



Recognizing Excellence

State Bar of New Mexico Presents 2023 Annual Awards

The State Bar of New Mexico presents the Annual Awards to those who have distinguished themselves or made exemplary contributions to the State Bar or legal profession over the last year. The following were recognized for excellence and service on July 27 during the 2023 Annual Meeting.



Annual Awards Committee Chair, Allison H. Block-Chavez (left) and State Bar President, Benjamin I. Sherman (right) with Annual Award winners Justice Edward L. Chávez, Chief Magistrate Judge Emeritus Lorenzo F. Garcia, Ella Joan Fenoglio, Mary Galvez, Joy Applewhite, David J. Stout, Jerred Weingarten, James Lucero, Sam Noble and Shasta N. Inman



MARY GALVEZ MA, CMC, NMG, CSA **Distinguished Bar Service - Nonlawyer Award**

A Nationally Certified Master Guardian (NMG), Certified Senior Advisor (CSA) and Certified Manager of Care (CMC), Mary has been providing guardianship and care management services in New Mexico for over 20 years. She has extensive professional experience serving the elderly and disabled population in New Mexico. She owns and operates Guardianship and Care Management Services LLC, a local agency which serves as Guardian, Court Visitor, Care Manager, and Healthcare Power of Attorney. Mary is also a trained mediator.

Mary serves on the board of the New Mexico Guardianship Association. She is the New Mexico Affiliate Representative to the National Guardianship Association and also serves as a Board Trustee for the Center for Guardianship Certification. She is a member of the New Mexico Supreme Court WINGS Committee and previously served on the Ad-Hoc Rules and Guardianship Rules and Forms Committee. Mary co-chairs the Guardianship Discussion Group, a monthly education program for guardians in New Mexico.



JOY APPLEWHITE **Excellence in Well-Being Award**

Joy Applewhite is an Assistant Public Defender with the Law Offices of the Public Defender in the Hobbs office. Joy joined LOPD in August 2021 after earning her law degree at American University Washington College of Law in May 2021. Since her childhood, helping others has been a core belief for Joy. In her adult years, Joy realized the importance of taking care of oneself to ensure her cup was full to help others. As a public defender, the necessity to practice wellness amplified in light of vicarious trauma and heavy caseloads. In response, Joy has created a wellness room in the Hobbs office for wellness breaks. Joy also serves on

the LOPD Wellness Committee that focuses on providing various defender wellness resources and creating peer support groups for the LOPD community. In challenging times, Joy reminds herself to take it one day at a time because this too shall pass.



DAVID J. STOUT

Judge Sarah M. Singleton Distinguished Service Award

David Stout is a proud 1982 graduate of the University of New Mexico School of Law. As a young lawyer he was fortunate to have worked with lawyers who set a high bar for both the practice of law and professional service, lawyers who believed it was important to give back to the profession and to the wider community. Over the years Stout has been consistently inspired by the dedication and service of other lawyers and more recently by younger lawyers and law students. He is continually amazed by their tireless efforts and personal sacrifice, all with a goal to make our profession, our community, and our society better for all. The inspiration they provide is a reminder why, no matter how we may be feeling at any

given moment – angry, frustrated, or just plain tired - it is always a great day to be a lawyer.



JUSTICE EDWARD L. CHÁVEZ

Justice Pamela B. Minzner Professionalism Award

Justice Edward L. Chávez, a native New Mexican, is a product of the New Mexico public school system. He graduated from Santa Fe High School, Eastern New Mexico University, and received his Juris Doctorate from UNM in 1981. He served on the New Mexico Supreme Court from March 7, 2003, until his retirement on March 9, 2018. He was Chief Justice from January 2007 through early April 2010.

In addition to being the Supreme Court liaison to several other committees, boards, and commissions, he was the Court's representative on the Disciplinary Board, Board of Bar Examiners, Language Access Advisory Committee, Lawyer Succession and Transition

Committee, Client Protection Fund, Commission on Professionalism, and the Code of Judicial Conduct Committee. He participated in the Judicial Wellness committee and has done volunteer work for Roadrunner Foodbank and all three branches of government since his retirement.



JUDICIAL BRANCH IT STAFF

Outstanding Legal Organization Award

Accepting the award, from left to right, Second Judicial District Court IT Specialist Manager James Lucero, Network Systems Administrator Senior with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Judicial Information Division Sam Noble, AOC JID Systems and Network Manager Jerred Weingarten with State Bar of New Mexico President Benjamin I. Sherman.

Throughout the pandemic the judicial branch's information technology staff worked tirelessly and creatively to expand and maintain critical services. Statewide Judicial Information Division (JID) staff, and IT staff based in courts around the state all played critical roles, expanding video hearing capabilities, setting up remote work access and tools

for all judges and employees statewide, supporting electronic access to courts for the public, and maintaining networks to ensure no state court closed its doors. These IT professionals also assisted in updating court websites, creating email filing capabilities for the general public, updating legal forms, and streamlined phone systems to better serve the public during the pandemic. Despite supply chain challenges and the scarcity of new equipment, the IT staff maintained critical existing services and added essential components to function in the new, virtual environment. These measures were so effective that many continue to this day.



SHASTA N. INMAN

Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year Award

Shasta N. Inman (she/her) is a solo attorney in Albuquerque, practicing across central New Mexico in child welfare and adult guardianship matters and serving as court-appointed guardian ad litem in family law cases (including contested custody, kinship guardianships, and grandparent visitation). Outside of her “day job,” Shasta has previously been active in the State Bar’s Children’s Law & Elder Law Sections, and she served as Chair of the SBNM Young Lawyers Division in 2021. Her chair year culminated in the Western States Regional Summit co-sponsored by the American Bar Association YLD, bringing together over 60 young lawyers from NM and surrounding states for an in-person conference (without any known COVID-19 transmissions!). On the national stage, Shasta is the NM young lawyer representative to the ABA’s House of Delegates, and she served this year as ABA YLD Assembly Speaker (the Chief Policy Officer of the Division).



ELLA JOAN FENOGLIO

Robert H. LaFollette Pro Bono Award

Ella Joan Fenoglio was born in Indianapolis with parents who were active in church committees, school activities, Boy and Girl Scouts and even the neighborhood volunteer fire department. She majored in Spanish in college and increased her fluency as an exchange student in Bogota, Colombia. She received a Masters in Community Organization from Case Western Reserve in Cleveland.

Ella Joan then moved to Albuquerque, being attracted to the UNM School of Law, known for its clinical program and people-oriented curriculum. She has indeed been able to use her Spanish all these years as a lawyer, partnering with the NM Immigration Law Center, ABQ

Faithworks and the Social Justice Committee of La Mesa Presbyterian Church. She volunteers with the Albuquerque Friends Meeting (Quakers) in their work with the homeless and unhoused.

Ella Joan is honored to be chosen for this award and accepts on behalf of the many lawyers in New Mexico who give so much to their communities.



CHIEF MAGISTRATE JUDGE EMERITUS

LORENZO F. GARCIA

Seth D. Montgomery Distinguished Judicial Service Award

Lorenzo F. Garcia commenced his judicial career as a state trial judge in 1978. He served two terms and, thereafter, was elevated to the Court of Appeals. He has extensive service on the Supreme Court as a Designated Justice.

In 1992 he was appointed to the U.S. District Court and shortly thereafter, became Chief Magistrate Judge, a position he held for 25 years. He currently serves on a national recall panel assisting federal judicial districts throughout the country as Chief Magistrate Judge Emeritus.

Garcia is a graduate of UNM where he served on the Law Review and National Resources Journal. He practiced law as a partner, with the prestigious Jones, Snead law firm, and was previously honored by the State Bar as the State’s Outstanding Attorney.

He was named Outstanding Judge by the Albuquerque Bar Association, and Outstanding Federal Jurist by the American Board of Trial Advocates.

The School of Law honored Judge Garcia with its Distinguished Achievement Award and included him in the list of 60 judges and attorneys, who in the last 60 years made the greatest contributions to the law, law school and state.