



State Bar of New Mexico  
Natural Resources, Energy  
and Environmental Law Section

**Board of Directors Meeting Agenda**

February 28, 2023

12:00 p.m.

[Zoom Meeting](#)

**Meeting ID:** 811 5445 4627

**Passcode:** 2023

**Quorum = 6 Directors**

**Quorum Met:** Yes No

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Present</b>
1	Melinda Branin	Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Steven Hernandez	Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Zachary Ogaz	Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Paula Vance	Director/Chair-Elect	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Bidtah Becker	Director	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Thomas Paterson	Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7	Kristen Burby	Director/Budget Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8	Kari Olson	Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9	Louis Rose	Past Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10	Prof. Joe Schremmer	UNM Faculty Liaison/ Secretary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11	Vanessa Springer	UNM Student Liaison	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12	Chandler Farnworth	YLD Liaison	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. Approval of the agenda
  - a. Unanimously approved upon motion duly made and seconded.
2. Approval of the January 2023 meeting minutes (Joseph Schremmer)
  - a. Unanimously approved upon motion duly made and seconded.
3. Vanessa Springer Student Liaison introduction
  - a. Vanessa introduced herself was welcomed.
4. Review and approval of the 2023 budget/expenditures (Kristen Burby)
  - a. Kristen presented the budget for 2023. She mentioned that the Section is permitted to carry forward amounts into 2024. She further noted that this budget is based on the 2022 budget but includes slightly higher expenses to account for inflation. Steve mentioned we might seek to budget for few more CLE expenses. \$3,591.50 is budgeted as carry forward into 2024.
  - b. The budget was unanimously approved upon motion duly made and seconded.

5. CLE update, including a proposed joint legislative update with UNM, Texas v. New Mexico lunch and learn, and December 2023 annual institute potentially coordinate with Indian Law Section (Paula Vance)
  - a. Paula updated the board on the following CLE items:
    - i. May 3 is the planned date for a legislative update CLE, which will be done in conjunction with UNMSOL. She is working with Gabe Pacyniak to design the 1-2 hour CLE. Advertising and CLE credit will be run through UNMSOL.
    - ii. Also planning a breakdown of *Texas v. New Mexico*. There is not a date for this since it depends on when a decision is rendered by the special master on the parties' settlement. We probably need to schedule the CLE about 2 weeks after the decision comes down to allow time for advertising. She is working with Zach and Steve to put this one together and Brianna regarding the scheduling.
      1. Brianna is doubtful that the program could be accredited for CLE in 2 weeks. She suggested that a non-CLE lunch-and-learn would be possible.
      2. Zach expects a decision from the special master by early May, but no answer from the Supreme Court until next year. He suggested scheduling something for June.
      3. Melinda suggested leaving it to the CLE committee to determine how to proceed with this idea.
    - iii. Paula would like to do a nuts-and-bolts course on administrative law and practice in New Mexico, aimed at new attorneys and as a refresher for others.
    - iv. We also plan to submit a proposal for a CLE to be presented at the State Bar Annual Meeting (to be held at Tamaya Resort).
    - v. Regarding the Section's Annual CLE, Paula updated the board on the CLE committee's ongoing collaboration with the Indian Law Section to nominate in Sec. Haaland for the career achievement law and ask her to also speak at the CLE. As for the topic of the CLE, it hasn't been determined.
      1. Chandler suggested a possible topic dealing with environmental justice.
      2. Kari mentioned that Indian water rights settlements could be a timely topic.
      3. Brianna explained that the Section could reimburse Sec. Haaland for her travel and hotel expenses. Lou pointed out that any reimbursement may need to be approved by DOI.
      4. Paula will prepare a letter to DOI.
6. Summer 2023 student stipends

- a. A motion was made, and duly seconded, to allocate \$4,000 to UNMSOL for one or more students who are working in natural resources through the school's summer stipend program. The motion was unanimously approved.
  - b. Joe will talk to Prof. Pacyniak and Prof. Benson about joining a board meeting to discuss who will have received the stipends and future plans for the stipend program.
7. New business
  - a. Tom raised a question about the status of the plaques for hanging at the bar headquarters. Steve mentioned that the minutes of the last board meeting, printed in the bar bulletin, indicated that a policy for hanging plaques in the bar building was passed. He has not seen the policy.
8. Next meeting March 28, 2023