



State Bar of New Mexico Young Lawyers

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Animal Law, Samantha Catalano

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Natural Resources, Energy & Environmental Law,

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Prosecutors, Don Anque

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Tax, Janette Duran

Trial Practice, Mallory Wolff

2023 PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS

Wills for Heroes,

Laura Unkelsbay

Legal Clinics,

Jeremy Angenend, Taylor Duffney, Andrew Cavazos

"Ask-a-Lawyer" Law Day Call-In, Damon J. Hudson,

Chandler Farnworth, Jeff Herrera

Service Project in Outlying Areas, Jessica Perez

FEMA/Emergency Services,

Lauren Riley, Chandler Farnworth

Constitution Day, Jeff Herrera

NMHB/UNM Summer Law Camp,

Jessica A. Perez, Damon J. Hudson

Law Day Essay Contest, Jeff Herrera

Judicial Clerkship Selections,

Chandler Farnworth, Jessica A. Perez

Summer Fellowship Selections,

Jessica A. Perez, Damon J. Hudson

UNMSOL & Mentorship Programming,

Randy Taylor, Lauren Riley

Member Outreach,

Lauren Riley, Laura Unkelsbay, Andrew Cavazos

Lunch with Judges,

Jeremy Angenend, Damon J. Hudson,

Randy Taylor, Andrew Cavazos

Fit2Practice, Randy Taylor & Chandler Farnworth

Networking Events,

Laura Unkelsbay, Taylor Duffney, Andrew Cavazos

Podcasts, Damon J. Hudson

Bar Bulletin "In Brief", Damon J. Hudson

YLD *in brief*

SPRING
2023

The Official Newsletter of the
State Bar of New Mexico Young Lawyers Division



Message from the YLD Chair

As you all are aware, monumental shifts in the world around us, mostly related to COVID-19 and its after-effects, have altered the practice of law. Almost every court appearance I have made as an attorney has been at my computer through Zoom or Google Meet, and

only once or twice in athletic shorts and a suit top. Many new/young attorneys entering the practice of law spent all or part of their law school experience in a virtual setting. And any more established attorney made large changes to their practice in order to continue serving their clients. The movement to a more online practice created gaps and opportunities for participation in the bar and community.

My goal here is to make clear what a great chance it is to now get involved with the programs of the State Bar of New Mexico, the different Sections, Committees and Divisions, different bar organizations, your local community, and of course the Young Lawyers Division and its programs. The greater bar, your community, and the State of New Mexico are better for your involvement. I encourage you to get involved in a pro bono program or opportunity: volunteer with your local bar district's pro bono committee, sign up for NM Legal Aid's Volunteer Attorney Program, join an in-person clinic or teleclinic, or assist any of the other fantastic civil legal service providers in the state. The bar and your clients are better when we connect with each other, even if we ultimately oppose each other later on. Pro bono work, section involvement and greater bar involvement, will not only improve your practice and assist fellow New Mexicans, but also the work you do for your clients. Also, I think it will help to combat the loneliness that can be associated with how much of the practice of law has become remote. One of my favorite parts about participating with the YLD and the greater bar is interacting with other lawyers and making friends along the way.

My hope is that the YLD can provide many outlets for involvement for all New Mexico attorneys. We look forward to continuing to provide and expand our programming, including Wills for Heroes, Lunch with Judges, the UNMSOL Mentorship program, Legal Clinics, Ask-A-Lawyer Call-in Day, Fit2Practice programming, Networking Events and additional opportunities to connect throughout the state. We hope to see you at some of our events. We would love to hear from you if you have any ideas for the YLD and how we can better serve New Mexico young attorneys and the greater bar. Good luck in 2023!

Best,
Damon J. Hudson

Meet the Board



Damon J. Hudson

Chair

Director-at-Large, Position 1

Damon Hudson is an attorney at The Jones Firm in Santa Fe, N.M., practicing primarily in medical malpractice, personal injury, employment law, labor law, and estate planning. Damon obtained his BBA and MPA from the University of New Mexico, and his law degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He is the chair of the Young Lawyers Division, previously chairing the Wills for Heroes program and the Ask-A-Lawyer Call in Day program. In his free time, he enjoys woodworking, gardening, reading, hiking, eating copious amounts of green chile, and spending time with his wife and daughter.



Randy Taylor

Chair-Elect

Director-at-Large, Position 5

Randy Taylor is a Director in the Albuquerque office of the Rodey Law Firm. He is a member of the Products and General Liability Practice Group, practicing in a broad range of areas including personal injury, medical, legal and other professional malpractice, insurance coverage and bad faith, commercial litigation, and real property disputes.

Randy graduated *cum laude* from the UNM School of Law in 2016. While in law school, he served as the Managing Editor of the New Mexico Law Review and competed on the ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition team, which achieved a regional Best Brief Award. Following law school, Randy returned to his hometown of Las Cruces to clerk for a United States Magistrate Judge. Back in Albuquerque, Randy enjoys trying new restaurants, breweries, and cafes, card and board games, and road tripping around New Mexico.



Lauren Riley

Vice Chair

Region 5 Director

Lauren Riley practices family law at Batley Family Law, P.A. in Albuquerque, N.M. She practices in all aspects of family law including divorce, custody, child support, kinship-guardianship and divorce modification. Additionally, Lauren drafts and negotiates Prenuptial and Postnuptial Agreements.

Lauren serves as the Vice-Chair of the Young Lawyers Division and holds the position of Region 5 Director. Lauren is co-chair of the UNMSOL & Mentorship Programming Committee, FEMA/Emergency Services Committee, and Membership Outreach Committee. Lauren is Immediate Past Chair of the Wesley Kids Early Education Center Board, where her son attends.



Taylor Duffney

Director-at-Large, Position 2

Taylor Duffney recently joined the YLD Board of Directors as a Director-at-Large. She is an associate attorney at Briones Business Law Consulting P.C., practicing primarily in corporate law, employment law, and succession planning. She worked as a law clerk at Briones and joined as an associate attorney after she passed the New Mexico Bar. She obtained her B.A. from Arizona State University, and her law degree from the University of New Mexico School of Law. She co-chairs the Veterans Law Clinic presented in conjunction with the Veterans Association in Albuquerque and co-chairs the YLD Networking Committee. In her time outside of the office, she enjoys spending time with her family, trying new local restaurants and breweries, playing fantasy football with her friends, and traveling to new places.

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Laura Unklesbay

Director-at-Large, Position 3

Laura Unklesbay serves as the Director-at-Large, Position 3. This is her second year on the Young Lawyers Division board. Laura is a litigation associate at Modrall, Sperling, Roehl, Harris & Sisk, P.A. in Albuquerque, with a focus on employment matters, personal injury claims, product liability cases and debt collection. Laura obtained both her undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Arizona, moving to Albuquerque in fall 2018. She is the current chair of the Wills for Heroes Program and is a co-chair of both the Networking Committee and Membership Outreach Committee. Laura is excited to spend this year planning more events for New Mexico's young lawyers.



Chandler Farnworth

Director-at-Large, Position 4

Chandler Farnworth serves as the Director-at-Large, Position 4. This is her first year on the Young Lawyers Division Board. She serves on the Wills for Heroes Committee, and is a Co-Chair for the Judicial Clerkship Selection, Fit2Practice, and "Ask-a-Lawyer" Law Day Call-In Programs. Chandler is an Associate Attorney at Modrall, Sperling, Roehl, Harris & Sisk, P.A., and practices in the firm's Natural Resources Department. Before joining Modrall Sperling, Chandler completed a judicial clerkship with the Honorable Judge J. Miles Hanisee at the New Mexico Court of Appeals. She obtained her undergraduate degree from the University of Texas at Austin, and her law degree from Tulane University.



Jeff Dan Herrera

Region 2 Director

Jeff Dan Herrera is an Assistant Attorney General with the New Mexico Office of the Attorney General. His practice includes civil litigation on behalf of the state and its officers and agencies. He also represents the state of New Mexico in multistate antitrust investigations and litigation. Jeff received his Juris Doctor from the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law and his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Sociology from the University of New Mexico. Prior to law school, Jeff was a political campaign professional. He worked on progressive campaigns at every level of government throughout New Mexico. In his spare time, Jeff enjoys spending time with his partner, playing guitar, and doomscrolling Twitter.



Jeremy Angenend

Region 3 Director

Jeremy Angenend is an Associate Attorney with the Roswell, New Mexico office of Hinkle Shanor LLP. He is a civil litigator primarily representing commercial clients in a multitude of matters within the energy sector. Originally from Central Texas, he has lived in several countries due to his time spent in the Marine Corps and working as a security contractor with the U.S. Department of State. During his time in the military, Jeremy was a combat tracker K9 handler and a military police officer. Working together with his military dog, Fito, the pair deployed to Afghanistan in 2010 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. After being honorably discharged from the Marines, he decided to work for a few years as a private security contractor with a primary base of operations at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq. Ultimately, he grew tired of being away from his home country and decided to move back to get an education. Jeremy holds an associate degree in pre-law studies from Temple College, a bachelor's degree in political science from Texas A&M University – Central Texas, a master's degree in interdisciplinary studies with a concentration in energy from the Texas Tech Graduate School, and

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law degree from the Texas Tech University School of Law. Jeremy has become an active member of several nonprofit organizations in Roswell. He is the current President and Board Chair for MainStreet Roswell, the Director for Chaves County Heroes, and proudly serves as the Region 3 Director and Board Member for the New Mexico State Bar's Young Lawyers Division. Lastly, he is a co-chair for the Diversion, Treatment, and Services subcommittee of the New Mexico Supreme Court's Commission on Mental Health and Competency.



Andrew Cavazos
Region 4 Director

Andrew J. Cavazos is a Partner at Poulos & Coates LLP, where he primarily represents plaintiffs in complex medical malpractice litigation. He practices throughout the entire States of New Mexico and Texas. After becoming licensed, Andrew's service to the legal community quickly garnered the respect of his peers. From 2017 to present, Andrew has served the El Paso Young Lawyers Association as a Board Member, President-Elect, and its President. In 2022, Andrew was elected to serve on the Board of Directors for the Texas Young Lawyers Association, where he regularly works on state-wide initiatives aimed at progressing the legal profession. In 2023, Andrew also began proudly serving as the Region 4 Director for the New Mexico State Bar's Young Lawyers Division, where he works on similar initiatives.

Andrew has also been selected by the National Trial Lawyers as a "Top 40 under 40" civil plaintiffs attorney for the years 2019 through 2023, a Super Lawyers "Rising Star" for the years 2020 through 2023, and in 2021, was honored as the "The Most Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year" by the El Paso Young Lawyers Association.



Jessica A. Perez
Immediate Past Chair

Jessica Perez is an Assistant District Attorney in the 13th Judicial District within Sandoval County. There, she works primarily as a felony trial attorney handling a variety of cases. She manages expungement and extradition matters in the office as well. In addition to her work as a prosecutor, Jessica likes to be involved with the legal community through volunteer work. She serves on various boards, including the Young Lawyers Division and the Prosecutors Section. In 2019, she was awarded as Community Service Prosecutor of the Year by the New Mexico District Attorneys' Association and by the Prosecutors Section in 2020 for prosecutorial excellence. On the rare occasion that she's not working, Jessica enjoys reading, hiking with her dog, and she's a big fan of sleeping.