

Board of Bar Commissioners Election Notice 2026



Notice is hereby given for the election of the State Bar of New Mexico (State Bar) Board of Bar Commissioners, the elected governing board of the State Bar (Rule 24-101 NMRA). The State Bar will hold elections this fall to fill nine (9) positions on the Board of Bar Commissioners described below and which will expire on December 31, 2026. The positions are for three-year terms that run from January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2029, except for a one-year term as noted below. **The election will open November 9, 2026, and close at noon on November 30, 2026.**

Nominations of State Bar active status members to fill the vacancies shall be made by petition of ten (10) or more active status members of the State Bar who are in good standing and whose principal place of practice (address of record) is in the respective district. Active status members whose principal place of practice (address of record) is in El Paso County, Texas, may nominate members for the Third and Sixth Judicial Districts. Nominations for the out-of-state district commissioner position shall be made by 10 or more active status members of the Bar who are in good standing and whose principal place of practice (address of record) is outside the state of New Mexico, but not in El Paso County, Texas.

Members of the State Bar may nominate (sign a petition for) more than one candidate for a position. A member may only be nominated for one position on the Board of Bar Commissioners.

Nominations must be made by completing the Nomination Petition on the next page or at the link below. The nominee is responsible for collecting all nomination petitions and submitting them to the State Bar in either a single email or a single mailed packet **no later than 5:00 p.m. MT on October 5, 2026.** Individual emails sent directly to the State Bar by a petitioner will not be counted.

www.sbnm.org/BBCnominationpetition2026

Primary Responsibilities of the Board of Bar Commissioners:

Governance

- › Support and advance the State Bar's mission and strategic plan.
- › Attend Board meetings (up to six annually), including the Annual Meeting and a Board Retreat every three years.
- › Serve on State Bar and Supreme Court committees and boards.
- › Evaluate State Bar programs and operations to ensure alignment with the strategic plan and budget.
- › Establish and enforce bylaws and policies that support the Bar's mission and comply with legal and ethical standards.
- › Ensure financial sustainability and accountability for the organization.
- › Select, support and annually evaluate the Executive Director.

Role of Ambassador

- › Communicate regularly with constituents and hold at least one annual event within the district.
- › Promote State Bar programs and activities
- › Represent the State Bar at meetings and events within the district.
- › Help recruit and retain new board members
- › Support the New Mexico State Bar Foundation's mission and purposes.

Pursuant to the State Bar Bylaws, following are the names of the commissioners whose terms are expiring and their districts from which they were elected:

First Judicial District – One Position

Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, and Santa Fe Counties

- › Currently held by Elizabeth J. Travis (*ineligible for reelection*)

Second Judicial District – One Position

Bernalillo County

- › Currently held by Aja N. Brooks (*ineligible for reelection*)

Third and Sixth Judicial Districts – One Position

Dona Ana, Grant, Hidalgo and Luna Counties

- › One currently held by Chrystian J. Gonzalez

Seventh and Thirteenth Judicial Districts –

Two Positions

Catron, Sierra, Socorro, Torrance, Cibola, Sandoval and Valencia Counties

- › One currently held by Joshua Rubin
- › One currently held by Simone M. Seiler

Ninth and Tenth Judicial Districts – One Position

Curry, Roosevelt, DeBaca, Harding, and Quay Counties

- › Currently held by Mitchell L. Mender

Eleventh Judicial District – One Position

McKinley and San Juan Counties

- › Currently held by Felisha Adams

Twelfth Judicial District – One Position

Lincoln and Otero Counties

- › Vacant

Out-of-State District – One Position

(one-year term; remainder of unexpired term)

Principal place of practice (address of record) in New Mexico

- › Currently held by DeAnza Valencia

Send all nomination petitions in one packet by email to bbc@sbnm.org

Or drop off to: Executive Director Richard B. Spinello, Esq. • 5121 Masthead St. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109

— PETITIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5 P.M. MT, OCT. 5, 2026 —

Direct inquiries to kris.becker@sbnm.org.



State Bar *of*
New Mexico
Est. 1886

2026 Nomination Petition for Board of Bar Commissioners

I, the undersigned, State Bar member in good standing and who has a principal place of practice (address of record) in the _____ District¹, hereby nominate _____, whose principal place of practice (address of record) is located in the _____ District.

Signature

Print Name

Address (principal place of practice)

Date

¹Active status members whose principal place of practice (address of record) is located in El Paso County, Texas, may nominate members for the Third and Sixth Judicial Districts. Nominations for the out-of-state district commissioner position shall be made by petition of 10 or more active status members of the Bar who are in good standing and whose principal place of practice (address of record) is outside the state of New Mexico, but not in El Paso County, Texas.

To make a nomination, complete all information in this petition and send to the nominee by either method below:

- **Electronically** by going to www.sbnm.org/BBCnominationpetition2026; or
- **Hard copy** by printing the online form or completing this form and mailing or emailing it to the nominee.

*Do not submit this petition directly to the State Bar. The nominee is responsible for collecting all nomination petitions and submitting them to the State Bar in either a single email or a single mailed packet **no later than 5:00 p.m. MT on October 5, 2026.***