

# STATE BAR OF NEW MEXICO 2025 Annual Meeting



*Sandia Resort & Casino*  
**Albuquerque, New Mexico**

**July 31 – August 2**



State Bar *of*  
New Mexico

Est. 1886

[www.sbnm.org/AnnualMeeting2025](http://www.sbnm.org/AnnualMeeting2025)



MORE THAN

# \$1 BILLION

IN VERDICTS & SETTLEMENTS

SINCE 2023



Visit our website to see our results in New Mexico and across the nation in some of the toughest and most significant cases.

**When the Result Means Everything: Partner With Us.**

**LYONS  
SIMMONS**

833 417 4117  
Dallas, Texas  
[lyons-simmons.com](http://lyons-simmons.com)

Wrongful Death | Personal Injury | Products Liability





# A Message from State Bar of New Mexico President Aja N. Brooks



## Greetings Friends and Colleagues,

The 2025 Annual Meeting has arrived at last, allowing each of us to reconnect, reflect and engage with the evolving issues shaping our legal community. The State Bar of New Mexico's ("State Bar") 2025 theme, "Together Towards Justice," perfectly captures the significance and impact of the event, which is to facilitate an opportunity for our community to come together as one for shared growth and development as legal professionals. I strongly believe the 2025 Annual Meeting's programming will achieve that and refine our sense of duty as attorneys while also shaping how we address challenges that our legal profession is currently facing.

First, I would like to highlight the keynote speaker of this year's Annual Meeting, Bryan Stevenson, who has led an inspirational career as a public interest attorney in representing the underserved and the wrongfully convicted. As Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama, his work serves as a motivating force for the legal community nationwide. Stevenson's New York Times bestselling book, *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*, will be available to the first 100 in-person Annual Meeting attendees to check in at registration thanks to the generous sponsorship of State Bar President-Elect Allison H. Block-Chavez and her firm, Aldridge, Hammar, & Wexler, P.A. Together, we are inspired by the impact Stevenson's work continues to have on the legal profession. I encourage you to pick up a copy ahead of Thursday evening's movie screening of its film adaptation of the same name.

In addition to our exciting keynote speaker, this year's Annual Meeting will feature excellent CLE programming. Two of this year's plenaries, "Justice by Design: Artificial Intelligence, Law and the Future of the US" and "Navigating the New Frontier: Ethical Uses of Gen AI in Legal Practice," will cover the rise of AI in the legal field and how lawyers can ethically implement it in their practice. I am also honored to welcome New Mexico Supreme Court Chief Justice David K. Thomson, Senior Justice Michael E. Vigil, Justice C. Shannon Bacon, Justice Julie J. Vargas and Justice Briana H. Zamora who will be leading the Judicial Panel when they will discuss the current issues and challenges faced by New Mexico's judiciary.

The 2025 Annual Meeting's breakout sessions will cover a diversity of themes, including "Legal Foundations," "Court Roles Past, Present & Future," "Back to School" and "Beyond Ethics: More Than Compliance." Together, these themes reflect the foundation of our shared responsibilities as legal professionals. From education in law to legal practice and the judiciary, this year's CLE programs offer a comprehensive view of the legal system and our responsibilities within it.

Each Annual Meeting is defined in large part by its events and activities, and the 2025 Annual Meeting features a wide variety at Sandia Resort & Casino. After a long day of attending complex presentations and soaking in deep discussions, head to the Green Reed Spa for some rest and relaxation. If the competitive spirit hits you, head out on the greens at the award-winning Sandia Golf Club, against the beautiful vista of the Sandias and the picturesque landscape of the Sandia Pueblo. Amenity discounts are available for Annual Meeting attendees; please see the resort front desk for more information.

In addition to the Sandia Resort & Casino's amenities, the State Bar has curated entertainment and opportunities for you to network with your colleagues each day of the Annual Meeting. After attending the Welcome Reception and the inspiring Annual Awards Ceremony on Thursday evening, we will be screening the aforementioned movie "Just Mercy," starring Michael B. Jordan during Movie Night in the main ballroom. Adapting Bryan Stevenson's memoir to the silver screen, the film is an effective representation of Bryan Stevenson's career and the challenges he endured in pursuit of justice.

Please join us on Friday evening at the President's Reception and New Mexico State Bar Foundation's Glitz in a Glass fundraising event, then head up to the Texas Tech University School of Law Hospitality Lounge where the fun will continue. The State Bar's Young Lawyers Division will also be hosting a Pub-Style Trivia Contest on Friday evening. These events are ideal for both decompressing and connecting, so I encourage you to attend each of them as you are able.

Annual Meetings only occur once a year, so let's cherish this moment and take full advantage of this amazing opportunity to recognize our achievements and commitments to our professions. I look forward to seeing and speaking with so many of you here at the 2025 Annual Meeting!

Together Towards Justice,

Aja N. Brooks  
President, State Bar of New Mexico



# UPLIFT CHRONICLES

**UpLift Chronicles—New Mexico Black Leadership Council's community newspaper—is proud to uplift the stories of Black lawyers in New Mexico, including Aja Brooks, Leon Howard and Sonia Gipson Rankin.**



**SCAN QR CODE →  
TO READ MORE**



**SUBSCRIBE (FREE!) AT  
UPLIFTNEWMEXICO.ORG**



**NEW MEXICO  
BLACK LEADERSHIP  
COUNCIL**

**New Mexico Black Leadership Council needs your help. We work in some of the most vulnerable communities in the entire state. We'd love to connect with you and include you in our work. Our communities need you. If you're interested in volunteering your time, talent & treasure, please contact us today by phone, email or filling out our online volunteer form.**

**GET IN TOUCH**



**info@nmbclc.org**



**nmbclc.org**



**505-407-6784**



# State Bar of New Mexico 2025 Annual Meeting



**Aja N. Brooks, President**  
**Allison H. Block-Chavez, President-Elect**  
**Lucy H. Sinkular, Secretary-Treasurer**  
**Erinna M. "Erin" Atkins, Immediate Past President**

## BOARD OF BAR COMMISSIONERS

### First Judicial District

Olga Serafimova  
 Elizabeth "Liz" J. Travis  
 Andrea Salazar

### Second Judicial District

Allison H. Block-Chavez  
 Aja N. Brooks  
 Sean M. FitzPatrick  
 Tomas J. Garcia  
 Steven Scholl  
 Lucy H. Sinkular

### Third and Sixth Judicial Districts

Concepcion J. Flores  
 David P. Lutz  
 Chrystian J. González

### Fourth and Eighth Judicial Districts

Brett Phelps

### Fifth Judicial District

Parker B. Folse

### Seventh and Thirteenth Judicial Districts

Jessica A. Perez  
 Simone M. Seiler

### Ninth and Tenth Judicial Districts

Mitchell Mender

### Eleventh Judicial District

Joseph F. Sawyer

### Twelfth Judicial District

Erinna M. "Erin" Atkins

### Out-of-State District

Dylan O'Reilly

### Senior Lawyers Division Delegate

Daniel J. Behles

### Young Lawyers Division Chair

Lauren E. Riley

### Paralegal Division Liaison

Meryl Sutton

**Richard B. Spinello, Executive Director**

## Table of Contents

♦ A Message from the State Bar of New Mexico President....	3
♦ A Message from the New Mexico State Bar Foundation President.....	6
♦ About the New Mexico State Bar Foundation.....	7
♦ New Mexico State Bar Foundation Glitz in a Glass Event...	8
♦ 2025 Annual Meeting App.....	13
♦ Sponsors and Exhibitors .....	14-15
♦ Annual Meeting Program Schedule.....	17-19
♦ CLE Session Descriptions and Speakers	
Keynote Speaker .....	22
Plenaries.....	23
Breakout Sessions.....	24-27
Bonus CLE.....	28
♦ General Information.....	31
♦ Event Highlights .....	32-33
♦ Well-Being Activities .....	36-37
♦ 2025 Annual Award Recipients .....	39-42
♦ Property Map.....	44
♦ Exhibitor Map .....	45
♦ In Memoriam / Past Presidents.....	46

©2025, State Bar of New Mexico. This publication and its contents may not, in whole or in part, be reproduced, copied, disseminated, entered into a computer database, used as part of or in connection with a mailing list or otherwise used in any form or manner or by any means, except for the user's individual, personal and confidential reference. Appearance of advertisement, photographs or other materials does not constitute an endorsement by the State Bar of New Mexico.

The Annual Meeting Program is published by the State Bar of New Mexico, 5121 Masthead NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109-4367.

505-797-6000 • 800-876-6227 • Fax: 505-828-3765  
[www.sbnm.org](http://www.sbnm.org)







## *A Message from* **New Mexico State Bar Foundation President Stefanie K. Davis**

### **Greetings Peers and Fellow Advocates,**

Now that we have reached this year's Annual Meeting, I look back fondly at each that preceded it. Ever since my tenure with the New Mexico State Bar Foundation ("Bar Foundation") began, I have seen it evolve in numerous ways. The Bar Foundation's activities at the Annual Meeting continue to highlight our efforts in fostering a sense of community and giving back to all of you who comprise our cherished bar association. I would like to highlight some of those activities as the Annual Meeting commences.

Each year, the Bar Foundation puts on entertaining events during the Annual Meeting, and this year is no different. During the President's Reception on Friday evening, the Bar Foundation will be holding an exciting Glitz in a Glass event immediately following the adjournment of programming for the day at around 5 p.m. (MT) in Sandia Resort & Casino's Mountain View Terrace and Rotunda Lawn. One of the Bar Foundation's most unique fundraising activities, participants will have the opportunity to win a genuine 3-carat lab-grown diamond. There will be plenty of bonus prizes as well, so I encourage all Annual Meeting attendees to purchase at least one ticket for the opportunity for a fabulous prize. Proceeds from Glitz in a Glass will go to the New Mexico State Bar Foundation and its programs, including the Modest Means Helpline and the Legal Resources for the Elderly Program.

The Bar Foundation's Golf Classic will be coming up soon after the 2025 Annual Meeting. Please join us back here at Sandia Resort & Casino on Sept. 29 at the Sandia Golf Club for this important fundraising event. Between Annual Meeting sessions, I encourage you to see the award-winning golf course for yourself. Annual Meeting attendees receive golf discounts during the Annual Meeting, so please see the registration desk for more information. You can register for the 2025 Golf Classic as an individual or as a foursome at any time during the Annual Meeting at the Bar Foundation's exhibit table, or you can easily register online at <https://form.jotform.com/sbnm/2025GolfClassic>.

While the Annual Meeting's primary focus is to bring together our state's legal community, the Bar Foundation's mission remains the same: to advance the legal community's commitment to serve the legal profession and people of New Mexico. Our fundraising activities and events are intended, in part, for all Annual Meeting attendees to socialize, network and share the moment. Funds raised through your generous support ultimately meet the goals of our mission by supporting the Bar Foundation's programs serving elderly and low-income New Mexicans who might otherwise be unable to access legal assistance. Bar Foundation directors and staff will be available throughout the Annual Meeting to answer questions and provide more information about our legal services programs and the exciting opportunities to support those necessary programs.

Yours in service,

Stefanie K. Davis  
President, New Mexico State Bar Foundation





# With your Support,

The New Mexico State Bar Foundation provides the following benefits:

## For our Members

- ▶ Provides legal education
- ▶ Provides opportunities to earn pro bono hours



## For our Community

- ▶ Provides free legal services statewide to underserved New Mexicans through the following:

### Programs

- Modest Means Helpline
- Legal Resources for the Elderly Program
- ABA Free Legal Answers Program

### Workshops

- Small Business Workshops
- Divorce Options Workshops
- Consumer Debt/Bankruptcy Workshops



The New Mexico State Bar Foundation advances the legal community's commitment to serve the legal profession and people of New Mexico. Through member donations, fundraising and programs, the Foundation provides and promotes access to legal services to underserved New Mexicans. The Foundation also supports public service, education and diversity, as well as organizations consistent with this mission.

## Volunteer, Donate *and* Learn More

about opportunities to support the Bar Foundation by visiting

[www.sbnm.org/Bar-Foundation](http://www.sbnm.org/Bar-Foundation) or contacting

**505-797-6000** or [info@sbnm.org](mailto:info@sbnm.org).

The New Mexico State Bar Foundation gratefully accepts donations year-round.

Donate at [www.sbnm.org/donate](http://www.sbnm.org/donate).



New Mexico  
State Bar Foundation







# 2025 State Bar of New Mexico *Annual Meeting*

Friday, Aug. 1 ✦ 4:45 p.m. (MT)

*During the President's Reception at Sandia Resort & Casino*



*Brought to you by*

**RIO GRANDE®**

Since 1944



**Support the New Mexico State Bar Foundation by purchasing a ticket to receive a glass of champagne, a small gift from the Foundation and a chance to win many great prizes including a three-carat diamond (valued at \$5,000) provided by Rio Grande Jewelry Supply.**

Purchase one ticket for \$125 or two tickets for \$200. Help us reach our goal of selling 100 (or more) tickets to raise funds for the Foundation's free legal services for New Mexicans in need.

Tickets are available for online purchase starting July 21 at <https://form.jotform.com/sbnm/2025Glitz> or by scanning the above QR Code. Purchase tickets in-person at the event at the New Mexico State Bar Foundation exhibit table at the State Bar of New Mexico Annual Meeting.

Glitz in a Glass will take place at the President's Reception the evening of Friday, Aug. 1.

Winners need not be present to win.

*For more information, please contact [nmsbdevelopment@sbnm.org](mailto:nmsbdevelopment@sbnm.org) or Joey Gutierrez at 505-797-6057.*



2025  
ROSTER



# THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DISTINGUISHED NEUTRALS

## New Mexico Chapter

**[www.NMMediators.org](http://www.NMMediators.org)**

The following attorneys are recognized for  
**Excellence in the field of Alternative Dispute Resolution**



Hon. Tim Garcia  
Santa Fe



John Hughes  
Red River



Mark Jarmie  
Albuquerque



Andrew Lehrman  
Santa Fe



Hon. William Lynch  
Albuquerque



Hon. Alan Malott  
Albuquerque



Bruce McDonald  
Albuquerque



Dirk Murchison  
Taos



Hon. Nan Nash  
Albuquerque



Raynard Struck  
Albuquerque



Denise Torres  
Albuquerque



Matt Vance  
Albuquerque



Peter Wirth  
Santa Fe



Hon. Wendy York  
Albuquerque

APRIL 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2 AM	3	4	5 PM	6
7	8 PM	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 AM	18 AM	19 AM	20
21	22	23 AM	24 AM	25	26	27
28	29	30				

**Check preferred available dates or  
schedule your appointments online  
directly with Academy Members!**

*[www.NMMediators.org](http://www.NMMediators.org) is free, funded by our members*

NADN is proud ADR Sponsor to the  
national trial and defense  
bar associations



AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATION FOR  
**JUSTICE**  
The Association for Trial Lawyers

**dri** Lawyers  
Representing  
Business.™

To visit our free National Directory of litigator-rated neutrals, please visit [www.NADN.org](http://www.NADN.org)





**FitzPatrick Law,**<sup>LLC.</sup>



# STANDING UP FOR NEW MEXICANS

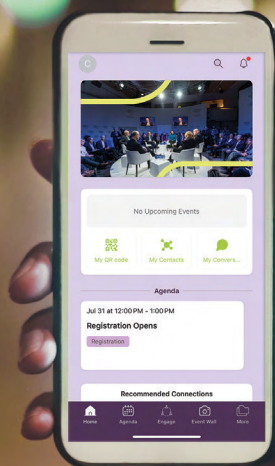


# 2025 Annual Meeting App



- Access the Event Agenda
- Receive Important Event Announcements
- Exchange Contact Info and Send In-App Messages With Other Attendees Using Your Personalized QR Code
- View Exhibitors & Sponsors
- View Venue and Exhibit Table Maps
- View Speaker Bios
- Download Session Materials

*And more!*



## FREE In Your App Store!

View the app on your mobile device or on your desktop during the event.



### ► How to Get the Annual Meeting App:

**Step 1:** Register to attend the 2025 Annual Meeting at [www.sbnm.org/Register2025AnnualMeeting](http://www.sbnm.org/Register2025AnnualMeeting). You must be registered as an Annual Meeting attendee to download the event app.

**Step 2:** Scan the QR code on this page to download the Nunify app.

**Step 3:** Enter the event code **SBNM25AM**

**Step 4:** Tap "Join"

**Step 5:** Tap on the green **"Register"** button at the bottom of the screen. Enter in the email that you used to register to attend the Annual Meeting. You will be emailed a code by Nunify.

**Step 6:** Enter the code that was emailed to you by Nunify into the event app. You will now be able to access the event app.



# THE PARALEGAL DIVISION *Celebrates Thirty Years* as a Division of the State Bar of New Mexico in 2025

In 1995, the New Mexico Supreme Court created the Paralegal Division of the State Bar of New Mexico to provide paralegals professional recognition, networking, mentorship and CLE opportunities. The benefits that paralegals gain from membership are then extended to employers and the legal community.

**Rule 24-101.1 NMRA provides that paralegals who meet the requirements of Rule 20-102 NMRA may qualify to become Paralegal Division members as follows.**

## **Rule 24-101.1. Paralegal Division.**

A paralegal shall meet one or more of the following educational, training or work experience qualifications:

1. graduation from a paralegal program that is: (a) approved by the American Bar Association; (b) an associate degree program; (c) a post-baccalaureate certificate program in paralegal studies; or (d) a bachelor's degree program;
2. graduation from a post-secondary legal assistant program which consists of a minimum of sixty (60) semester hours or equivalent, as defined by the American Bar Association Guidelines for the Approval of Paralegal Education Programs, of which at least eighteen (18) semester hours or equivalent are general education courses and eighteen (18) semester hours or equivalent are legal specialty courses;
3. a bachelor's degree in any field plus two years of substantive law-related experience under the supervision of a licensed attorney. Successful completion of at least fifteen (15) semester hours of substantive paralegal courses may be substituted for one year of law-related experience;
4. graduation from an accredited law school and not disbarred or suspended from the practice of law by the State of New Mexico or any other jurisdiction; or
5. certification by the National Association of Legal Assistants, Inc., the National Federation of Paralegal Associations, Inc. or other equivalent national or state competency examination plus at least one (1) year of substantive law-related experience under the supervision of a licensed attorney.

***Attorneys:* Do your paralegals qualify for Division membership?**

For more information visit the Division's web site at  
<https://www.sbnm.org/Leadership/Divisions/Paralegal>  
or e-mail the Division at [pd-membership@sbnm.org](mailto:pd-membership@sbnm.org).

### **2025 Officers**

Meryl Barbere-Sutton, *Chair*  
Ellice Goldstein, *Chair-elect*  
Kay L. Homan, CP, *Past Chair*  
Vacant, *Secretary*  
Andrea Pompeo, *Treasurer*



State Bar of New Mexico  
Paralegal Division

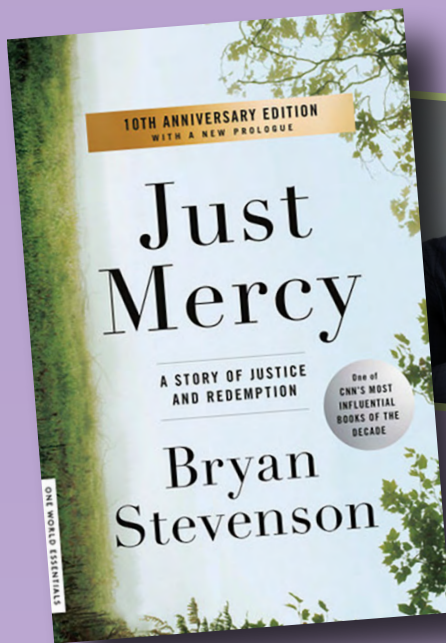
### **Directors**

Christina Babcock (2025-2026)  
Michelle Jaramillo, CP (2024-2025)  
Madeline Lovato (2025)  
John Roberts, ACP (2025-2026)  
Christy L. Shije (2024-2025)  
Ruby Silva (2025)



The First **100** Annual Meeting  
In-Person Attendees Will Receive  
A Free Copy of Keynote Speaker Bryan Stevenson's  
#1 New York Times Bestselling Book

***Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption***



*“An unforgettable true story about the potential for mercy to redeem us, and a clarion call to end mass incarceration in America - from one of the most inspiring lawyers of our time.”*

-An excerpt from the Equal Justice Initiative's book synopsis

Be sure to pick up  
***your copy*** by the registration  
table! Available on a ***first-come,  
first-served basis!***

**Books are courtesy of our *Just Mercy* Book Sponsor:**

**Aldridge, Hammar & Wexler, P.A.**



*Thank you* to State Bar of New Mexico  
**President-Elect Allison H. Block-Chavez**  
of Aldridge, Hammar & Wexler, P.A.!

Thank You to the  
**Annual Meeting Sponsors**  
for making this a successful event!

Together  
Towards  
**JUSTICE**

### Hospitality Suite Sponsor



SCHOOL  
OF **LAW**

TEXAS TECH

### High Roller Sponsors



NEW MEXICO  
BLACK LEADERSHIP  
COUNCIL



State Bar of New Mexico  
Paralegal Division



### Royal Flush Sponsors



MODRALL SPERLING



### Meal Sponsor



### Just Mercy Movie Sponsor



### Just Mercy Book Sponsor

**Aldridge, Hammar & Wexler, P.A.**



## Break Sponsor



## Supporting Sponsors



**BATLEY RILEY**  
*Family Law*



**Gabriel S. Perez, PLLC**



**HINKLE SHANOR LLP**



**LAW OFFICE OF JOHNN OSBORN, P.C.**  
LAND OF ENCHANTMENT LAW



State Bar of New Mexico  
Employment and  
Labor Law Section



State Bar of New Mexico  
Solo and Small Firm  
Section



THE LAW OFFICES OF  
**LARSEN & MENDER**

## Exhibitors

- ▶ Casify
- ▶ Destination CLEs
- ▶ FitzPatrick Law, LLC
- ▶ J.S. Held, LLC
- ▶ KWH Law Center
- ▶ Legal Research Center
- ▶ Maracab Translation Services
- ▶ New Mexico Black Leadership Council
- ▶ New Mexico Court Reporters Association
- ▶ New Mexico Department of Justice
- ▶ New Mexico Lawyer Assistance Program
- ▶ New Mexico Legal Aid
- ▶ New Mexico State Bar Foundation
- ▶ NM Well-Being Committee
- ▶ Pearl Insurance
- ▶ PracticePanther
- ▶ Rivera Hernandez Campos, PLLC
- ▶ Solutions Treatment Center
- ▶ State Bar of New Mexico Paralegal Division
- ▶ Suits Unlimited
- ▶ Sunward
- ▶ Supreme Court Law Library
- ▶ Texas Tech University School of Law
- ▶ The Bar Plan
- ▶ The Solutions Group
- ▶ T L Cashman Legal Nurse Consultants LLC
- ▶ United South Broadway Corporation
- ▶ University of New Mexico School of Law
- ▶ vLex Fastcase

## Annual Meeting Program Advertising

- ▶ Aldridge, Hammar & Wexler, P.A.
- ▶ Cardinal Trust
- ▶ Clio
- ▶ Equal Access to Justice
- ▶ E.J. Travis Law & Management Services
- ▶ FitzPatrick Law, LLC
- ▶ Guzman + Walther Real Estate Group
- ▶ Inszone Insurance Services
- ▶ Lyons & Simmons, LLP
- ▶ Macias-Mayo Law
- ▶ Modrall Sperling
- ▶ National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals
- ▶ New Mexico Black Leadership Council
- ▶ Pearl Insurance
- ▶ Rivera Hernandez Campos, PLLC
- ▶ State Bar of New Mexico Paralegal Division
- ▶ Texas Tech University School of Law
- ▶ The Bar Plan



## WE HELP LAWYERS BUILD A BETTER PRACTICE.

The Bar Plan offers the industry-leading products, services, and support you need to build your best practice, including:

- **Malpractice Insurance** with broad policy form
- **Court Bonds** Available nationwide
- **Cyber Liability Insurance**
- **Risk Management Services:**
  - Continuing Legal Education Programs
  - Malpractice avoidance resources
  - Free, confidential ethics hotline

From start up to retirement, The Bar Plan offers comprehensive resources to support you at every stage of your legal career.

**Get started now at [www.thebarplan.com](http://www.thebarplan.com)**

**800-843-2277**

**WWW.THEBARPLAN.COM**





# Annual Meeting Program Schedule

## ► Thursday, July 31

- Noon**      **Registration/Exhibitors Open** (*All Foyers*)
- 1 p.m.**      **Opening Remarks/Welcome/Highlights** (*Ballroom D*)  
*President Aja N. Brooks, State Bar of New Mexico*
- 1:15 p.m.**      **PLENARY: Justice by Design: Artificial Intelligence, Law, and the Future of Us** (1.5 EIJ) (*Ballroom D*)  
*Prof. Sonia M. Gipson Rankin, University of New Mexico School of Law*
- 2:45 p.m.**      **Transfer Break** (*All Foyers*)
- 3 p.m.**      **BREAKOUT SESSION 1**
- **The Legal Status of Racial Diversity and Equity Initiatives** (1.0 EIJ) (*Ballroom A*)  
*Prof. Vinay Harpalani, University of New Mexico School of Law*
  - **Mental Health and Well-Being Digitized – Pros and Cons** (1.0 EP) (*Ballroom B*)  
*Pamela Moore, NM LAP; William (“Bill”) D. Slease, State Bar of New Mexico*
  - **Practical Advice on Credit Reporting and Debt Collection for Lawyers and their Clients** (1.0 G) (*Ballroom C*)  
*Nicholas H. Mattison, Feferman, Warren & Mattison*
  - **Tribal and State Collaborations — Sovereigns Working Together to Better One Another** (1.0 G) (*Ballroom D*)  
*Justice Julie J. Vargas, New Mexico Supreme Court;*  
*Roshanna K. Toya, Attorney, Rothstein Donatelli & Chief Justice, Isleta Pueblo Appellate Court;*  
*Nadine Padilla, Assistant Professor, University of New Mexico School of Law & Associate Justice, Isleta Pueblo Appellate Court*
- 4 p.m.**      **Transfer Break** (*All Foyers*)
- 4:15 p.m.**      **The Commander in Chief at High-Tide, Wherever that Line May Be** (1.0 G) (*Ballroom D*)  
*Prof. Joshua (“Josh”) Kastenber, University of New Mexico School of Law*
- 5:15 p.m.**      **Adjourn**
- Following**      **Welcome Reception** (*Eagle/Mountain View Terrace/Rotunda Lawn*)
- 5:30 p.m.**      **Guided Meditation Session with NM LAP** (*Roadrunner A*)
- 6 p.m.**      **Annual Awards Ceremony** (*Ballroom D*)
- 6 p.m.**      **Bonus Night Owl CLE: 2025 Basics of Trust Accounting: How to Comply with Disciplinary Board Rule 17-204** (1.0 EP) (*Ballroom A*)  
*Anne L. Taylor, Disciplinary Board of the New Mexico Supreme Court*
- 7:30 p.m.**      **Movie Night: Just Mercy** (*Ballroom B*)

## ► Friday, August 1

- 7 a.m.**      **Attorney Support Group with New Mexico Lawyer Assistance Program** (*Roadrunner*)
- 7 a.m.-6 p.m.** **Registration/Exhibitors Open** (*All Foyers*)
- 7-8:30 a.m.** **Attendee Breakfast** (*Ballroom D/Mountain View Terrace*)
- 8:30 a.m.**    **Introductory Remarks** (*Ballroom D*)  
*President Aja N. Brooks, State Bar of New Mexico; Chief Justice David K. Thomson, New Mexico Supreme Court*
- 9 a.m.**      **PLENARY: Keynote Address (1.0 EIJ)** (*Ballroom D*)  
*Bryan Stevenson, Founder and Executive Director, The Equal Justice Initiative*
- 10 a.m.**      **Transfer Break** (*All Foyers*)
- 10:15 a.m.**   **PLENARY: New Mexico Supreme Court Panel (1.5 G)** (*Ballroom D*)  
*Chief Justice David K. Thomson; Senior Justice Michael E. Vigil; Justice C. Shannon Bacon; Justice Julie J. Vargas; Justice Briana H. Zamora, New Mexico Supreme Court*
- 11:45 a.m.**   **Attendee Lunch** (*Ballroom D*)
- 1:15 p.m.**    **BREAKOUT SESSION 2**
- **The Wisdom Factor: Ethical Practice Beyond Compliance (1.0 EP)** (*Ballroom A*)  
*William ("Bill") D. Slease, State Bar of New Mexico*
  - **Addressing the Housing Crisis in New Mexico (1.0 G)** (*Ballroom B*)  
*Prof. Allison Freedman, University of New Mexico School of Law*
  - **Fixing Shelter Animal Overpopulation: Legislation and Litigation Concerning Funding for Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Programs in New Mexico (1.0 G)** (*Ballroom C*)  
*Prof. Christy DeSanctis, University of New Mexico School of Law*
  - **A System-Wide Approach: Behavioral Health, the Courts, and Legal Practice Implications (1.0 G)** (*Ballroom D*)  
*Justice Briana H. Zamora, New Mexico Supreme Court; Esperanza Lucero, Administrative Office of the Courts*
- 2:15 p.m.**    **Transfer Break** (*All Foyers*)
- 2:30 p.m.**    **PLENARY: New Mexico State Bar Foundation Remarks** (*Ballroom D*)  
*President Stefanie K. Davis, New Mexico State Bar Foundation*
- 2:45 p.m.**    **Law, Justice, and the Holocaust: How the Courts Failed Germany (1.0 EP, 1.0 EIJ)** (*Ballroom D*)  
*Kendal Jones and Sarah Reza, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum; Roberta Cooper Ramo, Modrall Sperling Law Firm*
- 4:45 p.m.**    **Adjourn**
- Following**    **President's Reception and New Mexico State Bar Foundation Glitz in a Glass Fundraising Event**  
*(Mountain View Terrace/Rotunda Lawn)*
- 7 p.m.**      **Red Raider Hospitality Lounge** (*Sandia Resort Room 501*)  
*Sponsored by Texas Tech University School of Law*
- 7 p.m.**      **Pub-Style Trivia Contest with the Young Lawyers Division** (*Ballroom A*)  
*State Bar of New Mexico Young Lawyers Division, sponsored by Batley Riley Family Law, P.A.*



## ► Saturday, August 2

**7-11 a.m.**      **Registration/Exhibitors Open** (*All Foyers*)

**7-8:30 a.m.**   **Attendee Breakfast** (*Ballroom A/Mountain View Terrace*)

### **8:30 a.m.**      **BREAKOUT SESSION 3**

- ▶ **The Legal Legacies of Unfree Labor in Nineteenth Century New Mexico** (1.0 EIJ) (*Ballroom B*)  
*Dr. William ("Billy") S. Kiser, Texas A&M University-San Antonio*
- ▶ **Environmental Justice: Past, Present, and Near Future** (1.0 EIJ) (*Ballroom C*)  
*Prof. Cliff Villa, University of New Mexico School of Law*
- ▶ **A New Federal Approach Towards Justice and Rehabilitation: RIO Reentry Court** (1.0 G) (*Ballroom D*)  
*Magistrate Judge Laura Fashing, United States District Court, District of New Mexico;*  
*Camilla Duarte, United States Probation and Pretrial Office, District of New Mexico;*  
*Angelica Hall, Federal Public Defender Office, District of New Mexico*

**9:30 a.m.**      **Transfer Break** (*All Foyers*)

### **9:45 a.m.**      **BREAKOUT SESSION 4**

- ▶ **Reviving Pro Bono: Ethical Obligations and Opportunities to Expand Pro Bono Services in New Mexico** (1.0 EP) (*Ballroom A*)  
*Chief Justice David K. Thomson, New Mexico Supreme Court; Zac Addison, New Mexico Legal Aid;*  
*Kasey Daniel, New Mexico State Bar Foundation; Sarah S. Kosso, DNA-Peoples Legal Services;*  
*Tess Wilkes, New Mexico Immigrant Law Center*
- ▶ **Medical Psilocybin in New Mexico: What Lawyers Need to Know** (1.0 G) (*Ballroom B*)  
*Victoria J. Cvitanovic, Rudick Law Group, PLLC*
- ▶ **Manliness and the Constitution** (1.0 G) (*Ballroom C*)  
*Prof. John Min Kang, University of New Mexico School of Law*
- ▶ **Breaking Barriers: Addressing Bias and Advancing Women in the Legal Profession** (1.0 EIJ) (*Ballroom D*)  
*Justice C. Shannon Bacon, New Mexico Supreme Court; Hon. Brenna Clani-Washinawatok,*  
*11th Judicial District Court; Alice Liu McCoy, New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Council;*  
*Hope Pendleton, Serpe Andrews PLLC; Moderator Zoë Lees, Xcel Energy*

**10:45 a.m.**      **Check-Out Break**

**11:15 a.m.**      **PLENARY: Navigating the New Frontier: Ethical Uses of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Legal Practice** (1.0 EP) (*Ballroom D*)

*Prof. Sonia M. Gipson Rankin, University of New Mexico School of Law;*  
*William ("Bill") D. Slease, State Bar of New Mexico*

**12:15 p.m.**      **Adjourn and Closing Remarks** (*Ballroom D*)  
*President Aja N. Brooks, State Bar of New Mexico*

Several Annual Meeting CLE sessions qualify for Ethics/Professionalism (EP) or Equity in Justice (EIJ) credit types; read Rule 18-201(C), (D) and (E) to see how excess EP and EIJ convert to general credits for the current year requirement and/or roll to subsequent year EP and EIJ credits or general credits. In accordance with the Rule, excess EP or EIJ credits "can be converted to be used toward the substantive (general) requirement."

SANTA FE'S 7TH HIGHEST-PERFORMING REAL ESTATE TEAM IN 2025

SOPHISTICATED.  
EXPERIENCED.  
EFFECTIVE.



Guzman & Walther  
Real Estate Group



Mary Guzman

*Associate Broker / License # 20564*

505 570 1463 / [mkguzmansantafe@gmail.com](mailto:mkguzmansantafe@gmail.com)



Gretchen Walther, J.D.

*Associate Broker / License # REC 2022-0053*

505 710 1039 / [gretchenwalther@gmail.com](mailto:gretchenwalther@gmail.com)

[www.santafetocostarica.com](http://www.santafetocostarica.com)

CALL FOR INFORMATION ABOUT OUR REAL ESTATE OFFERINGS IN COSTA RICA





**Justice Can't Wait. Give Generously.**



**EQUAL  
ACCESS TO  
JUSTICE**

**Equal Access to Justice Annual Campaign - *Be a Defender of Justice!* - [eaj-nm.org/donate](http://eaj-nm.org/donate)**



**CARDINAL  
TRUST**<sup>INC.</sup>

CONCIERGE TRUST ADMINISTRATION



**YOUR NEW MEXICO TRUST COMPANY SERVING INJURED  
CLIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

- Civil Rights Violations Settlement Trust Administration (Settlement Protection Trusts)
- Medical Malpractice Settlement Trust Administration (Adults and Minors)
- Personal Injury Settlement Trust Administration (Adults and Minors)
  - Conservatorships
  - Financial Power of Attorney
  - Special Needs Trust Administration

[cardinaltrust.org](http://cardinaltrust.org)

[505-600-3002](tel:505-600-3002)

# CLE Session

## *Descriptions and Speakers*



### KEYNOTE ADDRESS

## Bryan Stevenson

(1.0 EIJ)

Friday, Aug. 1, 9 a.m.

**Bryan Stevenson** is a widely acclaimed public interest lawyer who has dedicated his career to helping the poor, the incarcerated and the condemned. Bryan Stevenson is the founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative, a human rights organization in Montgomery, Alabama. Under his leadership, EJI has won major legal challenges eliminating excessive and unfair sentencing, exonerating innocent death row prisoners, confronting abuse of the incarcerated and the mentally ill and aiding children prosecuted as adults.

Bryan Stevenson is the author of the critically acclaimed New York Times bestseller, "Just Mercy", which was named by *Time Magazine* as one of the 10 Best Books of Nonfiction for 2014 and has been awarded several honors, including the American Library Association's Carnegie Medal for best nonfiction book of 2015 and a 2015 NAACP Image Award. Just Mercy was adapted as a major motion picture and the film won the American Bar Association's 2020 Silver Gavel Award as well as four NAACP Image Awards. Mr. Stevenson is also the subject of the Emmy Award-winning HBO documentary True Justice. He is a graduate of the Harvard Law School and the Harvard School of Government.



# Plenary Course Descriptions

## **Justice by Design: Artificial Intelligence, Law, and the Future of Us (1.5 EIJ)**

**Prof. Sonia M. Gipson Rankin, University of New Mexico School of Law**

**Thursday, July 31, 1:15 p.m.**

As artificial intelligence transforms systems that govern everything from bail to benefits, the key question is not just how these tools work, but what they do to us as members of a shared society. Algorithms don't simply process data; they reflect and reinforce the assumptions, values, and historical inequalities embedded in our institutions. This session explores the evolving role of lawyers as stewards of justice in an automated age, and how we can help safeguard foundational legal values in a world increasingly shaped by code.

## **The Commander in Chief at High-Tide, Wherever that Line May Be (1.0 G)**

**Prof. Joshua ("Josh") Kastenbergh, University of New Mexico School of Law**

**Thursday, July 31, 4:15 p.m.**

This presentation will center on the increasing use of commander in chief powers such as the Alien Act as well as the use of the military and other national security functions for routine duties and what the state of the law is regarding these uses. It will try to cut through hyperbole in the press and provide meaningful examples of where an administration will test norms and either be constrained or create new norms through formal rulings or judicial and legislative acquiescence.

## **New Mexico Supreme Court Panel (1.5 G)**

**Chief Justice David K. Thomson; Senior Justice Michael E. Vigil; Justice C. Shannon Bacon; Justice Julie J. Vargas; Justice Briana H. Zamora, New Mexico Supreme Court**

**Friday, Aug. 1, 10:15 a.m.**

During this session, the New Mexico Supreme Court will address a variety of current issues facing New Mexico's Judiciary.

## **Law, Justice, and the Holocaust:**

### **How the Courts Failed Germany (1.0 EIJ, 1.0 EP)**

**Kendal Jones and Sarah Reza, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum; Roberta Cooper Ramo, Modrall Sperling Law Firm**

**Friday, Aug. 1, 2:45 p.m.**

In the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Law, Justice, and the Holocaust program for legal professionals, participants critically examine the pressures faced by German jurists under the Nazis. Using legal decrees, judicial opinions, and case law of the period, program participants study the role of judges in the establishment of the Nazi German state. This program's close scrutiny of the past provides a framework for an exploration of the role of the judiciary and legal profession in a democracy.

## **Navigating the New Frontier: Ethical Uses of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Legal Practice (1.0 EP)**

**Prof. Sonia M. Gipson Rankin, University of New Mexico School of Law; William D. Slease, State Bar of New Mexico Professional Development Program**

**Saturday, Aug. 2, 11:15 a.m.**

In this practical, hands-on session, you will gain a clearer understanding of the latest advancements in the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in legal practice. You'll learn how lawyers use Gen AI ethically and responsibly and identify key areas where lawyers can encounter ethical challenges. Whether you're new to AI, have some experience and want to deepen your understanding, or are already working with these tools and want to stay current with emerging risks and responsibilities, this session offers something for everyone.

# Breakout Sessions:

## Legal Foundations

### **Practical Advice on Credit Reporting and Debt Collection for Lawyers and their Clients** (1.0 G)

**Nicholas H. Mattison, Feferman, Warren & Mattison**

**Thursday, July 31, 3 p.m.**

This session will provide practical advice for dealing with credit reporting issues and abusive debt collection. All of us, both attorneys and our clients, can have our lives disrupted by inaccurate credit reports, identity theft, and abusive debt collection. This presentation will provide a nuts and bolts explanation of how to deal with these problems in our own lives, and the legal remedies available when clients are affected.

### **Addressing the Housing Crisis in New Mexico** (1.0 G)

**Prof. Allison Freedman, University of New Mexico School of Law**

**Friday, Aug. 1, 1:15 p.m.**

It is no secret that there is a severe housing crisis nationally and in New Mexico. This session will look at the factors that led to the housing crisis in New Mexico, discuss data around what the housing landscape looks like throughout the state, and offer policy and legislative solutions that could help our state address some of the most acute aspects of this crisis.

### **Medical Psilocybin in New Mexico: What Lawyers Need to Know** (1.0 G)

**Victoria J. Cvitanovic, Rudick Law Group, PLLC**

**Saturday, Aug. 2, 9:45 a.m.**

Medical Psilocybin programs are an exciting extension of pre-existing psychedelic-assisted therapy modalities. New Mexico will soon implement its own Medical Psilocybin Program, and when it does, new legal issues will arise affecting healthcare, corporate, succession, cyber and other areas of law. In this session, participants will learn about the New Mexico Medical Psilocybin Act from an experienced Psychedelic Law attorney, and will leave more prepared for the effects of this exciting legislative development.



# Breakout Sessions:

## Court Roles Past, Present and Future

### **Tribal and State Collaborations - Sovereigns Working Together to Better One Another (1.0 G)**

*Justice Julie J. Vargas, New Mexico Supreme Court; Roshanna K. Toya, Attorney, Rothstein Donatelli & Chief Justice, Isleta Pueblo Appellate Court; Nadine Padilla, Assistant Professor, University of New Mexico School of Law & Associate Justice, Isleta Pueblo Appellate Court*

**Thursday, July 31, 3 p.m.**

This panel brings together representatives from the New Mexico Supreme Court and the Pueblo of Isleta Appellate Court to explore the structure, values, and practices of both state and tribal courts. Panelists will discuss admission to tribal court practice, how to access tribal laws, and the importance of practicing in tribal courts. The conversation will highlight key similarities and differences between the two systems and underscore the value of learning from one another. The panel will also address attorney representation and the importance of cross-jurisdictional understanding in promoting more effective and respectful legal advocacy.

### **A System-Wide Approach: Behavioral Health, the Courts, and Legal Practice Implications (1.0 G)**

*Justice Briana H. Zamora, New Mexico Supreme Court; Esperanza Lucero, Administrative Office of the Courts*

**Friday, Aug. 1, 1:15 p.m.**

Join this session to learn about new 2025 Behavioral Health legislation involving the New Mexico judiciary, the work of the New Mexico Supreme Court's Commission on Mental Health and Competency, and various practical legal issues involving behavioral health.

### **The Legal Legacies of Unfree Labor in Nineteenth Century New Mexico (1.0 EIJ)**

*Dr. William S. ("Billy") Kiser, Texas A&M University-San Antonio*

**Saturday, Aug. 2, 8:30 a.m.**

A system of unfree labor called debt peonage proliferated in nineteenth century New Mexico, and during the 1850s it increasingly came under the scrutiny of anti-slavery politicians and activists in the United States. One important element of American abolitionism as it related to the American Southwest involved several court cases in New Mexico Territory that undermined

the legality of debt peonage and placed it within the framework of American slavery more broadly. These court cases from antebellum New Mexico created the legal precedent that led to a federal ban on debt peonage after the Civil War. The New Mexico examples also provided case law that U.S. Supreme Court justices cited in the early 1900s as a basis for striking down debt peonage in the Jim Crow South. In this way, the case law involving debt peonage in nineteenth century New Mexico had sweeping national implications with respect to the abolition of unfree labor.

### **A New Federal Approach Towards Justice and Rehabilitation:**

#### **RIO Reentry Court (1.0 G)**

*Hon. Laura Fashing, United States District Court – District of New Mexico; Camilla Duarte, United States Probation and Pretrial Office – District of New Mexico; Angelica Hall, Federal Public Defender Office – District of New Mexico*

**Saturday, Aug. 2, 8:30 a.m.**

This diverse panel of experts will discuss New Mexico's first federal Reentry Court – the RIO (Reentry through Integrated Opportunities) Court - which was launched in September 2023. Two federal judges and representatives from the U.S. Probation Office, U.S. Attorney's Office, Federal Public Defender's Office, Veterans Administration and other community stakeholders, have come together for a team approach to community supervision to help some of our most vulnerable population successfully reintegrate into the community. The program participants, individuals who have either been incarcerated for a lengthy period and/or have struggled while on supervision, encounter numerous and varied barriers after they complete their sentences which can inhibit their success. The RIO Court uses a holistic approach in supervising the highest risk/need individuals reentering the community. This panel will discuss the impetus for a new approach, the diverse needs of the participants, this team's use of cultural competence to recognize, mitigate and eliminate systemic and structural inequities and the challenges overcome so far. Attendees will have a better understanding of the federal criminal justice system; the community resources necessary to help those with past traumas, mental health and substance abuse issues; the ethical and legal considerations guiding the program and will reassess what it means to administer justice.

# Breakout Sessions:

## Back To School with UNM Law Professors

### **The Legal Status of Racial Diversity and Equity Initiatives (1.0 EIJ)**

**Prof. Vinay Harpalani, University of New Mexico School of Law**

**Thursday, July 31, 3 p.m.**

Recently, there have been many setbacks for initiatives to increase racial diversity and equity in education and employment. The U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard* (2023) abrogated race-conscious admissions policies at universities. In the aftermath of that ruling, there have been many new challenges to other programs that promoted diversity and equity. And now, the administration has marshaled the full force of the federal government to dismantle such initiatives. This presentation will consider the legal status of racial diversity and equity initiatives in light of these developments.

### **Fixing Shelter Animal Overpopulation: Legislation and Litigation Concerning Funding for Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Programs in New Mexico (1.0 G)**

**Prof. Christy DeSanctis, University of New Mexico School of Law**

**Friday, Aug. 1, 1:15 p.m.**

In 2020, the New Mexico Legislature passed, and the Governor signed into law, Senate Bill 57, often referred to as the affordable spay/neuter bill. The legislation established a new funding mechanism, established as the best option in a senate-requested study, that increases the fee that pet food manufacturers must pay to register and sell their products in state. This source of spay/neuter funding has proven to dramatically reduce shelter animal euthanasia in other states. However, it is the subject of ongoing litigation in New Mexico, based in part on arguments by the Pet Food Institute and other plaintiffs that it violates the Equal Protection and Commerce Clauses of the U.S. Constitution. This presentation will explore the legislation and the arguments presented in the litigation.

### **Environmental Justice: Past, Present, and Near Future (1.0 EIJ)**

**Prof. Cliff Villa, University of New Mexico School of Law**

**Saturday, Aug. 2, 8:30 a.m.**

Following decades of concern for the imbalance of environmental protection in the United States, environmental justice formed a top priority for federal agencies under the Biden Administration. As the new Trump administration proceeds with its agenda of federal deregulation and deconstruction, this session will explore how advocates for environmental justice may continue to pursue progress toward environmental justice, through means including constitutional law, federal statutes, state legislation, tribal authorities and community engagement.

### **Manliness and the Constitution (1.0 G)**

**Prof. John M. Kang, University of New Mexico School of Law**

**Saturday, Aug. 2, 9:45 a.m.**

There is much talk by public officials, including the President, about what it means to be masculine or manly these days. Such talk, alas, tends to shed more heat than light. But the relationship between the Constitution and manliness along with its correlates is one that was of deep concern to the framers of the Constitution. They designed the Constitution with the expectation that men will behave in a certain manner (and refrain from behaving in other ways). This presentation will explain the substance and motivations for this design and the ways in which it has come under pressure in our present times.



## Breakout Sessions:

### Beyond Ethics: More than Compliance

#### **Mental Health and Well-Being Digitized – Pros and Cons (1.0 EP)**

*Pamela Moore, NM LAP, State Bar of New Mexico, Professional Programs Group; William D. Slease, State Bar of New Mexico, Professional Development Program*  
**Thursday, July 31, 3 p.m.**

This presentation investigates the pros and cons of the rapidly emerging world of Generative Artificial Intelligence and apps in the mental health (MH) field, how to recognize when it's time to connect with a human therapist, and whether you can recommend well-being or MH apps to your clients consistent with the Rules of Professional Conduct.

#### **The Wisdom Factor: Ethical Practice Beyond Compliance (1.0 EP)**

*William D. Slease, State Bar of New Mexico, Professional Development Program*  
**Friday, Aug. 1, 1:15 p.m.**

You can do that, but should you? While the Rules of Professional Conduct define the boundaries of permissible conduct, this interactive session delves deeper into the aspirational and pragmatic aspects of legal practice. Through engaging hypotheticals and lively discussion, attendees will explore the "wisdom factor" – ethical and professional considerations that extend beyond mere compliance.

#### **Reviving Pro Bono: Ethical Obligations and Opportunities to Expand Pro Bono Services in New Mexico (1.0 EP)**

*Chief Justice David K. Thomson, New Mexico Supreme Court; Zac Addison, New Mexico Legal Aid; Kasey Daniel, New Mexico State Bar Foundation; Sarah S. Kosso, DNA–People's Legal Services; Tess Wilkes, New Mexico Immigrant Law Center*  
**Saturday, Aug. 2, 9:45 a.m.**

This program seeks to reinvigorate the culture of pro bono service in New Mexico's legal community. The session will emphasize ethical obligations under Rule 16-601 NMRA, highlight the growing need for pro bono representation across the state, and practical avenues for attorneys to get involved. This session will encourage commitments to pro bono work, equipping participants with ethical guidance, programmatic knowledge, and the resources to begin or expand their involvement.

#### **Breaking Barriers: Addressing Bias and Advancing Women in the Legal Profession (1.0 EIJ)**

*Justice C. Shannon Bacon, New Mexico Supreme Court; Hope Pendleton, J.D., New Mexico Black Lawyers Association; Hon. Brenna Clani-Washinawatok, Eleventh Judicial District Court; Alice Liu McCoy, J.D., New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Council; Moderator: Zoë Lees, J.D., Xcel Energy*  
**Saturday, Aug. 2, 9:45 a.m.**

Gender bias remains a pervasive challenge in the legal profession, influencing career progression, client relationships, and courtroom dynamics. This session will provide an in-depth exploration of gender bias and discuss our professional obligations as lawyers to each other and to our clients. A panel will share their experiences, discuss systemic barriers, and offer practical tools to identify and combat bias in legal settings.

## Bonus CLE Session

### **Bonus Night Owl CLE: 2025 Basics of Trust Accounting: How to Comply with Disciplinary Board Rule 17-204 (1.0 EP)**

**Anne L. Taylor, New Mexico Disciplinary Board**

**Thursday, July 31, 6 p.m.**

This course fulfills the requirement of Rule 17-204, NMRA, that an attorney take a trust accounting class at least once every three years, or within the first year of being licensed in New Mexico, and is one of the Disciplinary Board's ongoing programs designed to educate attorneys on proper practices and procedures. This course will instruct participants on the fundamentals of attorney trust accounts in New Mexico, including (a) the proper operation of such accounts (b) identification of records that must be maintained; (c) best and prohibited practices for operating a trust account and accepting retainers; (d) recording trust transactions in general and client ledgers; and (e) reconciling trust account ledgers with bank statements.



**inszone**  
INSURANCE  
SERVICES

formerly operating as



**LEATHERER**  
INSURANCE CONSULTANTS, INC.  
PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY SPECIALISTS

## Protect What You've Built. Insure What's Next.

### Trusted Insurance Solutions for Attorneys and Law Firms

Whether you're a solo practitioner or managing a multi-partner firm, your legal practice faces unique risks every day. Inszone Insurance Services is here to support attorneys in Albuquerque and across New Mexico secure the right coverage to protect their reputation, assets, and future.

**Come see us at our new location!**

 **5501 Eagle Rock Ave NE a2  
Albuquerque, NM 87113**

 **833-863-030**

- ✓ Professional Liability / Legal Malpractice Insurance
- ✓ General Liability & Property Coverage
- ✓ Cyber Liability & Data Breach Protection
- ✓ Workers' Compensation
- ✓ Business Auto & Umbrella Policies
- ✓ Tailored Solutions for Small, Mid-size & Large Firms

With an experienced team and access to top-rated carriers, we simplify the insurance process so you can stay focused on practicing law.



*Make Sure To Visit The*  
**Red Raider Hospitality Lounge**

Friday, Aug. 1 • 7 p.m. (MT)

Sandia Resort & Casino



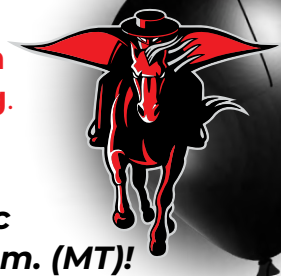
*Sponsored by*

SCHOOL  
OF **LAW**

TEXAS TECH

**The Texas Tech University School of Law is a proud supporter of the 2025 Annual Meeting.**

Join us in the Texas Tech School of Law  
"Red Raider" Hospitality Lounge  
for complimentary beer, wine, non-alcoholic  
beverages and light snacks on Friday, Aug. 1 at 7 p.m. (MT)!



## TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Join us in the Hospitality Suite!

Friday, August 1 | 7:00 PM

Texas Tech Law is proud to support this year's annual meeting and to welcome alumni, friends, and colleagues from across New Mexico.

Stop by the Hospitality Suite on Friday to relax, recharge, and reconnect. Whether you're catching up with classmates or making new connections, we'll be there to share some West Texas hospitality with you.

**See you there!**



SCHOOL  
OF **LAW**

TEXAS TECH

# Aldridge, Hammar & Wexler, P.A.

Professional Legal Service Tailored to the Needs of Each Client

Credit Unions • Creditor Rights  
Estate Planning & Probate • Fiduciary Services

State Bar of New Mexico  
President-Elect



Allison H. Block-Chavez  
*Partner*



Kevin D. Hammar  
*Partner*

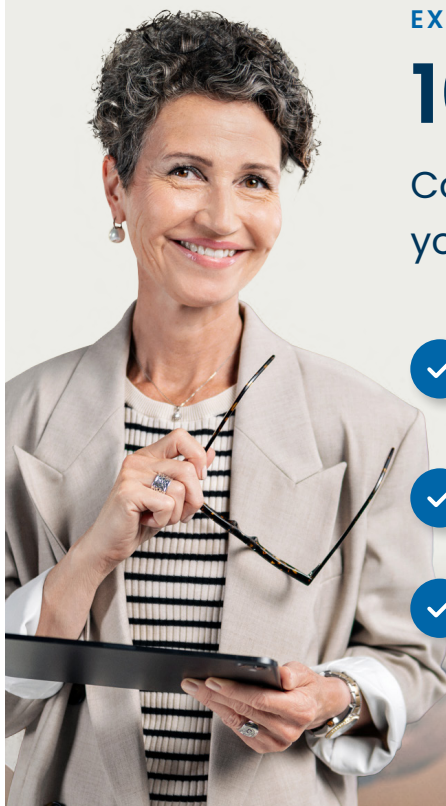


Ryan Kluthe  
*Partner*



Jason M. Wexler  
*Partner*

1212 Pennsylvania St NE, Albuquerque, N.M. 87110  
505-266-8787 • [www.abqlawnm.com](http://www.abqlawnm.com)



EXCLUSIVE STATE BAR OF NEW MEXICO MEMBER DISCOUNT

## 10% off Clio products

Connect everyone and everything across  
your firm with the leading legal software



Centralized case management for  
everything from intake to payment



Intuitive workflows and automations  
that save you time



Industry-leading security and support



Scan to save





# General Information

## Registration – In-Person and Virtual

All the 2025 Annual Meeting meetings and events will be held at the Sandia Resort & Casino. Registration includes CLE programs, materials online, MCLE filing fees, breakfasts, lunch, receptions and non-ticketed events. Inquire at the Registration Desk about guest registration.

The Registration Desk will be open in the Ballroom Foyer during the following times:

**Thursday, July 31:** Noon – 5 p.m.

**Friday, Aug. 1:** 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.

**Saturday, Aug. 2:** 7 – 11 a.m.

Friday virtual attendees must be registered in advance to receive livestream information via email.

## CLE Credits and Attendance Records

The 2025 Annual Meeting program has been approved for up to 13.0 credits, depending on individual breakout selections. View the full schedule for the times of bonus CLE events. To receive credit, complete the personal attendance record, which can be found at the Registration Desk. Return it to the Registration Desk at the end of the Annual Meeting.

Virtual attendance is automatically recorded by signing into the livestream. No further action is needed for virtual attendees to receive CLE credit.

## Restaurants

- **The Council Room Restaurant & Bar:** The Council Room Restaurant and Bar's exciting new menu is ready to answer any craving, morning, noon and night. Select items from the Council Room's delectable menus are also available for in-room dining.
- **Sandia Sportsbook:** The Sandia Sportsbook adds a casual element of fun, great food, local craft beers and inspired cocktails.
- **Sandia Clubhouse Grill:** Celebrate with your colleagues in the 16,000-square-foot Clubhouse. Grab a bite at the full-service restaurant and grill or raise a glass on the 3,000-square-foot outdoor covered patio overlooking the 18th green.
- **Ba Shie Lounge:** The perfect place for people watching just steps from the casino floor and for catching all your favorite sporting events.
- **Bien Shur:** Located on the rooftop of the Resort & Casino, the Bien Shur Lounge showcases spectacular views.

## Events

The State Bar of New Mexico has a variety of wellness, social and charitable events planned for this year's conference. Read pages 36-37 for information on well-being activities and pages 32-33 for the Annual Meeting's signature social and fundraising events. Both in-person and virtual attendees may purchase tickets for the New Mexico State Bar Foundation's Glitz in a Glass fundraiser (page 8). Winners need not be present to win.

## Parking

Sandia Resort & Casino does not charge for parking in the parking lots surrounding the casino and resort areas.

## Wi-Fi Access

**Network:** Sandia\_Guest\_Events

**Password:** StateBar2025!

## Charging Station

A charging station will be available for Annual Meeting attendees to charge their electronic devices. Please see the Registration Desk for more information.

## Annual Meeting App



Download the 2025 Annual Meeting app for access to the event agenda, receive important event alerts and notifications, download session materials, view interactive facility maps, view sponsor and exhibitor information and much more. **NEW FEATURE:** Share your contact information with other attendees quickly with your personalized in-app QR code. *See page 11 for app download instructions.*

## Exhibitor Game

Make sure to pick up your Exhibitor Blackout Game card at the Registration Desk. Visit the exhibitors at any time during the conference and have them sign your card in their corresponding square to verify that you visited their exhibit space. Visit every exhibitor and return your card to the Registration Desk for a chance to win great prizes! Instructions on how to play the game are included on the Exhibitor Blackout Game cards.

# Event Highlights



## Sandia Golf Club Discounts

Take in a round of golf at the Sandia Golf Club, a Championship Par 72 course for all skill levels! This award-winning course features dramatic views of the Sandia Mountains and the greater Albuquerque area! Tee time reservations are required – book online at <https://www.sandiagolf.com/tee-times-rates/> and enter **NMSTBARSGC** in the golfer

notes section to receive a 15% discount. **Call Sandia Golf Club 505-798-3990 or Nick Knee, General Manager/Director of Golf at 505-798-3996 to schedule your tee time.**

## Green Reed Spa Discounts

Treat yourself to relaxation at the world-class **Green Reed Spa!** Enjoy a massage, skin care treatment, or mani-pedi with breathtaking mountain views! Annual Meeting attendees receive a 10% discount on spa services during the conference. Reservations strongly encouraged – just mention "State Bar" to receive this special promotion.

**Call the Green Reed Spa at 505-798-3980 to book your treatment.**



## Event Highlights – Thursday, July 31



### Opening Remarks

**1 p.m., Ballroom D**

State Bar of New Mexico President Aja N. Brooks will open the Annual Meeting with welcome remarks and highlights of the Annual Meeting's events and programming.



### Annual Awards Ceremony

**6 p.m., Ballroom D**

Following the Welcome Reception, join us for a celebration of the Annual Awards recipients at 6 p.m. The Annual Awards Ceremony recognizes those who have distinguished themselves or who have made exemplary contributions to the State Bar or legal profession in the past year. Learn more about these extraordinary members of the community on pages 39-42.



### Welcome Reception

**5:15 p.m.**

**Eagle/Mountain View Terrace/Rotunda Lawn**

Join your colleagues for the 2025 Annual

Meeting Welcome Reception following the adjournment of the first day of the Annual Meeting. Network and relax while enjoying hors d'oeuvres and a hosted bar. Annual Meeting attendees will receive drink tickets for this event when checking in for the Annual Meeting at the registration table.



### Movie Night: "Just Mercy"

**7:30 p.m., Ballroom B**

Watch a cinematic adaptation of 2025 Annual Meeting keynote speaker Bryan Stevenson's memoir, "Just Mercy." Starring Michael B. Jordan in an award-winning role, this film is both electrifying and inspiring.

Snacks and drinks will be included with its viewing! The "Just Mercy" Movie Night is sponsored by the New Mexico Black Lawyers Association.



## Event Highlights - Friday, August 1



### Introductory Remarks

**8:30 a.m., Ballroom D**

To kick off Friday's sessions and events, State Bar of New Mexico President Aja N. Brooks will speak shortly before the keynote address followed by remarks by New Mexico Supreme Court Chief Justice David K. Thomson.



### President's Reception

**4:45 p.m.,  
Mountain View  
Terrace/Rotunda Lawn**

Relax after a full day of compelling and

inspiring sessions! Join other attendees for hearty hors d'oeuvres and drinks and take in the views of the majestic Sandias from the terrace.



New Mexico  
State Bar Foundation

### New Mexico

#### State Bar Foundation

#### Glitz in a Glass Event

**4:45 p.m., Mountain View  
Terrace/Rotunda Lawn**

Support the New Mexico State Bar Foundation and join in on the fun by participating in the Glitz in a Glass event during the President's Reception! Support the New Mexico State Bar Foundation by purchasing a glass of champagne for a chance to win a three-carat diamond (valued at \$5,000) or other great prizes! See page 8 for more information about this exciting event!



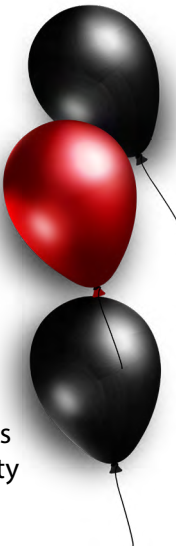
SCHOOL  
OF LAW

TEXAS TECH

### Texas Tech University School of Law Red Raider Hospitality Lounge

**7 p.m., Sandia Resort Room 501**

The Texas Tech University School of Law is a proud sponsor of the 2025 Annual Meeting. Join us in the Texas Tech School of Law Hospitality Lounge for a hosted bar and snacks. Please join us in Sandia Resort room 501. The maximum capacity limit of the room is 50 people, which must be adhered to during the event. Outside food and drinks are prohibited from being brought into the Hospitality Lounge.



### Pub-Style Trivia Contest with the Young Lawyers Division

**7 p.m., Ballroom A**

Show off your knowledge of random facts at this fast-paced pub-style competition! Enjoy fun snacks and drinks and win prizes! The Trivia Contest is sponsored by Batley Riley Family Law, P.A.



# WE KNOW NEW MEXICO<sup>®</sup>



## MODRALL SPERLING

L A W Y E R S

ALBUQUERQUE

SANTA FE

MODRALL.COM

## Your Career's Best Defense

**P PEARL<sup>®</sup> INSURANCE**  
A SUBSIDIARY OF ONE80  
INTERMEDIARIES

**CNA** *Partners since 1957*

Contact [chris.nash@pearlinsurance.com](mailto:chris.nash@pearlinsurance.com)  
to discuss your insurance needs.

You've worked hard to build your career—  
don't trust just anyone to protect it.  
With over 65 years of experience in legal  
malpractice insurance, Pearl Insurance and  
CNA understand the unique risks you face  
and provide coverage designed to protect  
your career.

**Over 92% of lawyers renew with Pearl  
Insurance. Here's why:**

- Legal malpractice insurance tailor-made  
for lawyers
- Risk management resources
- Deductible reductions
- 24/7 legal hotline

**Get a Quote**



**Book a Call**



251689-PLL-PAD



# WE FIGHT TO PROTECT WHAT MATTERS MOST!

When life takes an unexpected turn, whether through an accident or an immigration challenge, people need a team that listens, understands, and acts.

At RHC Law, we stand proudly with individuals and families navigating:

**PERSONAL INJURY:**

Serious injuries deserve serious representation. We are trial attorneys, and we work with other attorneys to obtain justice for their clients.

**IMMIGRATION LAW:**

Defending their right to stay, work, and live with dignity.

**YOUR FIGHT IS OUR FIGHT®**



📞 210-922-8541 🌐 [www.rhc.law](http://www.rhc.law) • [www.lawchadores.com](http://www.lawchadores.com)



**Elizabeth J. Travis, Esq., MSSM**  
Mediation • Settlement Facilitation • Arbitration



Offering dispute resolution services in civil matters, including construction claims and contract matters.

**E. J. Travis Law & Management Services**  
*by appointment only*  
[EjtravisLaw@gmail.com](mailto:EjtravisLaw@gmail.com) • (505) 216-6399

ANNUAL  
**2025**  
PASS

Lock in  
YOUR  
savings!

Pre-pay  
12 credits  
for only \$529

Credits must be redeemed by:

Dec. 31, 2025

Contact us for more info:

[cleonline@sbnm.org](mailto:cleonline@sbnm.org)

Save up to 25% over regular prices!



New Mexico State Bar Foundation  
Center for Legal Education

Redeemable on Center for Legal Education courses only. Exclusions: No teleseminar or other third-party content. No refunds or roll-over of unused credits.

# Well-Being Activities



## State Bar of New Mexico Lawyer Assistance Program

### **New Mexico Lawyer Assistance Program Exhibit Table**

**July 31 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Aug. 1 from 7:30 a.m.– 4 p.m., Aug. 2 from 7:30–11 a.m.**

#### *Ballroom Foyers*

The New Mexico Lawyer Assistance Program is a free service for all members of the New Mexico bench and bar and law students. NM LAP offers confidential professional and peer assistance to help individuals identify and address struggles with alcohol and other drugs, depression and other mental health/emotional disorders, as well as with issues related to cognitive impairment. Stop by the NM LAP exhibit table during the Annual Meeting to learn more about the NM LAP and grab some free swag. Visit [www.sbnm.org/Member-Services/NM-LAP](http://www.sbnm.org/Member-Services/NM-LAP) for more information.



## The Solutions Group

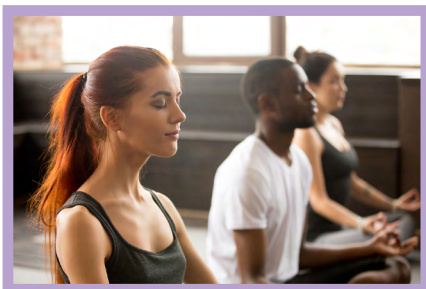
### **The Solutions Group –**

#### **Employee Assistance Program Exhibit Table**

**July 31 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Aug. 1  
from 7:30 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.**

#### *Ballroom Foyers*

The Solutions Group believes everyone can benefit from living a healthier life. As the health and wellness division of Presbyterian Healthcare Services, TSG provides health and wellness programs for a wide variety of employers. TSG is available to you all day Thursday and Friday of the annual meeting. Stop by their table for swag, information and good conversation and you can visit their website at visit [www.solutionsbiz.com](http://www.solutionsbiz.com).



### **Guided Meditation Session**

**July 31 from 5:30 – 6 p.m.**

#### *Roadrunner A*

Decompress from a long day of using your left brain. Join Elizabeth Lynch Phillips for a short guided meditation before you begin your evening activities. Whether you're a regular meditator or are interested in trying it out for the first time, come see for yourself how, in the words of the Mayo Clinic, "Meditation can wipe away the day's stress", and "give you a sense of calm, peace and balance." Skeptics welcome. For more information, visit [www.lawyersevolving.com](http://www.lawyersevolving.com).





### **Attorney Support Group Meeting**

**Aug. 1 from 7 – 8 a.m.**

#### ***Roadrunner A***

Join your peers in a non-judgmental, safe environment where you have the opportunity to share experiences, strengths and hopes with others. Recovery leaders will facilitate the group. You can show up and just listen.



### **Blood Pressure Screening**

**Aug. 1 from 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

#### ***Ballroom Foyers***

Everyone can benefit from living a healthier life. As the health and wellness division of Presbyterian Healthcare Services, The Solutions Group provides health and wellness programs for a wide variety of employers. During the Annual Meeting, The Solutions Group will provide free blood pressure checks with a licensed nurse all day on Friday.

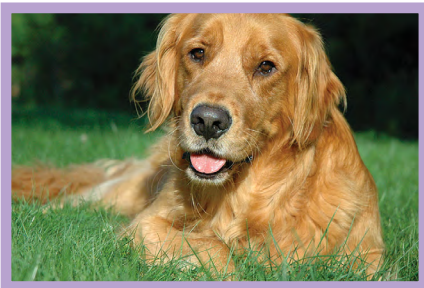


### **Chair Massages**

**Aug. 1 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

#### ***Ballroom Foyers***

Por Vida Therapeutics strives to improve the health and wellness of our community by connecting clients to therapists that will best help the client's individual needs. Oftentimes, massages have provided meaningful therapy to clients seeking physical stress relief. Visit the Ballroom Foyer to experience this in the form of a free relaxing chair massage. For more information about Por Vida Therapeutics and its services, visit **[www.porvidatherapeutics.com](http://www.porvidatherapeutics.com)**.



### **Therapy Dogs**

**Aug. 1 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

#### ***Ballroom Foyers***

Southwest Canine Corps of Volunteers, Inc. is a local not-for-profit organization in the Albuquerque area that has been offering therapy for more than 30 years. With more than 70 members and multiple dogs, SCCV partners with over 35 facilities and works with numerous organizations to coordinate special community event opportunities. Don't be shy. Feel free to reach out and give that four-legged furry friend some love if they are walking by...that's why they are here! For more information, visit **[www.sccvtherapydogs.com](http://www.sccvtherapydogs.com)**.



# Changed Lives... Changing Lives

**Free, confidential assistance** to help identify and address problems with alcohol, drugs, depression, and other mental health issues. A healthier, happier future is a phone call away.



## Confidential assistance –

Statewide Helpline for Lawyers, Law Students and Legal Professionals: 505-228-1948

Judges Helpline: 505-797-6097

[www.sbnm.org/NMLAP](http://www.sbnm.org/NMLAP)



State Bar of New Mexico  
Lawyer Assistance Program

**FREE Services Are Available To ALL Legal Professionals, Including Judges, Attorneys, Paralegals, Law Students and Law Office Staff!**



State Bar of New Mexico  
Lawyer Assistance  
Program



The  
Solutions  
Group

## Employee Assistance Program

*Get help and support for yourself, your family and your employees.*  
**FREE** service offered by NM LAP.

Services include up to four **FREE** counseling sessions/issue/year for ANY mental health, addiction, relationship conflict, anxiety and/or depression issue. Counseling sessions are with a professionally licensed therapist. Other **FREE** services include management consultation, stress management education, critical incident stress debriefing, video counseling, and 24X7 call center. Providers are located throughout the state.

To access this service call 505-254-3555 and identify with NM LAP. All calls are **CONFIDENTIAL**.  
Brought to you by the New Mexico Lawyer Assistance Program [www.sbnm.org/NMLAP](http://www.sbnm.org/NMLAP)

# Congratulations to the 2025 Annual Award Recipients



## WILLIAM "BILL" WORKMAN

### Distinguished Bar Service Non-Lawyer Award

*Recognizes non-lawyers who have provided valuable service and contributions to the legal profession over a significant period of time.*

**William "Bill" Workman** was born in upstate New York in 1972 and moved to several states before settling in Farmington, New Mexico, where he obtained degrees in legal assistance and business administration. He started a career as a paralegal with the New Mexico Public Defender Office in the year 2000 and worked providing legal support to the Department's defense attorneys until retiring from the state in 2025 to pursue other activities.



## DAVID J. STOUT

### Excellence in Well-Being Award

*Many individuals have made significant contributions to the improvement of legal professional well-being to include destigmatizing mental health, strengthening resiliency and creating a synergistic approach to work and life. This award was created to recognize an individual or organization that has made an outstanding positive contribution to the New Mexico legal community's well-being.*

**David J. Stout** is a Regents Lecturer at the University of New Mexico School of Law. He primarily teaches in the legal writing and communication program. He also teaches Torts, Evidence, Insurance Law and Professional Responsibility. His most important job at the law school is to coordinate the virtual food pantry for students who don't have enough money for food. Prior to joining the law school faculty on a full-time basis, Professor Stout was a practicing trial lawyer for 28 years specializing in products liability, governmental liability and insurance bad faith. Stout has chaired numerous Supreme Court committees including the Code of Judicial Conduct that rewrote the New Mexico Code of Judicial Conduct and the Code of Professional Conduct Committee. He currently serves as the chair of the Disciplinary Board. Stout owes his life to the State Bar of New Mexico's Lawyer Assistance Program Committee and has been a long-time member of that committee serving as co-chair from 2015-2019. Stout tries to help law students and lawyers struggling with addiction, depression and other conditions that interfere with their professional and personal lives.



## LEON HOWARD III

### Judge Sarah M. Singleton Distinguished Service Award

*Recognizes attorneys who have provided valuable service and contributions to the legal profession, the State Bar of New Mexico, and the public over a significant period of time.*

**Leon Howard III** is the Executive Director of the ACLU of New Mexico and a proud graduate of the University of New Mexico School of Law. Raised in Albuquerque's International District, Leon's path to leadership has been shaped by his lived experience and his unwavering belief in the power of community. For over fifteen years, he has worked to dismantle systemic injustice through civil rights litigation, policy reform, and public education. Leon is widely respected for his grounded, strategic advocacy on behalf of underrepresented communities across the state. He has also contributed his leadership to several boards and committees, including the New Mexico Innocence & Justice Project, the State Bar of New Mexico's Committee on Diversity, the New Mexico Black Lawyers Association, and the UNM Master of Public Policy Advisory Panel. At every step, Leon remains committed to building a more just New Mexico, where the law protects everyone, not just the powerful.

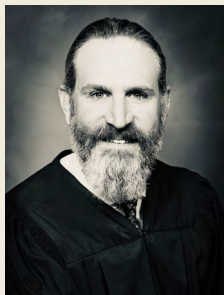


# 2025 Annual Awards Recipients

## JUDGE JOSHUA A. ALLISON and GERALD G. DIXON

### Justice Pamela B. Minzner Professionalism Award

*Recognizes attorneys and/or judges who, over long and distinguished legal careers, have by their ethical and personal conduct exemplified for their fellow attorneys the epitome of professionalism.*



**Judge Joshua A. Allison** was raised in Lincoln, Illinois, a small farm community in the middle of the state that is the only town in the world named for Abraham Lincoln before he became President of the United States. Judge Allison is the proud son of a Presbyterian pastor and a high school English teacher. He worked on a hog farm growing up, and his family vacationed at Ghost Ranch near Abiquiu when he was young. It was on those vacations where Judge Allison developed a love for our high desert.

Judge Allison graduated from Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois in 1996 with a degree in History. He came to New Mexico in 2000.

After graduating from University of New Mexico School of Law, Judge Allison clerked for then-Chief Justice Edward L. Chávez of the New Mexico Supreme Court. Following his clerkship, he worked as a civil litigator for ten years before taking the bench in 2019.



**Gerald G. "Jerry" Dixon** is a founding member of Dixon•Scholl•Carrillo•P.A. and practices in the areas of professional malpractice defense, construction litigation and real estate. He also serves as a mediator and arbitrator. Jerry served as President of the State Bar of New Mexico in 2019 and the New Mexico State Bar Foundation in 2018 and 2024. He was President of the Albuquerque Bar Association in 1994. He has served as a Trustee for the Texas Tech School of Law Foundation since 2005 and for the Texas Tech University Foundation since 2022. Jerry was named Outstanding Attorney by the Albuquerque Bar Association in 2014 and received the 2014 Distinguished Service Award from Texas Tech School of Law. He provides pro bono services through New Mexico Christian Legal Aid. Jerry was a Visiting Professor of Law in 2012 at the University of National and World Economy in Sofia, Bulgaria and in 2015 at South-West University in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria.

New  
Award

## SONIA M. GIPSON RANKIN

### Justice Pamela B. Minzner Outstanding Women's Advocacy Award

*Recognizes attorneys who have provided legal assistance to women who are unrepresented or underserved, or advocated for causes that will benefit and/or further the rights of women within the previous calendar year.*



**Sonia M. Gipson Rankin** is a legal scholar and computer scientist whose work expands access and opportunity for women in law and technology. She draws on her interdisciplinary training to confront systemic barriers, especially those affecting women of color. She serves the legal profession through the New Mexico Supreme Court's Equity and Justice Commission, the State Bar of New Mexico's Committee on Diversity, and the tech sector through a National Academies initiative promoting women of color in STEM. Whether teaching, giving interviews, or engaging broad audiences, she approaches issues of algorithmic bias, kinship care, inclusive leadership and criminal justice reform with clarity, conviction, and care. A dedicated mentor, she supports students through Moms of Law, the Black Law Students Association and other student organizations and has also served her faith community by directing the women's ministry and teaching Sunday School. Her contributions have been recognized with the UNM Women in STEM Award (2022) and the Professor Pamela B. Minzner Award for Excellence & Professionalism (2023) and the Albuquerque Business Journal Women of Influence Award (2018). She and her husband raised their three children in New Mexico.

# 2025 Annual Awards Recipients



## NEW MEXICO CHRISTIAN LEGAL AID, INC.



### Outstanding Legal Organization Award

*Recognizes outstanding or extraordinary law-related organizations or programs that serve the legal profession and the public.*

**New Mexico Christian Legal Aid, Inc.** was founded upon the belief that many of the legal problems of the poor and homeless also involve spiritually related issues. NMCLA was formed in 1998 to provide a unique combination of high-quality legal and spiritual counsel to the poor and homeless. Over 125 NMCLA volunteer attorneys have provided services to approximately

10,000 clients. The legal services are generally provided at local missions and organizations that serve the homeless such as The Rock at Noon Day, Albuquerque Rescue Mission/Steelbridge, Joy Junction, Salvation Army, Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd and several others. Group sessions are also conducted at the program facilities to give instruction on many poverty law topics. The attorneys are trained in poverty law and counseling with one to two CLE programs per year.



## EDUARDO RAMIREZ



### Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year Award

*Awarded to attorneys who have, during the formative stages of their legal careers by their ethical and personal conduct, exemplified for their fellow attorneys the epitome of professionalism by demonstrating a commitment to clients' causes and to public service, enhancing the image of the legal profession.*

**Eduardo Ramirez** is an Assistant Public Defender with the Law Offices of the Public Defender in the Hobbs Office. Eduardo joined the LOPD family in February of 2021 after relocating to New Mexico at the end of 2020. Eduardo earned his law school degree from the University of Colorado Law School, graduating in May 2019. He is the first in his family to not only graduate from college, but also law school. Since as far back as he can remember, Eduardo has always had a passion for helping individuals who are underprivileged and impoverished. Growing up in poverty himself, he saw many people struggle with the criminal justice system and just how important effective representation is. As an adult, Eduardo has learned the importance of self-care, to continue representing clients to the best of his ability. He helps with their criminal case but also makes efforts to better their lives. Eduardo is a zealous advocate, and his goal is to eventually rid the notion of a "public pretender." Luckily, he has amazing mentorship and colleagues down in Hobbs who help him, and he would not be the attorney he is without them. Outside of work, Eduardo enjoys being involved in the community, caring for his various plants, and his lovely Pit Bull, Izabel.



# 2025 Annual Awards Recipients



## EVANGELINA F. MERCADO



### Robert H. LaFollette Pro Bono Award

*Presented to an attorney who has made an exemplary contribution of time and effort, without compensation, to provide legal assistance over his or her career to people who could not afford the assistance of an attorney.*

**Evangelina F. Mercado** has spent the majority of her legal career assisting the indigent, disadvantaged and victimized. Ms. Mercado grew up in Las Cruces and graduated from New Mexico State University. Thereafter, she graduated from Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law. Upon graduation, she was employed by El Paso, Texas County Attorney's Office and 34th Judicial District Attorney's Office in El Paso, Texas. In June 1999, she began working as a staff attorney for the Las Cruces Office of New Mexico Legal Aid. Shortly thereafter, she transitioned into a managerial position and is currently the regional managing attorney for the southern region of New Mexico. Ms. Mercado supervises staff of attorneys in communities throughout the southern region, as well as paralegals/legal assistants and community volunteers. New Mexico Legal Aid provides legal assistance to clients in domestic violence, domestic relations, housing, economic security and consumer protection. Additionally, the office provides in house clinics for pro se divorce and paternity actions. Ms. Mercado has been providing legal services to New Mexican Legal Aid clients for the past 26 years.



## JUDGE STAN WHITAKER



### Justice Seth D. Montgomery Distinguished Judicial Service Award

*Recognizes judges who have distinguished themselves through long and exemplary service on the bench and who have significantly advanced the administration of justice or improved the relations between the bench and the bar.*

**Judge Stan Whitaker** was born in Denver, Colorado. His family moved to Albuquerque in 1962 when his stepfather helped start the Quarters Restaurant on Yale Blvd. Judge Whitaker grew up in Albuquerque, graduating from Sandia High School in 1975. He has been married to his high school sweetheart, Barbra, for 46 years. They have two grown children and one darling granddaughter, (Gigi). He attended the University of Kansas on a track scholarship from 1975 to 1980, graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education. He attended Law School at the University of New Mexico School of Law, earning his Juris Doctorate in 1989. After law school, he worked as an Assistant District Attorney in the Felony Child Abuse/Family Crimes Unit with the Bernalillo County District Attorney's Office from 1993 to 1996. He also worked as a Special Commissioner for Domestic Violence with the Second Judicial District Court from 1996 to 2002. From 2002 to 2006, he worked as Assistant United States Attorney, Firearms/Violent Crimes Division from 2002 to 2006. In June of 2006, he was appointed by Gov. Bill Richardson to the bench as a District Judge with the Second Judicial District Court presiding over Domestic Relations cases and felony criminal matters. He served as the Chief Presiding Judge of the Second Judicial District Court from 2019 to 2022. Judge Whitaker retired from the bench in December of 2024.

# Make the State Bar Center Your Meeting Destination



Perfect for your conference, seminar, training, mediation, reception, networking event or meeting

- Multi-media auditorium with seating to accommodate 160 people
- 3 spacious classrooms (equipped with removable walls to make a larger space)
- Small and large conference rooms with capacity from 6 to 12 people
- 2 multi-media boardrooms
- Ample parking
- Free Wi-Fi
- Snack and beverage service
- Hybrid meeting capabilities in most rooms



5121 Masthead St. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109  
[www.sbnm.org/StateBarCenter](http://www.sbnm.org/StateBarCenter)

For more information, site visits and reservations, contact Guest Services at **505-797-6070** or [roomrental@sbnm.org](mailto:roomrental@sbnm.org)

The **Equity in Justice Program** was formally established in 2021 to advance the recommendations from the 2020 reports by the Board of Bar Commissioner's Committee on Women and the Legal Profession and Committee on Diversity in the Legal Profession. The mission of this Program is to aid in developing a legal profession in New Mexico that is both representative of and reflective of the people of New Mexico.

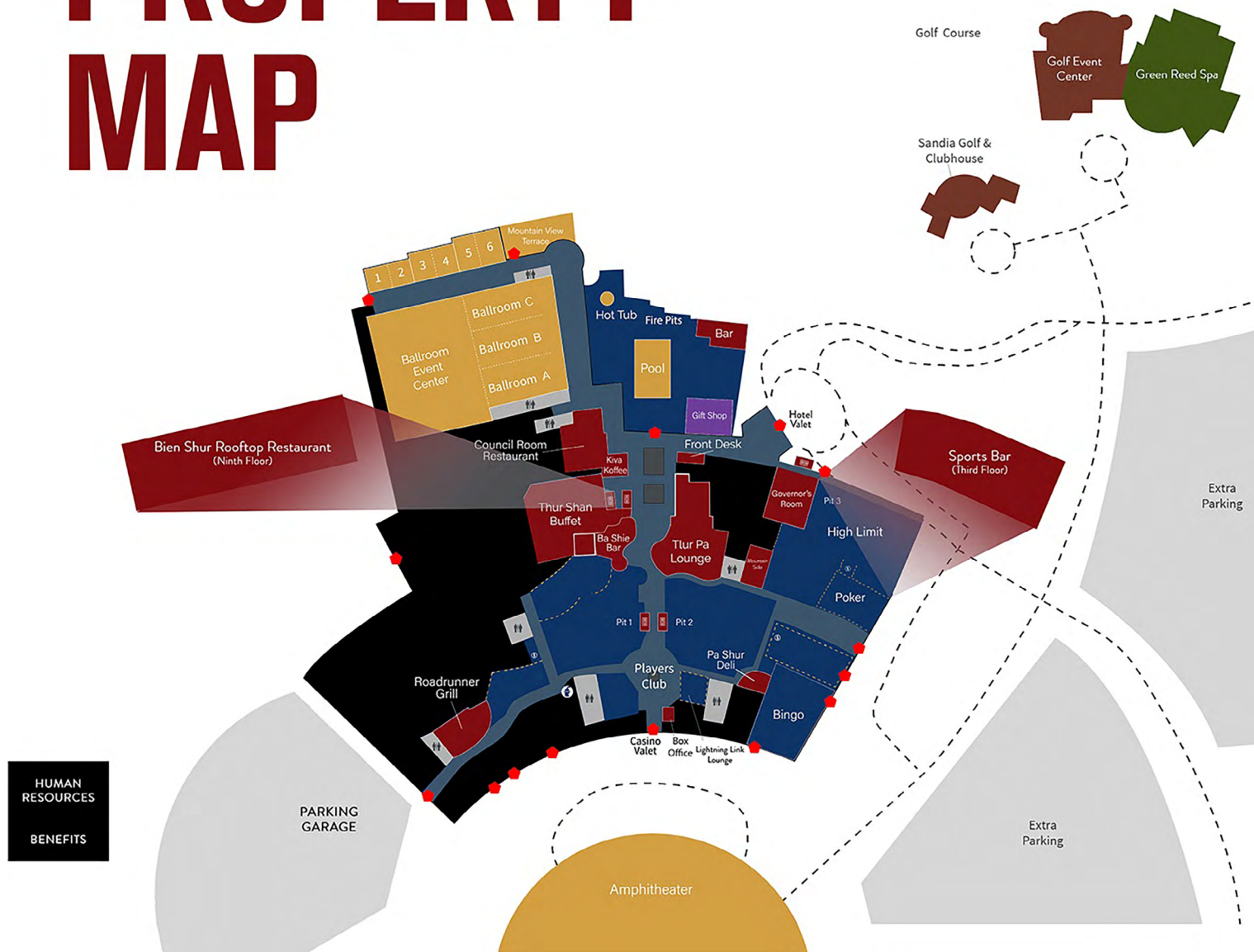


Contact Equity in Justice Attorney Abby Lewis at [abby.lewis@sbnm.org](mailto:abby.lewis@sbnm.org) for more information.

[www.sbnm.org/eij](http://www.sbnm.org/eij)



# PROPERTY MAP



**SANDIA**  
*Resort & Casino*

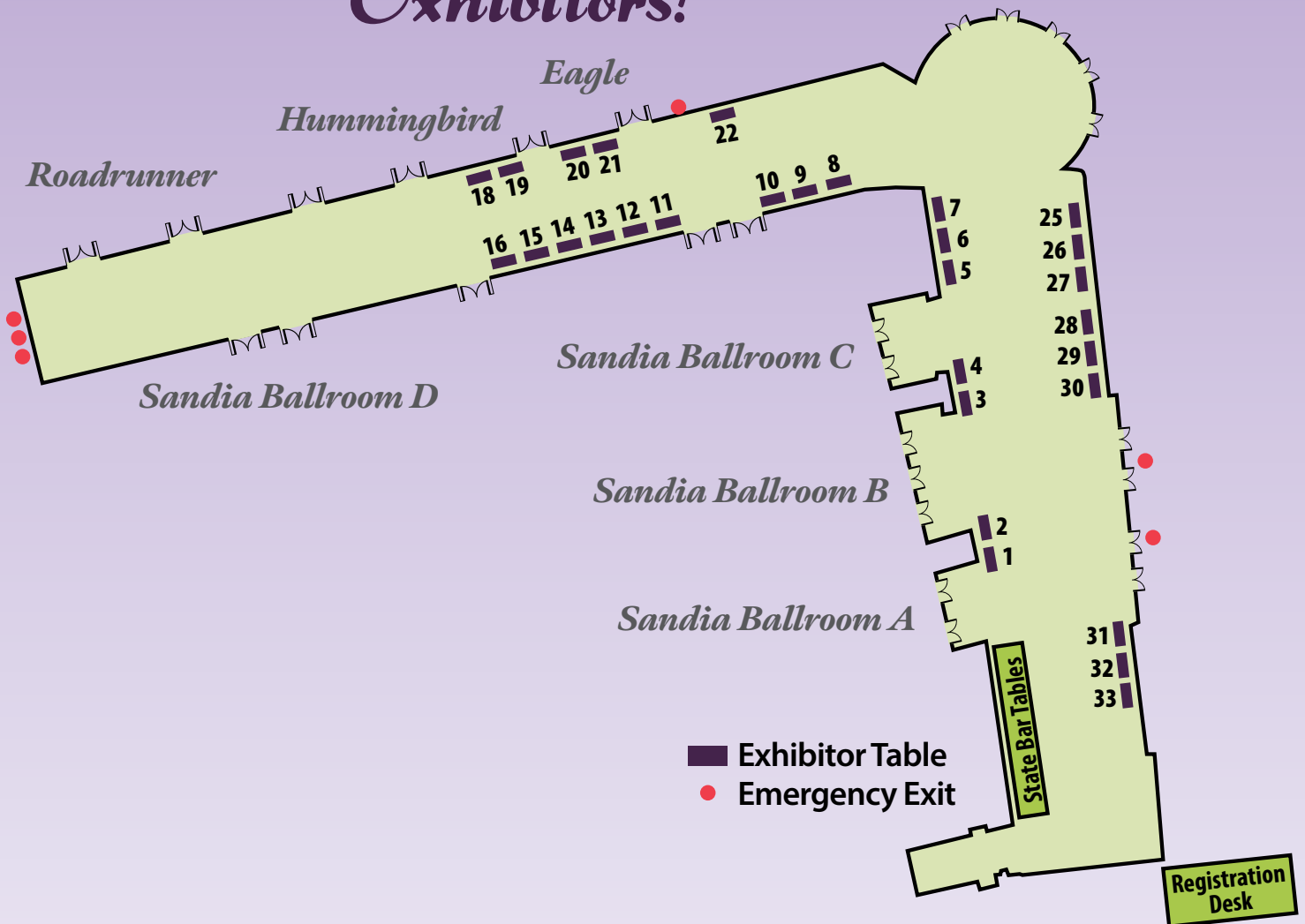
CLOSE TO HOME

FAR FROM ORDINARY



# Visit our 2025

## Exhibitors!



### Exhibitor Table Numbers

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 TL Cashman Legal Nurse Consultants, LLC                         | 16 Texas Tech University School of Law         |
| 2 Solutions Treatment Center                                      | 18 vLex Fastcase                               |
| 3 Maracab Translation Services                                    | 19 Rivera Hernandez Campos PLLC                |
| 4 Pearl Insurance   | 20 New Mexico Department of Justice            |
| 5 KWH Law Center  | 21 University of New Mexico School of Law      |
| 6 J.S. Held   | 22 New Mexico State Bar Foundation             |
| 7 Legal Research Center   | 25 The Solutions Group                         |
| 8 Suits Unlimited   | 26 NM LAP and Professional Development Program |
| 9 PracticePanther   | 27 New Mexico Well-Being Committee             |
| 10 New Mexico State Bar Foundation                                | 28 FitzPatrick Law, LLC.                       |
| Legal Resources For the Elderly Program and Modest Means Helpline | 29 Casify                                      |
| 11 Supreme Court Law Library                                      | 30 Destination CLEs                            |
| 12 New Mexico Legal Aid   | 31 NM Court Reporters Association              |
| 13 New Mexico Black Leadership Council                            | 32 United South Broadway Corporation           |
| 14 The Bar Plan   | 33 Sunward                                     |
| 15 State Bar of New Mexico Paralegal Division                     |  |

# In Memoriam

Richard A. Abeles  
CaraLyn Banks  
Bradley Henderson Bartlett  
Kenneth L. Beal  
Andrew S. Bockemeier  
Stephen K. Bowman  
LaMerle M. Boyd  
B. Paul Briones  
Felix Briones Jr.  
James A. Burke  
Philip P. Chandler II  
Charlie W. Chavez  
Patricia Kay Dawson  
Dennis M. Feld

Virginia L. Ferrara  
Anthony J. Filosa  
Patrick J. Francoeur  
Richard L. Gerding  
Clifford C. Gramer Jr.  
Sally Ann Hagan  
Simeon Herskovits  
Perry S. Key  
Glen L. Houston  
Thomas J. Hynes  
Jess R. Lilley  
Lovell Hamilton May, Jr.  
Kathleen A. Miller  
John M. Paternoster

Dave Eloy Romero Jr.  
Eliu E. Romero  
Robert M. St. John  
Morris Dale Stagner  
Edwina McKee Taylor  
Mark W. Taylor  
David T. Thuma  
Susan K. Tomita  
Paul Trujillo  
Bob Turner  
Jessica Wadekamper  
Louhannah M. Walker  
Ronald R. Walker  
Kathleen P. Watson

## Past Presidents

### 1800s

William A. Vincent (1886)  
Neil B. Field (1887, 1896)  
S.B. Newcomb (1888)  
Frank Springer (1890)  
W.C. Hazeldine (1891)  
A.B. Elliott (1892)  
A.A. Jones (1893)  
James G. Fitch (1894)  
T.B. Catron (1895)  
A.B. Fall (1897)  
R.E. Twitchell (1898-1899)

### 1900s

A.A. Freeman (1900)  
E.A. Fisk (1901)  
W.B. Childers (1902)  
A.A. Harlee (1903)  
W.C. Wrigley (1904)  
G.A. Richardson (1905)  
W.A. Hawkins (1906)  
A.B. Renahan (1907)  
A.B. McMillen (1908)  
Edward C. Wade (1909)  
Charles A. Spiess (1910)  
J.M. Hervey (1911, 1925-1926)  
W.B. Walton (1912)  
Francis C. Wilson (1913)  
M.E. Hickey (1914)  
Reed Holloman (1915)  
Clarence M. Botts (1916)  
Hiram M. Dow (1917, 1935-1936)  
W.G. Hayden (1918, 1932-1933)  
J.L. Lawson (1919-1920)

Orie L. Phillips (1921-1924)  
A.H. Hudspeth (1926-1927)  
E.C. Crampton (1927-1928)  
Carl Gilbert (1928-1929)  
L.O. Fullen (1929-1930)  
Thomas E. Mears (1930-1931)  
M.C. Mechem (1931-1932)  
Edwin L. Holt (1933-1934)  
James A. Hall (1934-1935)  
Alvan N. White (1936-1937)  
Charles H. Fowler (1937-1938)  
Henry A. Kiker (1938-1939)  
Edwin L. Mechem (1939-1940)  
George L. Reese Sr. (1940-1941)  
Everett M. Grantham (1941-1942)  
A.K. Montgomery (1942-1943)  
A.W. Marshall (1943-1944)  
Waldo Spiess (1944-1945)  
E.C. Iden (1946-1947)  
C.C. McCulloh (1947-1948)  
E. Forrest Sanders (1948-1949)  
Otto Smith (1949-1950)  
Floyd W. Beutler (1950-1951)  
Hon. George L. Reese Jr. (1951-1952)  
Robert L. Botts (1952-1953)  
Jess D. Weir (1953-1954)  
Howard F. Houk (1954-1955)  
M.E. Noble (1955-1956)  
Richard F. Rowley (1956-1957)  
Stephen W. Bowen (1957-1958)  
William A. Sloan (1958-1959)  
Benjamin M. Sherman (1959-1960)  
James T. Jennings (1960-1961)

R.C. Garland (1961-1962)  
Jess R. Nelson (1962-1963)  
Donald B. Moses (1963-1964)  
Robert S. Skinner (1964-1965)  
Wesley M. Quinn (1965-1966)  
U.M. Rose (1966-1967)  
John Joe Wilkinson (1968-1969)  
James Sidwell (1969-1970)  
Hon. William R. Federici (1970-1971)  
M. Rosenberg (1971-1972)  
Thomas E. Ahern Jr. (1972-1973)  
Russell D. Mann (1973-1974)  
George T. Harris Jr. (1974-1975)  
James R. Crouch (1975-1976)  
Wayne C. Wolf (1976-1977)  
James L. Dow (1977-1978)  
William C. Erwin (1978-1979)  
William K. Stratvert (1979-1980)  
John R. Cooney (1980-1981)  
John F. McCarthy Jr. (1981-1982)  
Charles I. Wellborn (1982-1983)  
Robert P. Tinnin Jr. (1983-1984)  
Robert N. Hilgendorf (1984-1985)  
Richard F. Rowley II (1985-1986)  
James P. Saunders Jr. (1986-1987)  
C. Emery Cuddy Jr. (1987-1988)  
Charles A. Pharris (1988-1989)  
James Jay Mason (1989-1990)  
Amanda J. Ashford (1990-1991)  
Neil E. Weinbrenner (1991-1992)  
Hon. Alan C. Torgerson (1992-1993)  
Arturo L. Jaramillo (1993-1994)  
Gary Don Reagan (1994-1995)

Hon. Sarah M. Singleton (1995-1996)  
Rex D. Throckmorton (1996-1997)  
David H. Kelsey (1997-1998)  
Richard L. Kraft (1998-1999)  
Stephen E. Doerr (1999-2000)

### 2000s

David N. Hernandez (2001)  
Mary T. Torres (2002)  
Colin C. Alcott (2002)  
Daniel J. O'Brien (2004)  
Charles J. Vigil (2005)  
Virginia R. Dugan (2006)  
Dennis E. Jontz (2007)  
Craig A. Orraj (2008)  
Henry A. Alaniz (2009)  
Stephen S. Shanor (2010)  
Jessica A. Perez (2011)  
Hans William Voss (2012)  
Andrew J. (Drew) Cloutier (2013)  
Erika E. Anderson (2014)  
Mary Martha Chicoski (2015)  
J. Brent Moore (2016)  
Scotty A. Holloman (2017)  
Wesley O. Pool (2018)  
Gerald G. Dixon (2019)  
Ernestina R. Cruz (2020)  
Carla C. Martinez (2021)  
Carolyn A. Wolf (2022)  
Benjamin I. Sherman (2023)  
Erinna M. "Erin" Atkins (2024)

*You're Invited!*

New Mexico  
State Bar Foundation

# GOLF Classic



*Golf Registration Is*  
**NOW OPEN!**

*You don't have to be a lawyer to play!*

**SEPTEMBER 29, 2025**

**Tee Time: 8 a.m. (MT)**

**SANDIA GOLF CLUB**

30 Rainbow Rd NE

Albuquerque, N.M. 87113

- **Tournament Players: Individual:** \$175 before Sept. 1, \$200 on or after Sept. 1  
**Foursome:** \$700 before Sept. 1, \$800 on or after Sept. 1

Register to play at: <https://form.jotform.com/sbnm/2025GolfClassic>

*Proceeds benefit the New Mexico State Bar Foundation,  
a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.*



***Sponsorship opportunities are also available!***

Please contact Joey Gutierrez at 505-797-6057 or  
[nmsbfdevelopment@sbnm.org](mailto:nmsbfdevelopment@sbnm.org) with any questions regarding the Golf Classic.



Visit [www.sbnm.org/barfoundation](http://www.sbnm.org/barfoundation) for more information  
about the New Mexico State Bar Foundation and its programs.



**New Mexico  
State Bar Foundation**



International Custody Disputes | Surrogacy-Conceived Children |  
Closely Held Businesses | Art & Antiques | Deferred Compensation |  
Trusts | Substantial Separate Assets | Contested Relocations |  
Same Sex Unions | Tracing | Interstate Finances



Sometimes untying the knot requires  
a team that knows the ropes.



MACÍAS-MAYO LAW

[maciasmayolaw.com](http://maciasmayolaw.com)