online presence of **#Fit2Practice**, is designed to promote long term health in lawyers by focusing on fitness, nutrition, sleep and mental health.

The New Mexico Fit to Practice program, headed by Sean FitzPatrick, held two events this fall. In September, the YLD held a CLE program focused on mental health, substance abuse and physical fitness with presenters Latisha K. Frederick, Jill Anne Yeagley and Ben Sherman. That same weekend the YLD sponsored over 20 law students and attorneys to participate in the Albuquerque Chips and Salsa 5k Run/Walk to help promote physical fitness. With Fit to Practice's great turnout at the Chips and Salsa 5k, the YLD is planning to continue to bring fitness and wellness training to New Mexico attorneys.



Tish Frederick, Jill Anne Yeagley and Ben Sherman present to CLE attendees at the UNM School of Law

Law Camp a Success

The YLD successfully continued its collaboration with the University of New Mexico, New Mexico Hispanic Bar Association and Engaging Latino Communities for Education to co-sponsor the 2017 Law Camp for rising New Mexico 6th and 7th Graders. The five-day residential camp held in June featured a large proportion of female attendees (18 girls and 6 boys) during the camp's 15th year of organization. Participants visited law firms, the U.S. Attorney's Office and stayed on campus at UNM to gain valuable exposure to college life. The camp culminated with a mock trial performed by the participants in front of Bernalillo Metro Court Chief Judge Edward L. Benavidez. Generous donations from law firms and the community continue to allow organizers to make Law Camp free to its participants.

Law Day Call-in Program

The YLD hosts this event once per year on the Saturday closest to Law Day, May 1st. This year, we held the event on April 29. Attorneys volunteered their time to take calls from residents throughout the state, seeking legal advice in various areas of the law. We provided assistance to Spanish speakers as well. This year, we had two call centers: one in Albuquerque and one in Roswell. Through the help of our volunteers the YLD assisted 189 callers in the Albuquerque center and 49 callers in the Roswell center. We appreciate all of our attorneys and staff who volunteered their time to this event.



Lunch with Judges

In addition to programs in Roswell and Santa Fe, on July 11, over 30 young lawyers shared lunch with Justice Charles W. Daniels of the New Mexico Supreme Court and Second Judicial District Court judges Alan M. Malott, Briana Zamora and Jane C. Levy at the Modrall Sperling Law Firm in Albuquerque. The program provided young lawyers with an opportunity to talk with judges in an informal and small group setting. The lawyers and judges talked about practicing law, practicing before the judges and general advice for young lawyers' professional development. This great program will continue to give young lawyers and judges an opportunity to share knowledge and promote professionalism.



Lawyers and judges enjoy lunch and discussion at the Albuquerque Lunch with Judges Program in July.

2017 Summer Fellowships

The YLD is privileged to assist UNM School of Law students with summer fellowships, which allow them to afford to work in public interest legal clerkships. For 2017, fellowships were awarded to Lenaya Montoya and Deshawnda Chaparro.

The YLD wishes to thank the State Bar for its investment in our future attorneys and our public interest sector.

This summer I had the opportunity to intern at the Department of Health Office of General Counsel. I got to work alongside some amazing attorneys who guided my educational experience during the internship. While working at DOH, I was able to apply what I have learned in law school to assist the attorneys and brief multiple divisions of the DOH on various legal issues. I attended state commitment hearings in Las Vegas, New Mexico and learned about behavioral health treatment options in NM. I was also very fortunate to be able attend a rulemaking session alongside my supervising attorney where I got to see the inner workings of rulemaking process.

My experience at the DOH was incredible! I was very fortunate to be able to work in such a friendly and welcoming environment alongside wonderful attorneys and administrative staff. This experience has helped me grow not only as a law student, but as a future attorney. This experience has encouraged me to continue my journey to become an advocate for better mental health and substance use treatment options here in New Mexico.

I would like to thank the Young Lawyers Division and the State Bar of New Mexico for awarding me this fellowship. It is thanks to their support and encouragement that I was able to work at the Department of Health Office of General Counsel this summer.

Thank you!

*-Lenaya Montoya
Juris Doctor Candidate, UNM School of Law Class of 2018*

Veteran's Legal Clinic

VA Clinic

The YLD, in collaboration with the Veteran's Administration and the New Mexico Veteran's Memorial, continued its Veteran's Civil Justice Initiative this year. Through these clinics, hundreds of veterans with a variety of legal issues were able to get consultations with experienced attorneys and if resolution was not possible, referrals to civil legal service providers or pro bono representation. Additionally, through community partners at each clinic such as United South

Broadway, the Volunteer Attorney Program, Goodwill, Roadrunner Food Bank, the New Mexico Department of Veteran's Affairs and others, veterans in need can receive help for housing, employment and other social issues. This program could not exist without the help of volunteer attorneys and paralegals. Thanks to all who helped in 2017 and the YLD hopes even more can help us meet the demand next year!

UNM School of Law Mentorship Program

Every year the YLD pairs law students with young lawyers as part of the YLD/UNM School of Law mentorship program. The popularity of this program continued this year with over 100 participants in the program. In September, lawyers and law students descended upon UNM School of Law to network and enjoy some BBQ. This kickoff event is the springboard for the mentorship program and participants reconvened for the annual Holiday Happy Hour at Backstreet Grill in Old Town.

SCHOOL OF LAW **Mentorship Program**

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. Future events will include the Mock Interview program and coordination with the YLD's new Fit2Practice programming.

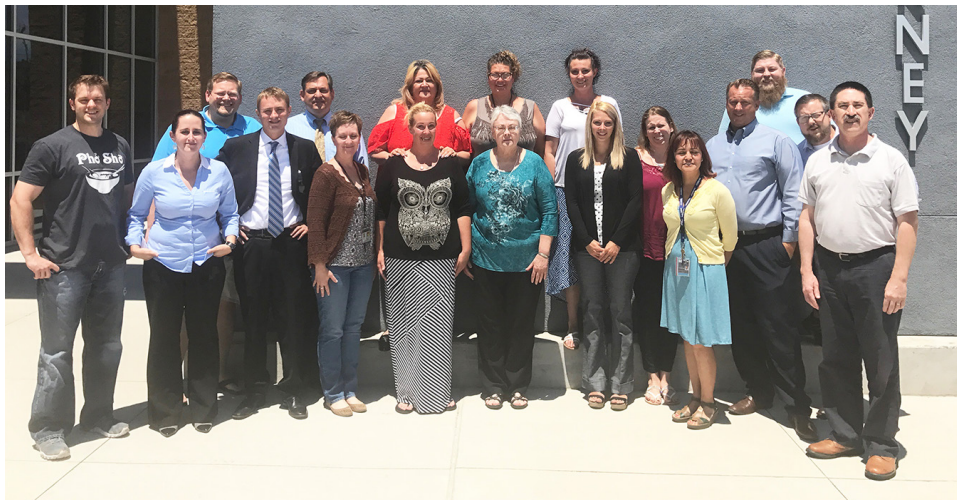


YLD Mentorship Holiday Happy Hour

Wills for Heroes



2017 was a banner year for the Wills for Heroes program. Wills for Heroes provides wills for first responders, police officers, and their spouses throughout the state. The YLD held 5 events in 2017 in Albuquerque, Rio Rancho, Farmington, Roswell, and Taos. This year, 44 dedicated volunteers donated 271 hours of time to complete 146 wills that the YLD estimates would have cost \$67,750.00 to draft outside of the program. In July, Wills for Heroes was honored as the Outstanding Legal Program of the Year by the State Bar of New Mexico. The YLD is grateful to every volunteer attorney and paralegal who generously gave their time, energy, and talents to Wills for Heroes this year and looks forward to continuing this great program in the years to come.



Volunteers for a Wills for Heroes program held in Farmington in July



YLD Board members pose with the program's Outstanding Legal Service Program Award

New Mexico YLD hosts ABA YLD Mountain West States Regional Summit

The New Mexico YLD hosted the American Bar Association YLD Mountain West States Regional Summit on March 30-April 1. Young lawyers from Colorado, Wyoming, Texas and Utah were welcome by the New Mexico YLD at Hotel Albuquerque for educational programming and networking events.

U.S. Bankruptcy judges for the District of New Mexico Robert Jacobitz and David Thuma kicked off programming with a mock trial demonstrating how lawyers may admit an exhibit and overcome hearsay objections during trial. Albuquerque attorney Steve Scholl continued the trial skills segment of the program by focusing on effective deposition skills. He showed young lawyers how to effectively use exhibits during depositions and how to successfully extract information from a deponent in preparation for trial.

Roberta Cooper Ramo, a remarkable trailblazer in the New Mexico and national legal community, began the second day of the conference with an introductory discussion about diversity and inclusion in the legal profession and in bar association leadership. Serving from 1995-1996, Ramo was the first woman to be elected president of the ABA and is the current, and first, woman president of the American Law Institute. She reminded attendees that every person is enriched by diversity and inclusion and emphasized that our nation is great because we understand that inclusion makes us better.

ABA leaders Mary Torres, Dan Acosta and Tommy Preston discussed opportunities within the ABA and the ABA's diversity and inclusion initiatives, including fellowships for young lawyers that provide ABA conference funding.

Aja Brooks, State Bar Board of Bar Commissioners; Keya Koul, University of San Francisco School of Law; and Heather Harrigan, UNM School of Law; discussed the importance of the State Bar of New Mexico's programs and efforts to further inclusion and diversity. Current successful programs include mentorship and support programming sponsored by affinity bar associations, the State Bar's Committee on Diversity in the Legal Profession and the Kellogg Grant awarded to the UNM School of Law to create an educational pipeline for diverse candidates seeking public service careers in the legal profession.

Stormy Ralstin, New Mexico State Bar Foundation director of legal services; Ruth Pregonzer, ECL program director; and Chief Judge Linda Vanzi of the New Mexico Court of Appeals discussed the Foundation's legal incubator program, Entrepreneurs in Community Lawyering. The program grew out of an increase of pro se litigants in our court system and the need for legal services at a reasonable rate. ECL helps new attorneys navigate the demands of running a business and learn to provide quality, affordable legal services to moderate-income clients in a way that is still profitable.



ABA leaders Dan Acosta, Mary T. Torres, Tommy Preston, and Roberto Ramo pose with 2017 YLD Chair Tomas Garcia



Sean FitzPatrick, Stormy Ralstin, Ruth Pregonzer, and Chief Judge Linda M. Vanzi prepare to share their insight on solo practice



Attendees from across the region got to know one another during program breaks

Chris Wharton, Utah YLD past president; Sam Houston, Texas Young Lawyers Association president; and Albuquerque solo attorneys Ben Sherman and Sean FitzPatrick shared ways they have succeeded as solo practitioners. Panelists agreed that investing in helpful technology software and case-management systems, avoiding unnecessary marketing traps that will increase your overhead, being careful not to take on too many cases that will not go forward, leveraging your network and having confidence and faith that it will work out are important to get started.

The final panel of the conference focused on Uniform Bar Exam reciprocity among Mountain West States. UNM School of Law Deans Sergio Pareja and Alfred Mathewson, UNM MALSA President Mish Miera-Rosete, NM Board of Bar Examiners Executive Director Sophie Martin, and NM BBE Chair Howard Thomas discussed New Mexico's participation in the UBE, the nationwide decline in bar passage rates and New Mexico's efforts to support students and increase success on the bar exam.

Attendees also participated in networking events at Casa Esencia, Q bar and local restaurants and attended a flamenco performance at the new Tablao Flamenco. Thank you to all who attended and represented our organization and wonderful state during the conference.



YLD Board member Billy Jimenez (left) welcomes law student attendees at the Welcome Reception



Spencer Edelman, Allison Block-Chavez and Vanessa Lemrond prepare for a fun conference ahead during the Welcome Reception

Update from the ABA Young Lawyers Division

The American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division saw a significant increase in the services provided by its Disaster Legal Services Program following hurricanes Irma and Harvey. The ABA YLD maintains an active role with the Federal Emergency Management Association to assist with the DLS Program in response to national disasters. Hundreds of volunteers continue to field thousands of calls from people in the Gulf Coast region, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. If you are interested in volunteering or would like additional information, please visit https://www.americanbar.org/groups/young_lawyers/disaster_legal_services.html.

The ABA YLD has also announced its Home Safe Home initiative, which includes educational and outreach programs focused on domestic violence and abuse, and its Embracing Diversity Challenge, which invites YLD affiliates from around the county to submit program ideas aimed at increasing diversity in the legal profession.