

## YLD BOARD

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## 2020 PROGRAM CHAIRS

### Ask-A-Lawyer Call-In

Mariah McKay, Allison Block-Chavez

### Constitution Day

Mariah McKay, Shasta Inman, Taylor Bui

### Continuing Legal Education

Breanna Contreras, Jaime Mayfield

### #Fit2Practice

Sean Fitzpatrick, Lindsay Cutler

### Judicial Clerkship Committee

Allison Block-Chavez

### Law Day Essay Contest

Shasta Inman

### Lunch with Judges

Breanna Contreras, Jessica Streeter, Evan Cochnar

### Networking

Deian McBryde, Evan Cochnar, Taylor Bui

### Podcasts

Sean FitzPatrick, Deian McBryde, Evan Cochnar

Allison Block-Chavez

### Social Media

Sean FitzPatrick

### Student Loan Debt

Lindsay Cutler, Evan Cochnar, Allison Block-Chavez

### Summer Fellowships

Lindsay Cutler, Sean Wang

### Summer Law Camp

Jessica Perez

### UNMSOL Programs

Shasta Inman, Jessica Perez, Sean Fitzpatrick, Damon Hudson

### Veterans Civil Legal Clinics

Lindsay Cutler, Jessica Streeter, Sean Fitzpatrick

### Wills for Heroes

Allison Block-Chavez, Sean Wang, Damon Hudson

### YL Spotlight

Deian McBryde, Sean Wang, Allison Block-Chavez



## Message from the YLD Chair

2020 has been a challenging year to say the least. The global Covid-19 pandemic has changed our lives, our work, and how we interact with our clients and our community. The senseless deaths of George Floyd and many other black and brown men and women have revealed the many flaws in our justice system.

We are challenged even more in our profession to uphold the constitution and ensure that our democracy and justice system work fairly for all people. Even through these difficult times, the YLD continues to be committed to you and is here to support you as you develop as young lawyers.

Mental and physical health continue to be important issues that the YLD concentrates on. Our already stressful and challenging profession requires that we maintain our mental and physical health. If you are struggling emotionally, please reach out to JLAP for help. JLAP provides a confidential helpline for a range of mental health issues. It also provides a free Employee Assistance Program that provides free counseling services for State Bar members. Know that we are not alone during the pandemic or in our profession.

To address lawyers' mental and physical well-being issues, the YLD has joined the State Bar's Well-Being Committee. The Well-Being Committee is working on programming to address well-being issues during the Covid-19 pandemic and over the long-term. Additionally, the YLD continues to host its #Fit2Practice events, including virtual yoga and a virtual 5k. Show us how you are staying healthy by tagging @NewMexicoYLD or using #Fit2Practice in your social media posts.

Furthermore, the YLD continues its regular events and programs through new mediums. The YLD's shift from in-person events to virtual events has allowed us to reach members in all four corners of the state and members outside of state. We have produced three episodes of our podcast, What I Wish I Knew, that talks about the challenges experienced lawyers faced when they were inexperienced and how they addressed them. The YLD's mentorship program with the UNM School of Law held its annual kick off event via Zoom. Chair-Elect Shasta Inman and board member Jess Perez coordinated over 70 attorneys and law students in separate Zoom rooms to network and connect. If you missed our virtual Lunch with Judges, you can watch it via NMBAR.org or on Youtube.

As my term as Chair expires, I want to thank a few people who supported me and made my chair year a success. First, I want to give a big thank you to Tina Cruz, the State Bar president. She has been a tireless supporter and advocate for the YLD and me personally. As a mentor, she has demonstrated to me the epitome of a poised, thoughtful, and effective leader for the State Bar. I am fortunate to have served in a leadership role along side of her.

Second, I want to thank the YLD board, especially Sean Fitzpatrick and Shasta Inman, for their work this year. Sean served an extra year to ensure that the YLD and its programs continued to thrive during a difficult transition in 2019. Shasta Inman kept the board (and me) on track and organized. I have no doubt that she will continue to capably serve the YLD as its chair in 2021.

# Program Updates

## Mentorship Program

Like most things this year, the YLD's mentorship program with the UNM School of Law has looked very different. Generally, the program's fall semester consists of matching UNMSOL students with metro-area attorneys, kicking off the program with a BBQ picnic at the law school, and having a holiday happy hour speed networking night.

But with the pandemic still raging on and law school in-person classes very limited, we had to restructure the program for this year. Going all-virtual opened up opportunities for young lawyers from across the state to mentor students who might be interested in returning to their hometowns after graduation or who had specific practice-area matching-preferences (we even had a NM-licensed immigration lawyer residing in Arizona and an intellectual property attorney housed in Alabama sign up!).

Three members of our Board (Shasta N. Inman, Chair-Elect; Jessica Perez, Region 5 Director; Lauren Riley, ABA YLD District 23 Rep) also joined first-year students for a masked and socially-distanced lunchtime presentation during the second week of classes to welcome the students to law school and highlight YLD programs (including mentorship).

Despite foreseeing virtual-only events, the mentorship program had surging registration and another record-breaking year: 52 mentors and 65 students! Roughly 65 people from the whole group participated in a Sept. 10 Virtual Kickoff Networking Bingo session via Zoom, with 35 of those turning in BINGO cards for "door" prize drawings of DoorDash giftcards.

With the assistance of At-Large Director Deian McBryde, the committee has also created a monthly email structure for the mentorship program. Each month we will send mentors a Check In activity for them to complete with their mentee(s); a Discussion topic; a Sidebar for mentors to improve their mentor experience and career development; and a Passport virtual hangout. Passport-event attendance will enter them into a drawing in June!

Mentorship participants will also be receiving a Work Hard - Study Hard - Play Hard swag bundle of YLD-logoed goodies to support their home-office & home-gym habits, such as a webcam privacy cover, a sweatband, a portable charger, and a USB hub. Another virtual networking event via the Remo platform is also scheduled for fall semester.

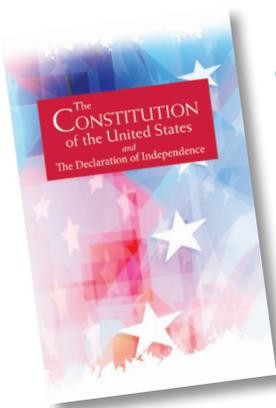
Per usual, Spring Semester will include Mock Interviews and Resume Reviews, but will most likely be virtual this year.

Please contact YLD Chair-Elect Shasta Inman, at [shasta.inman@gmail.com](mailto:shasta.inman@gmail.com), if you wish to participate as a mock interviewer or resume reviewer this year.

-Shasta Inman



## Constitution Day



This year the Young Lawyers Division organized a virtual Constitution Day. Attorneys and elementary schools around the state of New Mexico teamed up to provide 5th graders with lessons about the United States Constitution. The virtual presentations were interactive, fun, and educational. In addition to the presentations, students also received constitution booklets. Twenty-three schools participated. There were over fifty attorney volunteers. The Young Lawyers Division would like to thank each volunteer. This program would not be possible without them.

-Mariah McKay

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## Fit2Practice

Like everything in 2020, the Fit2Practice program looked a little different this year! The Fit2Practice program worked with the Well Being Committee of the State Bar to hold outdoor virtual yoga events with instructor Anne Kennedy. In response to growing interest and participation, we hope to host more virtual yoga in the new year!



In November, #Fit2Practice and the Well Being Committee are hosting a virtual 5K where participants can enter to win a paid of AirPods Pros! Check in your inbox for more details and remember to hashtag #Fit2Practice in any social media of you participating in these events!

If you have an idea for a virtual Fit2Practice event, please let the YLD know!

*-Lindsay Cutler*

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## Veteran's Legal Clinic



The YLD partnered with the Veterans Justice Outreach Program to provide a free civil legal clinic at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial. We were able to hold two civil legal clinics in January and early March. Through these clinics, veterans are able to meet one-on-one with experienced attorneys for consultations on a variety of legal issues. Thanks to partnerships with New Mexico's many civil legal services providers, volunteer attorneys are often able to refer veterans to additional legal services. Thank you to the dedicated volunteer attorneys and paralegals who make this clinic possible. We look forward to continuing this program in the future!

*-Lindsay Cutler*

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## Volunteer Attorney Program

New Mexico Legal Aid's Volunteer Attorney Program also partnered with the YLD in August to host a civil legal teleclinic. Justice Bacon and Judge Levy introduced the new teleclinic and provide legal consultations to over a dozen clients. The YLD is grateful to the Volunteer Attorney Program for the incredible work that they are doing to adapt to the realities of the Coronavirus pandemic and put on teleclinics to provide legal consultations and resources to New Mexicans during this difficult time.



*-Lindsay Cutler*

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## Ask-a-Lawyer Call-in Program



### Law Day Call In

On October 24, 2020, the Young Lawyers Division hosted Ask a Lawyer Call-In Day. Attorneys from around the State volunteered to give general legal advice. Attorneys advised people on a variety of issues including employment law, family law, personal injury, landlord/tenant, and estate planning. Over

150 people called in seeking advice from the volunteer attorneys. The Young Lawyers Division would like to thank each of the volunteers. This program would not be possible without their help. We look forward to continuing the program in 2021.

*-Mariah McKay*

## Wills For Heroes

Like many of the in person programming events, the Wills for Heroes program has not held any events since the beginning of the Covid 19 pandemic. However, prior to that, the YLD held a successful wills for heroes program on February 29th at the Bernalillo County Fire department. We look forward to holding another Wills for Heroes event in spring of 2021. 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. Contact us to volunteer!



-Sean FitzPatrick

### Message from the YLD Chair *Continued from cover*

Third, none of the YLD's successes would be possible without Morgan Pettit. Morgan Pettit is the State Bar employee who supports and works with the YLD with its events and programs. I cannot thank Morgan enough for her tireless work and commitment to the YLD.

As we close out the year, please remember that the YLD is here for you and we want to support you as you grow as an attorney. I encourage you to get involved, participate an event or program, or reach out to one of the YLD board members.

Finally, it has been an honor to serve our New Mexico YLD and an honor to work with so many exceptional members of the State Bar. I will carry the relationships and things that I've learned with me into the future.



We  
have a  
podcast!

## SBNM is Hear

**Episode 1** • Personal Inventory: COVID – A Forced Life Transition For Some

**Episode 2: Part 1** • Tools of the Trade with Young Lawyers Division: What I Wish I Knew with Ernesatina Cruz

**Episode 2: Part 2** • Tools of the Trade with Young Lawyers Division: What I Wish I Knew with Ernestina Cruz

**Episode 3** • Tools of the Trade with Young Lawyers Division: What I Wish I Knew with Tomas Garcia

**Episode 4** • Hear All About It: COVID-19 and Evictions in New Mexico

**Episode 5** • Hear All About It: COVID-19 and Unemployment Insurance in New Mexico

**Episode 6** • Tools of the Trade with the Young Lawyers Division: What I Wish I Knew with Aja Brooks

**Episode 7** • Let's Talk About Leveraging Culture in a Solo or Small Firm

**Episode 8** • Let's Talk About Your Client Funnel in a Solo or Small Firm

**Episode 9** • Grieving, Coping, and Healing Regarding Suicides in Our Legal Community

**Episode 10** • Hear All About It: Judicial Clerkships with NM Justice David K. Thomson

Listen at [www.nmbar.org/podcast](http://www.nmbar.org/podcast)

