

Official Publication of the State Bar of New Mexico

DIGITAL BAR BULLETIN

July 23, 2025 • Volume 64, No. 14



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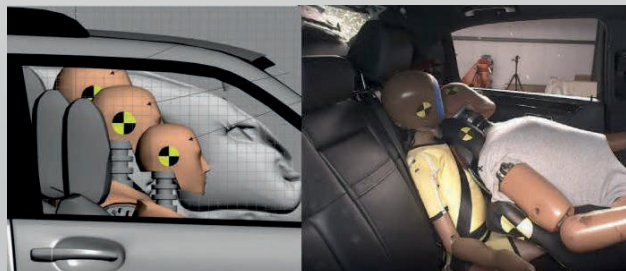
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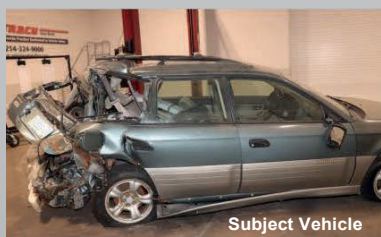


Crashworthiness

focuses on how the vehicle's safety systems performed, not who caused the accident. At my firm's Crash Lab, we continually study vehicle safety through engineering, biomechanics, physics, testing and innovation.



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For over 30 years, we have brought you all points of view on the most important issues in water rights and water quality. This year is no exception.

Hear from experts, network with colleagues, and learn about the latest developments. We look forward to seeing you in Santa Fe in September!

"Great update on ongoing water issues in the state and good exposure to future issues and important technologies."

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New Location: Isleta Resort & Casino!

Join over 100 of your colleagues from around the country at the tribal-owned Isleta Resort and Casino, and get the most important updates on critical water issues facing Native American communities today.

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*Earn up to 12 Hours of MCLE Credit
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DIGITAL BAR BULLETIN



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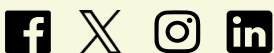
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www.sbnm.org



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2025 Annual Meeting

July 31–Aug. 2 • Sandia Resort & Casino



LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER!

Join us at the Annual Meeting
from July 31 - Aug. 2!

REGISTER TODAY:

WWW.SBNM.ORG/ANNUALMEETING2025

Please email notices desired for publication to notices@sbnm.org.

COURT NEWS

New Mexico Supreme Court Rule-Making Activity

To view recent Supreme Court rule-making activity, visit the Court's website at <https://supremecourt.nmcourts.gov>. To view all New Mexico Rules Annotated, visit New Mexico OneSource at https://nmonesource.com/nmos/en/nav_date.do.

Supreme Court Law Library

The Supreme Court Law Library is open to the legal community and public at large. The Library has an extensive legal research collection of print and online resources. The Law Library is located in the Supreme Court Building at 237 Don Gaspar in Santa Fe. Building hours: Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (MT). Library Hours: Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m. (MT). For more information call: 505-827-4850, email: libref@nmcourts.gov or visit <https://lawlibrary.nmcourts.gov>.

New Mexico Court of Appeals Judicial Nominating Commission Candidate Announcement

The New Mexico Court of Appeals Judicial Nominating Commission convened at 10 a.m. (MT) on June 16 and June 17 to interview applicants at the State Bar Center located at 5121 Masthead St. NE, Albuquerque, N.M. 87109. The judicial vacancy occurred due to the resignation of the Hon. Kristina Bogardus, effective June 7. The Nominating Commission recommends the following applicants to Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham: **Aletheia Vadin, Pamela Allen, Leander Bergen, The Hon. Bradford James Dalley, Kristopher Nicolas Houghton, Matthew Eric Jackson, Sean Patrick McAfee, Olga Serafimova** and **Nicholas Mark Sydow**.

First Judicial District Court Notice of Mass Reassignment of Cases

Effective July 9, a mass reassignment of all active cases previously assigned to Judge Jason Lidyard and Division VIII will occur pursuant to NMSC Rule 23-109, the Chief Judge Rule. The Hon. Anastasia R. Martin

Professionalism Tip

With respect to to the courts and other tribunals:

Before dates for hearings or trials are set, or immediately after dates have been set, I will verify the availability of participants and witnesses, and I will also notify the court (or other tribunal) and opposing counsel of any problems.

has been appointed to Division VIII of the First Judicial District and will maintain a General Jurisdiction docket. Parties who have not previously exercised their right to challenge or excuse will have ten (10) days from July 23 to challenge or excuse Judge Anastasia R. Martin pursuant to Rule 5-106 and Rule 1-088.1.

STATE BAR NEWS 2025 Annual Meeting Resolutions and Motions

Resolutions and motions will be heard at 1 p.m. (MT) on July 31 at the opening of the State Bar of New Mexico 2025 Annual Meeting, in-person at Sandia Resort & Casino. For consideration, resolutions or motions must be submitted in writing by July 25 to Executive Director Richard Spinello, PO Box 92860, Albuquerque, N.M. 87199 or emailed to Richard.spinello@sbnm.org.

Last Chance to Register for the State Bar of New Mexico 2025 Annual Meeting

Act fast! You won't want to miss this year's Annual Meeting at Sandia Resort & Casino from July 31 through Aug. 2, featuring keynote speaker Bryan Stevenson. There are multiple ways to attend, including both in-person and virtual options. Earn all 12 CLE credits for the year by attending all three days of the conference. Earn 5.5 CLE credits by attending Friday-only sessions either in-person or virtually at a discounted price. CLE sessions have been approved for credit in both New Mexico and Texas. View event agenda, sessions, speakers and networking opportunities at www.sbnm.org/AnnualMeeting2025.

Email Scam Targeting State Bar Associations and Legal Professionals

Attention State Bar of New Mexico licensees: There is currently an active phishing campaign that is targeting several bar associations as well as their licensees across the country. While we have not yet confirmed any direct targeting of the State Bar of New Mexico, we are proactively scanning for indicators and taking precautionary steps. Read more information about this scam by visiting <https://www.sbnm.org/News-Publications/Phone-and-Email-Scams>

New Mexico Lawyer Assistance Program Monday Night Attorney Support Group

The Monday Night Attorney Support Group meets at 5:30 p.m. (MT) on Mondays by Zoom. This group will be meeting every Monday night via Zoom. The intention of this support group is the sharing of anything you are feeling, trying to manage or struggling with. It is intended as a way to connect with colleagues and to know you are not in this alone. Join the meeting via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/attorneysupportgroup>.

New Mexico State Bar Foundation Pro Bono Opportunities

The New Mexico State Bar Foundation and its partner legal organizations gratefully welcome attorneys and paralegals to volunteer to provide pro bono service to underserved populations in New Mexico. For more information on how you can help New Mexican residents through legal service, please visit www.sbnm.org/probono.

UNM SCHOOL OF LAW Announcement of 2025 Distinguished Achievement Award and Alumni Promise Award Honorees

The UNM School of Law and the UNM School of Law Alumni/ae Association are proud to announce the 2025 Distinguished Achievement Award and Alumni Promise Award honorees. Honorees for the Distinguished Achievement Award are **Paul Biderman**, **Peter Cubra** and the **Hon. M. Monica Zamora**. The Alumni Promise Award recipient is **Lauren E. Riley**. The awards dinner will be held on Oct. 17 in the Student Union ballrooms. Registration for the awards dinner will open soon.

Invitation to Back to School Fiesta

Join the UNM School of Law for New Mexican cuisine, refreshments, and fun as we welcome our students at the UNM School of Law Back to School Fiesta! The Back to School Fiesta will take place on the back lawn of the law school on Aug. 22 from 5 to 7 p.m. (MT). To RSVP, go to <https://forms.unm.edu/forms/fiesta2025>.

Law Library Hours

The Law Library is happy to assist attorneys via chat, email or in person by appointment from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (MT) Monday through Friday. Though the Library no longer has community computers for visitors to use, if you bring your own device when you visit, you will be able to access many of our online resources. For more information, please see lawlibrary.unm.edu.





OTHER NEWS N.M. Legislative Council Service Legislative Research Library Hours

The Legislative Research Library at the Legislative Council Service is open to state agency staff, the legal community and the general public. We can assist you with locating documents related to the introduction and passage of legislation as well as reports to the legislature. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (MT), with extended hours during legislative sessions. For more information and how to contact library staff, please visit https://www.nmlegis.gov/Legislative_Library.

WRITE ARTICLES for the Bar Bulletin!

The *Bar Bulletin* isn't just a place for information; it's a hub for discourse and perspectives on timely and relevant legal topics and cases! From A.I. and technology to family law and pro bono representation, we welcome you to send in articles on a variety of issues pertaining to New Mexico's legal community and beyond!

By publishing your work in the Bar Bulletin, you will:

-  • Increase your law firm or organization's visibility
-  • Have your article read by over 8,000 State Bar of New Mexico members
-  • Get a FREE shoutout on social media for your published submissions
-  • Gain recognition by your colleagues and peers for your contributions to the State Bar of New Mexico's official publication

For information on submission guidelines and how to submit your articles, please visit www.sbnm.org/submitarticle.



We look forward to your submissions!

Featured Member Benefit



**The
Solutions
Group**

The Solutions Group partners with the New Mexico Lawyer Assistance Program to offer comprehensive, state-wide Employee Assistance Program (EAP) services to members of the New Mexico legal community and their immediate family members.

Services include up to four complimentary counseling sessions per issue per year, addressing any mental or behavioral health, addiction, relationship conflict, anxiety and/or depression issue. These sessions are conducted by licensed professional therapists. Additional no-cost services encompass management consultation, stress management education, critical incident stress debriefing, video counseling, and a 24/7 call center. Providers are available statewide.

**•To access this service call
505-254-3555 and identify with
NMLAP. All calls are confidential.**



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

Greetings Peers & Fellow Advocates,

As we pass the mid-point of 2025 and are well into summer, it is important to take a moment to reflect on the year's accomplishments and achievements so far. It has been an honor to serve as this year's President of the New Mexico State Bar Foundation ("Bar Foundation"), and I can confidently tell you we have made significant progress in our mission to serve the public and the legal profession in New Mexico through the Bar Foundation's existing programs and resources to its newest upcoming events and initiatives.

In just over a week, the State Bar of New Mexico's 2025 Annual Meeting will be held at the majestic Sandia Resort & Casino, located in Albuquerque, N.M. One of the state's best resorts, the Sandia Resort & Casino is the perfect venue for the conference as it is distinctly New Mexican and represents the state's unique and rich culture. As in previous years, the Bar Foundation is proud to be hosting a fun event during the Annual Meeting. This year, we're excited to bring back Glitz in a Glass at this year's Annual Meeting during the President's Reception on Friday, August 1.

Each ticket purchased enters you into a drawing for a stunning 3-carat diamond, valued at \$5,000, and other fabulous prizes—and includes a glass of champagne and a complimentary gift. You can purchase a single ticket at \$125 each or two for \$200 online at <https://form.jotform.com/sbnm/2025Glitz>, or you can enter the Glitz in a Glass event in person during the 2025 Annual Meeting at the Bar Foundation table. You do not need to be present to win. Thank you for supporting this special fundraiser—your participation directly benefits the vital work of the New Mexico State Bar Foundation.

The Bar Foundation will also be previewing the New Mexico State Bar Foundation 2025 Golf Classic at this year's Annual Meeting. After our community's impactful support of the 2024 Golf Classic, I am thrilled that the Bar Foundation is following that up with the 2025 Golf Classic, which will be held at the award-winning Sandia Golf Club. This event is a fantastic opportunity for legal professionals to engage in some fun competition for a noble cause. Please visit the New Mexico State Bar Foundation booth at the 2025 Annual Meeting to learn more or register to play at <https://form.jotform.com/sbnm/2025GolfClassic>.

These events, and other developing initiatives, are critical to the work of the Bar Foundation and its programs and resources. Not only do they curate a sense of community and belonging, they are designed with the purpose of continually serving the public in New Mexico and supporting our diverse legal professionals. Through the legal community's support of the Bar Foundation, we have been and are able to grow and expand our existing services as well as create new ones.

As I look forward to the rest of 2025 and beyond, I remain hopeful and determined, and I see additional opportunities for us to evolve as an organization. Earlier this month, State Bar President Aja Brooks and I traveled to her hometown of Hobbs to engage with the Lea County Bar Association and share information about the Foundation's programs and resources. We intend to make at least one more stop on our educational roadshow before our respective terms are up.

My colleagues on the Bar Foundation Board, along with State Bar of New Mexico leadership, remain stalwart and united in our endeavors to give back to both the legal community and the people of New Mexico, through everything from continuing legal education to legal assistance.

Sincerely,

Stefanie K. Davis
President, New Mexico State Bar Foundation

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

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STATE BAR OF NEW MEXICO 2025 Annual Meeting

July 31 – August 2
Sandia Resort & Casino
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Together
Towards
JUSTICE

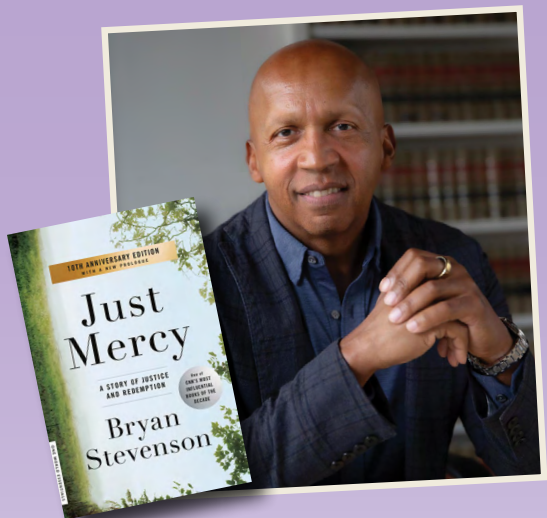
Registration is NOW OPEN!

Choose the option that works best for your schedule:

All 3 Days
In-Person: \$650
(12 CLE Credits)

Friday Sessions Only
In-Person: \$475
Virtual: \$275
(5.5 CLE Credits)

★ **CLE sessions are approved for credit in both New Mexico and Texas!** ★



Featuring Keynote Speaker
Bryan Stevenson!

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 and author of the New York Times bestseller, *Just Mercy*.

www.sbnm.org/AnnualMeeting2025



State Bar of
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Daily Conference Highlights

View the full agenda at

www.sbnm.org/AnnualMeeting2025Agenda

Thursday, July 31

- Welcome
State Bar of New Mexico President Aja N. Brooks
- Justice by Design: Artificial Intelligence, Law and the Future of Us
Professor Sonia M. Gipson Rankin, UNM School of Law
- Breakout Sessions
- The Commander in Chief at High-Tide, Wherever that Line May Be
Professor Joshua Kastenberg, UNM School of Law
- Welcome Reception
- Annual Awards Ceremony
- Movie Night – *Just Mercy*

Friday, August 1

- Keynote Address
Bryan Stevenson, Executive Director, Equal Justice Initiative
- New Mexico Supreme Court Judicial Panel
- Breakout Session options for in-person attendees
- Breakout Session for virtual attendees - A System-Wide Approach: Behavioral Health, the Courts and Legal Practice Implications
Justice Briana H. Zamora, New Mexico Supreme Court
- Law, Justice, and the Holocaust: How the Courts Failed Germany
US Holocaust Memorial Museum educators Kendal Jones and Sarah Reza, and N.M. attorney Roberta Cooper Ramo
- President's Reception
- Hospitality Lounge
- Trivia Contest with the Young Lawyers Division

Saturday, August 2

- Breakout Sessions
- Navigating the New Frontier: Ethical Uses of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Legal Practice
Professor Sonia M. Gipson Rankin, UNM School of Law and William D. Sleese, State Bar of New Mexico
- Closing Remarks
State Bar of New Mexico President Aja N. Brooks



Book Your Hotel Room

At the luxurious Sandia Resort & Casino!
Annual Meeting attendees receive special amenity discounts!

Visit <https://www.sandiacasino.com/> to book your room today, or call 877-272-9199 or 505-798-3930 and mention that you will be attending the State Bar of New Mexico Annual Meeting.

Exclusive
Amenity
Discounts!



10% Off
at the relaxing
Green Reed Spa



15% Off
a round of golf at
the award-winning
Sandia Golf Club

Thank You To Our Sponsors!

The Annual Meeting would not be a success without the generous support from our sponsors. View the 2025 Annual Meeting sponsors at:



www.sbnm.org/2025AnnualMeetingSponsors

www.sbnm.org/AnnualMeeting2025



State Bar of
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Congratulations to the 2025 Annual Award Recipients

The State Bar of New Mexico is pleased to announce the 2025 Annual Awards recipients. The Annual Awards recognize those who have distinguished themselves or who have made exemplary contributions to the State Bar or legal profession in the past year. The awards will be presented during the **State Bar of New Mexico 2025 Annual Meeting at Sandia Resort & Casino on Thursday, July 31, at 6 p.m. (MT).**

For a schedule of events for the Annual Meeting and registration information, please visit

www.sbnm.org/CLE-Events/Annual-Meeting-2025

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.

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 synergic 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.

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.

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.

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.

NM 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.

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.

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.

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.

For more information visit: www.sbnm.org/AnnualAwards



**State Bar of
New Mexico**

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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 nmsbfdevelopment@sbnm.org or Joey Gutierrez at 505-797-6057.



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 with any questions regarding the Golf Classic.



Visit www.sbnm.org/barfoundation for more information
about the New Mexico State Bar Foundation and its programs.



**New Mexico
State Bar Foundation**

The Supreme Court of New Mexico Announces Out-of-Cycle Rulemaking

In accordance with Rule 23-106.2 NMRA, the Supreme Court has adopted a new local rule out-of-cycle. What follows is a summary of the new rule that the Court adopted on July 9, 2025. The new rule will take effect on January 1, 2026. The full text of the new rule in markup format and the related order are available on the Court's website at <https://supremecourt.nmcourts.gov/rules-forms-files/approved-amendments-to-rules-and-forms/2025-approved-amendments-to-rules-and-forms/>. The new rule will also be available on NMOneSource.com by its effective date.

First Judicial District Court

Case Management Program in the First Judicial District Court – New Rule LR1-307 NMRA

On recommendation of the First Judicial District Court, the Supreme Court has adopted a new local rule that sets forth a case management pilot program for criminal cases in the First Judicial District. The case management pilot program is intended to establish clear and uniform deadlines for the disposition of criminal cases within the district.

THE NEW RULE SUMMARIZED ABOVE
CAN BE VIEWED IN ITS ENTIRETY AT THE
NEW MEXICO SUPREME COURT WEBSITE

<https://supremecourt.nmcourts.gov/rules-forms-files/approved-amendments-to-rules-and-forms/2025-approved-amendments-to-rules-and-forms/>



Opportunities for Pro Bono Service CALENDAR

August

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>8 Free Monthly Telephonic Legal Clinic
Telephone
Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court
To register, call 505-841-9817
Location: Virtual</p> | <p>19 San Juan County Teleclinic
In-Person
San Juan County
To register, call 505-326-2256 at 1 p.m. (MT) on the day of the clinic. An attorney will call back between 2:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. that same day.
Location: San Juan County</p> | <p>20 Wednesday Workshop
Walk-In
New Mexico Immigrant Law Center
Location: El Centro de Igualdad y Derechos</p> |
| <p>28 Statewide Civil Only Teleclinic
Telephonic
New Mexico Legal Aid
bit.ly/NMLALegalFairSignUp</p> | | |

If you would like to volunteer for pro bono service at one of the above events, please contact the hosting agency.



Resources for the Public CALENDAR

August

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>6 Divorce Options Workshop
Virtual
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Location: San Juan County</p> |
| <p>20 Wednesday Workshop
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New Mexico Immigrant Law Center
Location: El Centro de Igualdad y Derechos</p> | <p>27 Consumer Debt/Bankruptcy Workshop
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State Bar of New Mexico
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Listings in the *Bar Bulletin* Pro Bono & Volunteer Opportunities Calendar are gathered from civil legal service organization submissions and from information pertaining to the New Mexico State Bar Foundation's upcoming events. All pro bono and volunteer opportunities conducted by civil legal service organizations can be listed free of charge. Send submissions to probono@sbnm.org. Include the opportunity's title, location/format, date, provider and registration instructions. Please note: Recruitment for legal fairs and teleclinics held by the Volunteer Attorney Program of New Mexico Legal Aid typically begins four weeks prior to the date of the event. You will receive recruitment emails from both the State Bar of New Mexico and the Statewide Pro Bono Coordinator for legal fairs and teleclinics. Please use the links contained in those emails to volunteer.

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State Bar of
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An Inclusive Interview



with Leon Howard, Esq.



The mission of the State Bar of New Mexico's Equity in Justice Program is to cultivate and grow a legal profession in New Mexico that is representative of and reflective of the people of New Mexico. As part of that mission, we bring you the series "Inclusive Interviews." We call these *inclusive* interviews both as a play on words and as a contrast to the term "Exclusive Interview."

Because legal employers with inclusive hiring and employment practices have a bigger talent pool from which to hire and access to a larger client base, these interviews serve to amplify that growing and cultivating inclusivity in our profession is beneficial to all legal employers, be they private firms, government entities or nonprofits.

This *Inclusive Interview* is with Leon Howard, Esq. Leon has been a practicing attorney for 16 years and is the Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico.

Q: What is your background?

A: I was raised in Albuquerque's International District. My initial exposure to the legal field came as a teenager when my high school basketball coach's wife helped me secure a job as a runner at a law firm, Freedman Boyd Daniels Hollander Goldberg & Cline (at the time).

Q: What made you want to become a lawyer?

A: While I had incredible mentors at Freedman Boyd, I noticed a lack of representation—few, if any, looked like me. This realization became even more pronounced during visits to Metro Court, where I saw many individuals from my neighborhood facing legal challenges without adequate representation. These experiences solidified my commitment to pursuing a career in law.

Q: What has been your greatest accomplishment in your legal career or of what in your legal career are you the most proud?

A: Perhaps recency bias, but one of the most impactful cases I've worked on is *Johnson v. The Board of Education for Albuquerque Public Schools*. This lawsuit addressed discrimination against Native American students and led to a significant shift in New Mexico law, recognizing public schools as public accommodations under the Human Rights Act. The case challenged the longstanding precedent that public schools weren't considered public accommodations under the New Mexico Human Rights Act. In January 2025, the New Mexico Supreme Court overturned this precedent, marking a significant shift in protecting students from discrimination.

Q: What has been the biggest challenge you have had in your legal career?

A: The current moment feels like the biggest challenge I've faced in my legal career.

From a personal standpoint, I've spent much of my career working to diversify the legal field, not just who enters, but who thrives and leads. Seeing those efforts under attack is disheartening. As lawyers, we swore to uphold the Constitution and equal protection, yet it's become politically convenient to oppose the very principles that make our profession worthy of trust.



From an organizational standpoint, the work hasn't gotten any lighter. We're in a moment where the volume and intensity of threats feel unrelenting. I never thought I'd say the words, "I'm helping our team file a TRO to prevent the transport of our clients to Guantánamo," and yet that's where I was, reviewing a brief on this issue during the Super Bowl earlier this year. We've watched international students in New Mexico stripped of their visas without process or notice. But even in all of this, I feel lucky to be in the fight and I hope I'm doing my part to help our organization rise to meet the moment.

Q: What is your favorite part of your current position?

A: Leading the ACLU of New Mexico means I get to be part of defining what fairness look like for communities that have too often been left out or left behind.

Also, I get to work alongside a brilliant, dedicated team that shows up every day with a deep sense of purpose. I've also been incredibly fortunate to have mentors and colleagues who have had my back throughout my career, people I can call at any hour and who never hesitate to offer wisdom, encouragement or just a reality check. That kind of support isn't common, and I don't take it for granted.

And I'd be remiss not to shout out our Legal Director, Maria Martinez Sanchez who has worked for our organization for over 10 years and has become one of my best friends. She brings such clarity, conviction and courage to her leadership of our legal department. Working with Maria is both grounding and energizing, she's someone who pushes the work forward while staying rooted in why we do it.

Q: What is your advice for new lawyers who are from diverse backgrounds? What do you wish someone had told you when you were starting your legal career?

A: Embrace your unique perspective, it's a strength, not a liability. Your background and experiences enrich your approach to the law. And find mentors who keep it real with you, who'll be honest when you need it, but also push you to keep growing. You never know which piece of advice will be the one that sticks and helps you level up. For me, it came early in my career when I was a new staff attorney, still pretty self-conscious about my legal writing. Then-Legal Director Laura Schauer Ives once absolutely tore apart a brief I'd written. But after pointing out all the things that needed work, she looked at me and said, "You write with passion, never lose that. Everything else we can work on." That one line gave me the confidence I needed to keep improving, and I've carried it with me ever since.

Q: If you got to choose a song that would play every time you entered a room, what song would you pick, and why?

A: "Hate It or Love It" by The Game and 50 Cent. I've always said it would be my walkout song if I played baseball. They're not my favorite rappers, but that track hits—it's gritty, determined and quietly confident. I played it on repeat while studying for the bar exam. It helped block out doubt and reminded me that no matter where you come from, you can still show up and make your mark..

Q: What is something the legal profession in New Mexico can do to be more inclusive?

A: The profession must break down barriers for underrepresented groups by rethinking success metrics, building real mentorship and ensuring leadership reflects our communities. Inclusion should be systemic, not symbolic. We also need to reach those who might self-select out—people with records, immigrants, survivors, community college grads. Their perspectives add depth and drive change. If we keep looking in the same places, we'll keep getting the same answers. Real solutions come from getting closer to the ground.

Interested in being the subject of an Inclusive Interview?

Contact SBNM Equity in Justice Attorney Abby Lewis at abby.lewis@sbnm.org.



FORMAL OPINION

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Filing Date: 6/25/2025

No. A-1-CA-41123

RICARDO SANCHEZ,
Worker-Appellant,
v.
**U-HAUL COMPANY OF NEW
MEXICO and NEW HAMPSHIRE
INSURANCE COMPANY,**
Employer/Insurer-Appellees.

**APPEAL FROM THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION
ADMINISTRATION**

Anthony Couture, Workers' Compensation Judge

Dorato & Weems, LLC
Derek Weems
Albuquerque, NM

for Appellant

Hoffman Kelley Lopez LLP
Jeffrey Federspiel
Albuquerque, NM

for Appellees

► Introduction of Opinion

Ricardo Sanchez (Worker) appeals the Workers' Compensation Judge's (WCJ) order granting Worker's application for bad faith and unfair claim processing under NMSA 1978, Section 52-1-28.1(B) (1990) of the Workers' Compensation Act (WCA). The WCJ awarded two benefit penalties to Worker, one for bad faith and one for unfair claim processing. Worker argues that the WCJ erred in (1) assessing only two benefit penalties, (2) failing to consider violations of common law and statutory duties as a basis for additional bad faith or unfair claim processing penalties under Section 52-1-28.1(B), and (3) calculating the amount of the benefit penalties. We disagree with Worker on the first and second issues but agree with Worker on the third issue, and we therefore affirm in part and reverse in part.

Megan P. Duffy, Judge
WE CONCUR:
Jennifer L. Attrep, Judge
Zachary A. Ives, Judge

To read the entire opinion, please visit the following link: <https://bit.ly/A-1-CA-41123>

FORMAL OPINION

Electronic decisions may contain computer-generated errors or other deviations from the official version filed by the Court of Appeals.

Filing Date: 7/8/2025

No. A-1-CA-41014

**PETER B. KOMIS and DORINDA
HOPPER-KOMIS,**

Plaintiffs-Appellants,
v.

FARMERS INSURANCE COMPANY,
Defendant-Appellee.

**APPEAL FROM THE DISTRICT COURT
OF SANTA FE COUNTY**

Bryan Biedscheid, District Court Judge

Jones, Snead, Wertheim & Clifford, P.A.
Jerry Todd Wertheim
Carol A. Clifford
Santa Fe, NM

for Appellant Peter B. Komis

Sanders & Westbrook, P.C.
Maureen A. Sanders
Albuquerque, NM

for Appellant Dorinda Hopper-Komis

Cuddy & McCarthy, LLP
Scott P. Hatcher
Santa Fe, NM

for Appellee

► Introduction of Opinion

Thirty years ago, our Supreme Court made clear that an uninsured/underinsured motorist (UM/UIM) policy may provide coverage for intentional torts committed by the occupants of an uninsured vehicle when the “intentional conduct and its resulting harm arises out of the use of [the] uninsured vehicle.” *Britt v. Phoenix Indem. Ins. Co.*, 1995-NMSC-075, ¶¶ 15-16, 120 N.M. 813, 907 P.2d 994. In this case of horrific violence committed by occupants of an uninsured vehicle against Peter B. Komis, the district court made detailed, unchallenged factual findings that compel our conclusion, as a matter of law, that Komis’s injuries did arise out of the use of the uninsured vehicle. The district court’s contrary legal conclusion runs afoul of the teachings of our Supreme Court in *Britt* and *Britt*’s progeny. We therefore reverse the district court and hold that Komis’s injuries are covered by his UM/UIM policy.

RICHARD C. BOSSON, Justice,
Retired, Sitting by Designation
WE CONCUR:
Jacqueline R. Medina, Chief Judge
Jane B. Yohalem, Judge

To read the entire opinion, please visit
the following link: <https://bit.ly/A-1-CA-41014>

MEMORANDUM OPINION

This decision of the New Mexico Court of Appeals was not selected for publication in the New Mexico Appellate Reports. Refer to Rule 12-405 NMRA for restrictions on the citation of unpublished decisions. Electronic decisions may contain computer-generated errors or other deviations from the official version filed by the Court of Appeals.

No. A-1-CA-41546
State of New Mexico
v.
Erik Clark Reyes Siegel

Introduction of Opinion

A jury convicted Defendant of one count each of possession and distribution of child sexual exploitation materials, contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 30-6A-3(A), (C) (2016). Defendant appeals and argues that (1) the images at issue did not establish that he possessed or distributed “obscene visual . . . medium depicting any prohibited sexual act” as required by Section 30-6A-(3)(A) and (C); and (2) the convictions arise from the same images and conduct and therefore violated double jeopardy protections. We reject these arguments and affirm.

Katherine A. Wray, Judge
WE CONCUR:
Jennifer L. Attrep, Judge
Gerald E. Baca, Judge

To read the entire opinion,
please visit:
<https://bit.ly/A-1-CA-41546>

No. A-1-CA-41611
State of New Mexico
v.
Zhuxuan Dong

Introduction of Opinion

After a bench trial, Defendant Zhuxuan Dong was convicted in metropolitan court of driving while intoxicated (DWI), contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 66-8-102(A) (2016). Defendant contends that the State did not present sufficient evidence to establish that he operated a vehicle in the early morning hours of February 2, 2023, and therefore, the corpus delicti of the offense was not established by his admission alone. New Mexico’s corpus delicti rule—the “modified trustworthiness rule”—provides that a defendant cannot be convicted of a crime based solely on their confession; there must be some independent evidence of a criminal act. **View full PDF online.**

Jane B. Yohalem, Judge
WE CONCUR:
J. Miles Hanisee, Judge
Jennifer L. Attrep, Judge

To read the entire opinion,
please visit:
<https://bit.ly/A-1-CA-41611>

No. A-1-CA-40437
State of New Mexico
v.
Elijah Saldivar

Introduction of Opinion

Defendant Elijah Sandoval appeals his conviction for one count of criminal sexual penetration (CSP) in the second degree (resulting in personal injury), contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 30-9-11(E)(3) (2009). On appeal, Defendant argues that the district court erred in permitting a sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE) to testify that the absence of certain observable injuries to Victim was consistent with the sexual assault. For the following reasons, we affirm.

Shammara H. Henderson, Judge
WE CONCUR:
Jennifer L. Attrep, Judge
Gerald E. Baca, Judge

To read the entire opinion,
please visit:
<https://bit.ly/A-1-CA-40437>

MEMORANDUM OPINION

This decision of the New Mexico Court of Appeals was not selected for publication in the New Mexico Appellate Reports. Refer to Rule 12-405 NMRA for restrictions on the citation of unpublished decisions. Electronic decisions may contain computer-generated errors or other deviations from the official version filed by the Court of Appeals.

No. A-1-CA-41605
State of New Mexico
v.
Ivan Gamboa-Soto

Introduction of Opinion

The State appeals the district court's order dismissing voyeurism charges against Defendant Ivan Gamboa-Soto with prejudice after the court found Defendant incompetent to stand trial, but not dangerous. We conclude that dismissal under NMSA 1978, Section 31-9-1.2(A) (1999, amended 2025) is only permitted without prejudice. Accordingly, we reverse and remand for entry of judgment dismissing the case without prejudice.

Shammara H. Henderson, Judge
WE CONCUR:
J. Miles Hanisee, Judge
Jane B. Yohalem, Judge

To read the entire opinion,
please visit:
<https://bit.ly/A-1-CA-41605>

No. A-1-CA-42284
Jennifer Regan
v.
Jarrold Lowrey

Introduction of Opinion

Respondent Jarrold Lowrey appeals the district court's decision granting the petition for a protective order filed by Petitioner Jennifer Regan on behalf of her minor daughter (Child), under the Family Violence Protection Act (FVPA), NMSA 1978, §§ 40-13-1 to -13 (1987, as amended through 2019). Not persuaded by Respondent's arguments, we affirm.

Jane B. Yohalem, Judge
WE CONCUR:
Zachary A. Ives, Judge
Katherine A. Wray, Judge

To read the entire opinion,
please visit:
<https://bit.ly/A-1-CA-42284>

No. A-1-CA-42057
Rachel Lay
v.
CC Jones Trucking

Introduction of Opinion

Rachel Lay (Worker) appeals the amended order entered by the Workers' Compensation Judge (WCJ) awarding Worker benefit penalties in the amount of \$3,923.97 for CC Jones Trucking and AR Trucking Association's (collectively, Employer/Insurer) unfair claim processing. Finding no error, we affirm.

Megan P. Duffy, Judge
WE CONCUR:
Jennifer L. Attrep, Judge
Zachary A. Ives, Judge

To read the entire opinion,
please visit:
<https://bit.ly/A-1-CA-42057>

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Busy Plaintiff's civil litigation firm located near the Journal Center is accepting resumes for an associate attorney with 5 (or more) years of practical experience. Candidates should possess strong oration skills, be proficient in conducting and defending depositions, have critical research and writing abilities and be familiar with motion practice. Practice areas include civil litigation/personal injury and general tort issues. Litigation experience preferred, but will not bar consideration. Salary commensurate with experience. Please forward a letter of interest along with a Resume and writing sample to: paralegal3.bleuslaw@gmail.com.

Job Announcement Staff Attorney (State Licensed)

LOCATION: Farmington, NM; DNA - People's Legal Services ("DNA") is committed to providing high quality legal services to persons living in poverty on the Navajo, Hopi and Jicarilla Apache Reservations, and in parts of Northern Arizona, New Mexico, and Southern Utah. DNA's main office, as well as DNA's Fort Defiance branch office, are located in Window Rock, Arizona. DNA also has branch offices in Chinle, Arizona, Tuba City, Arizona, Flagstaff, Arizona, on the Hopi BIA judicial compound near Keams Canyon, Arizona, and Farmington, New Mexico. DNA legal staff practice in tribal, state, federal, and administrative courts. REQUIREMENTS: Attorneys must be a graduate of an accredited law school and a member of the Arizona, New Mexico, or Utah bar association, or if licensed in another jurisdiction, able to gain admission by motion or reciprocity. Must have strong oral and written communication skills; the ability to travel and work throughout the DNA service area; competence in working with diverse individuals and communities, especially with Native Americans, persons of color, other marginalized communities; and a commitment to providing legal services to the poor. RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE: a). Reporting to Managing Attorney and Director of Litigation; b). Providing the full range of high-quality legal services to DNA clients; c). Being familiar with and following all DNA and funder policies, and all applicable state, federal, tribal and local laws; d). Participating in community outreach, training programs, and client education events; e). Participating in remote, local, or online intake; f). Performing other duties as assigned. SALARY RANGE (depending on experience): \$57,600 - \$76,500. WHAT TO SUBMIT: Employment Application (found at <https://dnalegalservices.org/career-opportunities-2/>), Resume, Cover Letter, and, upon request, Transcripts (if applicants graduated within the last two years) and Writing Sample (Attorney applicants only). HOW TO APPLY: Email: HResources@dnalegalservices.org | Direct: 928.871.4151 ext. 5640 Cell: 928.245.4575 Fax: 928.871.5036 (Faxed documents accepted). Preference is given to qualified Navajo and other Native American applicants. DNA requires all applicants to be eligible to work within the United States. DNA will not sponsor visas unless otherwise noted on the position description.

Job Announcement New Mexico Senior Attorney

DNA-People's Legal Services, a non-profit civil legal aid law firm, is seeking to hire an individual for our open New Mexico Senior Attorney position located in our Farmington, New Mexico Office. REQUIREMENTS: Senior Attorney must be a graduate of an accredited law school and a member of the New Mexico bar, or if licensed in another jurisdiction, able to gain admission to the New Mexico Bar within one year by motion or reciprocity. Admission to the Arizona or Utah bar is a plus, as is admission to the Navajo, Hopi, or Jicarilla Tribal Court bar. Must have at least five (5) years of experience as an attorney in a legal aid organization or similar non-profit law firm with strong litigation skills; strong oral and written communication skills; the ability to travel and work throughout the DNA service area; competence in working with diverse individuals and communities, especially with Native Americans, persons of color, and other marginalized communities; a commitment to providing legal services to the poor; the ability to identify and successfully pursue strategic, systemic, and affirmative advocacy; good judgment, the ability to handle stress, take initiative, and have a willingness to work as a team; and the ability to manage and supervise others, including the ability to mentor other staff and law students. Senior Attorneys are supervised by the Director of Litigation and the Executive Director. SALARY RANGE (depending on experience): \$87,000 - \$97,500. BENEFITS: The position we are offering comes with benefits, including paid federal and Navajo Nation holidays, 10 sick days per year, two weeks paid vacation per year (which increases over time), low-cost health insurance for you and your dependents, no-cost dental insurance for you, and a fully paid \$60,000 life insurance policy. You may also opt to join our 401(k) plan. For our attorneys, we also pay for continuing legal education courses and Bar dues, and offer a generous reimbursable educational loan forgiveness program. DNA is a qualified employer under the Federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program. For more information, please call Human Resources at 928.245.4575 or 928.871.4151 ext. 5640, email your resume and cover letter to HResources@dnalegalservices.org or you may obtain additional details and copies of the job

description and employment application on the Join the DNA Legal Team webpage at <https://dnalegalservices.org>. Preference is given to qualified Navajo and other Native American applicants.

Albuquerque Civil Litigation Attorneys

Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani (GRSM) has immediate openings in our Albuquerque office for civil litigation attorneys with at least three years' experience and welcome all experience levels to apply. Our practice groups have several openings for defense litigators with a variety of practice area experience, including specializations in: Employment, Complex Commercial, Construction, Healthcare, Professional Liability, Insurance Coverage and Bad Faith, Construction, Environmental, Toxic Tort, Product Liability, and General Liability. Candidates must be driven team players with excellent litigation, writing and persuasive speaking skills, possess strong academic backgrounds and proven skills in research, and must be a self-starter who is able to handle assignments with minimal supervision. Trial experience is preferred but not required. Candidates must be licensed and admitted to practice in the State of New Mexico. GRSM is a full-service Am Law 100 firm with robust national and local practices and is the first and only law firm with attorneys and offices in all 50 states! We have garnered national recognition for our demonstrated commitment to the recruitment, retention and advancement of qualified female and diverse attorneys. Our attorneys have access to professional development and mentorship to promote advancement in a collaborative and collegial environment. Opportunities include forward-facing client interactions and experience handling appearances at hearings, depositions, and trials. We offer great stability, have an industry-leading low overhead platform, and maintain no debt whatsoever. We offer competitive compensation and a full benefits package including eligibility for subjective and objective bonuses and student debt repayment assistance. For consideration, please submit a Cover Letter, Resume, and Writing Sample to: ntanner@grsm.com with "Albuquerque Civil Litigation Attorney" in the subject line. Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani is an equal opportunity employer. No recruiter emails or telephone calls.

Casualty Claims Consultant

Who We Are: With Farm Bureau Financial Services, our client/members can feel confident knowing their family, home, cars and other property are protected. We value a culture where integrity, teamwork, passion, service, leadership and accountability are at the heart of every decision we make and every action we take. We're proud of our more than 80-year commitment to protecting the livelihoods and futures of our client/members and creating an atmosphere where our employees thrive. **What You'll Do:** As a Casualty Claims Consultant you will manage claims in litigation. You will also: Assign litigated files to panel counsel and work with panel counsel to oversee litigation strategy, including any discovery, motion, and trial strategies; Contribute to the financial success of Farm Bureau Financial Services by determining when cases should be settled, tried, or submitted to Alternative Dispute Resolution; Attend mediations and/or trials on behalf of Farm Bureau Financial Services with State Business Unit claims staff members when requested or when necessary; Ensure case reserves are adequate; Work in conjunction with Business Units partners to ensure that required reinsurance reports/billings are completed and filed on a timely basis when necessary; Maintain records on legal counsel and litigated cases and provide reports as requested; Serve as a resource to all claims personnel on legal issues and casualty policy interpretation. Conduct file reviews. **What It Takes to Lead Our Team:** College degree or equivalent plus seven years of relevant experience required; Current license to practice law in New Mexico, and continue to maintain license status required; Litigation Supervisor or related experience preferred; Must keep current with existing and pending claims precedents and legislation; Must be able to fully appraise all damage aspects and have strong knowledge of tort law. **What We Offer You:** When you're on our team, you get more than a great paycheck. You'll hear about career development and educational opportunities. We offer an enhanced 401K with a match, low-cost health, dental, and vision benefits, and life and disability insurance options. We

also offer paid time off, including holidays and volunteer time, and teams who know how to have fun. Farm Bureau.... where the grass really IS greener! If you're interested in joining a company that appreciates employees, provides growth and professional development opportunities, as well as offers great benefits, we invite you to apply today! <https://fbfs.csod.com/ux/ats/careersite/1/home/requisition/6048?c=fbfs> Work Authorization/Sponsorship: Applicants must be currently authorized to work in the United States on a full-time basis. We are not able to sponsor now or in the future, or take over sponsorship of, an employment visa or work authorization for this role. For example, we are not able to sponsor OPT status.

Attorneys

The Santa Fe and Albuquerque offices of Hartline Barger LLP, are seeking attorneys with 4+ years of experience to join their growing team. Hartline Barger, a nationally recognized trial law firm specializing in general civil litigation, built its reputation on product liability defense but has expanded to numerous practice areas. Given Hartline Barger's exceptional trial record over the last thirty years, Hartline is also a go-to firm for excess and monitoring counsel. We believe that associates develop best when given direct experience, including in depositions, hearings, briefing, and trial. Requirements: Strong academic and litigation background; Exceptional writing and advocacy skills; Independently manage a caseload – from beginning to end; Work closely with other attorneys and Partners on multitude of legal projects; Regularly handle court appearances and depositions; Take the lead with client communication and provide meaningful updates. We offer a competitive salary and collaborative firm culture with exceptional benefits. We also offer hybrid and in-office working options. **How To Apply:** If you're ready to work with some of the best trial attorneys in the country, take on a diverse docket of high-profile cases, and immerse yourself in a corporate culture that upholds the highest standards of professionalism, contact us and submit your resume to careers@hartlinebarger.com.

Personal Injury Attorney

ISO Personal Injury attorney who cares. Rios Law Firm is looking for a NM licensed attorney who wants to work in a personal injury law firm where the client matters. Full time and part time applicants will be considered. The ideal attorney will be a detail-oriented, positive, team player who takes pride in their work. The right candidate will care about people and be motivated to work hard on their clients' behalf. Qualifications include: Strategic thinking, strong work ethic, analytical research and writing skills, and the ability to handle litigation in a collaborative work environment. Fluency in Spanish is preferred but not required. Responsibilities: Developing, strategizing, negotiating and litigating personal injury cases to make a difference for each client regardless of the case size. Working with experienced attorneys and a dedicated legal team on case development and all aspects of litigation. Benefits include: 401k, health, dental, vision insurance, paid time off, paid holidays, and mentorship. Salary DOE. Please send letter of interest and resume to staff@lrioslaw.com. All inquiries are kept strictly confidential.

Internal Legal Counsel

New Mexico Tech seeks the following positions: Internal Legal Counsel. For full description of position visit <https://nmt.edu/hr/Internal%20Legal%20Counsel%200609825.pdf>. Please contact Jessica Dennis, Human Resources Coordinator Brown Hall Room 118, (575)-835-5370



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Attorneys Professional and Products/General Liability Litigation Groups

Rodey, Dickason, Sloan, Akin & Robb, P.A.'s Albuquerque office is currently seeking attorneys to practice in its Professional and Products/General Liability Litigation Groups. Opportunities are available for lateral associates and experienced attorneys. The candidate would participate in all aspects of case handling and would gain experience in taking depositions, preparing witnesses for depositions and defending depositions (including expert witnesses), brief and reporting writing, answering written discovery, and participating in direct contact with clients. The candidate would have the opportunity to work closely with some of the most talented defense lawyers in the state. Qualifications: Ideal candidate should have strong academic credentials and writing skills and be licensed in New Mexico. Rodey offers a competitive salary and bonus structure, comprehensive benefits package, including health, dental and vision; professional development and multi-faceted mentoring program; FSA and HSA plan option(s); 401K plan/ employer match; group life and long-term disability insurance; employee assistance program; wireless phone/services stipend. To apply, please send a cover letter, resume, writing sample, and law school transcript attention "Ali Taylor, Human Resources Director" at: jobs@rodey.com with "Litigation Attorney" in the subject line. All inquiries will be kept confidential. Rodey is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Rodey Law Firm is not accepting unsolicited resumes from search firms for this position.

Manager, Staff Counsel

GEICO is seeking a Manager, Staff Counsel who under general supervision, MANAGES all Staff Counsel office activities relating to the defense of lawsuits against GEICO insureds in liability suits, and on behalf of GEICO in subrogation, Uninsured Motorist (UM) and Underinsured Motorist (UIM), and PIP suits or arbitrations, filed in courts of limited and unlimited jurisdiction. Apply online here: https://geico.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/External/job/Albuquerque-NM/Manager--Staff-Counsel---Albuquerque-NM_R0058465. Essential Functions: MANAGES subordinates in all activities relating to the defense of lawsuits and against GEICO insureds in liability cases, and on behalf of GEICO in UM/UIM, PIP and Subrogation suits; INTERVIEWS and/or APPROVES job applicants for employment. CONDUCTS and/or REVIEWS associate Performance Appraisals. INITIATES or APPROVES salary adjustments, performance ratings, and other personnel changes. COUNSELS associates and TAKES disciplinary action or TERMINATES the employment of associates as appropriate. REPRESENTS GEICO insureds in liability cases, UM/UIM, and PIP suits filed in courts of limited and unlimited jurisdiction; RESEARCHES laws and PREPARES legal briefs, opinions, and memoranda. RENDERS opinions on liability, damages, and value as requested by the Claims Department. PREPARES and HANDLES pleadings, motions, and discovery, to include depositions/examinations before trial and examinations under oath. DEFENDS all assigned matters by trial, arbitration, or mediation, as applicable. MEETS deadlines to respond to pleadings, and correspondence; appears timely in court, arbitrations, depositions, meetings and other scheduled matters; TRAINS and SUPERVISES less experienced attorneys, including assisting attorneys as first and second chair counsel, and/or observing attorneys at trials and arbitrations; MONITORS all applicable bar requirements including mandatory Continuing Legal Education ("CLE") requirements; PROVIDES feedback on quality of file handling and expense management; REVIEWS office reports and IMPLEMENTS changes to improve office statistics, including timeliness of

reports to clients, productivity reports, client and claims survey results, resolved ratio, and subrogation results; ADHERES to the GEICO Code of Conduct, company policies, and operating principles; MEETS attendance standard of the business location, to perform necessary job functions and to facilitate interaction with subordinates and management. MEETS the requirements specified below: Must be able to travel as required, including but not limited, to attend trials, hearings, depositions, management meetings and conferences; Must be able, with or without accommodation, to perform the essential functions which include, but are not limited to, thinking (concentrating, focusing, assimilating information), reading, writing, listening, typing, speaking, bending, reaching, lifting, and standing for extended period; Must be able to travel as required, including but not limited, to attend trials, hearings, depositions, management meetings and conferences; Must be able to use a keyboard and a mouse; Must be able to access and utilize multiple pieces of office equipment that may require simultaneous use; Must be able to communicate in a professional manner in person, via telephone and written correspondence/email; Must be able to document files in a clear, concise, professional written manner, to be understood by customers, clients, co-workers and other employees of the organization; Must be able to follow complex instructions, resolve conflicts or facilitate conflict resolution, and have strong organization/priority setting and multi-tasking skills; Must be able to learn and apply large amounts of technical and procedural information; Must demonstrate successful performance in handling primary trial responsibility for cases of significant severity and complexity. Must have the following education and experience: Must be licensed in good standing to practice law in applicable jurisdictions, and meet and maintain licensing requirements including mandatory Continuing Legal Education (CLE) requirements where applicable; Must have a minimum of seven years of litigation experience, including insurance defense or personal injury; Management experience preferred.

*Visit the
State Bar of
New Mexico's
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www.sbnm.org

UNM Administrative Hearing Advisor

The University of New Mexico's Hearing Office seeks an Administrative Hearing Advisor to support and guide students, faculty, and/or staff engaged as complainants in administrative hearing proceedings. This individual advises participants of policies and procedures and accompanies participants to meetings and administrative hearings. This position is in support of the 2020 Updated Title IX Regulations that became effective in August 2020. Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following: Provides support, guidance, and information to students, faculty, or staff who are complainants or respondents in administrative hearing proceedings; Assists participants in understanding the relevant University policies, and in navigating the administrative hearing process; Reviews documents, participates in gathering facts, and helps prepare the participant for proceedings, to include advising on the potential impact of the various choices and outcomes; Accompanies participants to pre-hearing conferences and hearings and manages participants' expectations of the hearing process; Assists the participant at the hearing phase of the proceeding and provides guidance on the direct parties and witnesses; Performs the cross-examination of parties and witnesses. Collaborates with stakeholders and other advisors, as appropriate; JD preferred. If you are interested, we encourage you to apply to UNMJobs. Please email hearingoffice@unm.edu for any questions.

Compliance Manager – req33742

The UNM Office of Compliance, Ethics & Equal Opportunity seeks a Compliance Manager to provide oversight to its civil rights investigative team and assist the office in promoting a fair, equitable, and inclusive environment for students, employees, and visitors to UNM. Please see the listing at UNM Jobs for a complete description and to apply to req33742. Apply at: https://unm.csod.com/ux/ats/careersite/18/home/req/position/33742?c=unm&referralToken=5LV-_vhtzk-XU4r3htP5Xw

Compliance Coordinator-req33729

The UNM Office of Compliance, Ethics & Equal Opportunity (CEEEO) seeks a highly qualified professional for the role of Compliance Coordinator (req33729). Reporting to the Deputy Chief Compliance Officer, the Compliance Coordinator facilitates the university's compliance program including participation in the compliance risk assessment processes and collaboration with university departments to appropriately mitigate risks, and guiding university departments to ensure compliance with various federal and state law. Coordinates investigations into allegations of compliance and ethics violations. Develops, implements, and evaluates compliance activities and initiatives involving multiple partners across the institution. Supports EthicsPoint Compliance Reporting system administration. Oversees the Minors on Campus program. Assists in all functions and activities of the Office of Compliance, Ethics & Equal Opportunity (CEEEO). Participates in the review and revision of university policies and procedures. Reports on compliance activities as requested. Apply at: https://unm.csod.com/ux/ats/careersite/18/home/req/position/33729?c=unm&referralToken=5LV-_vhtzk-XU4r3htP5Xw

Join Our Unique and Professional Team!

We are looking for an experienced personal injury Paralegal who is highly organized, detail oriented and a team player, knowledge of State, Federal E-Filing, discovery, and general person injury litigation a plus. We are a fast-paced medium sized firm providing a fun supportive team approach. We offer a competitive salary and benefits package. Benefits include: 401k, health, dental, vision insurance, paid time off, paid holidays, and mentorship. Salary DOE. Please send letter of interest and resume to staff@lrioslaw.com. All inquiries are kept strictly confidential.

Judicial Branch:

New Mexico Supreme Court

Title: Appellate Paralegal (U)- At Will

Pay Range: II Rate hourly: \$23.736-\$49.472 Annually: \$51,451-\$102,902. Description: The New Mexico Supreme Court is recruiting for a full-time, classified, Appellate Paralegal (U) position # 00000077-21600 for the Supreme Court in Santa Fe, New Mexico. GENERAL STATEMENT OF DUTIES: Acting under the direction of a Court of Appeals Judge, Supreme Court Justice, Supreme Court Chief Clerk, Chief Deputy Clerk of Court, Chief Appellate Attorney, or other designee, coordinate and fulfill the administrative, technical, and clerical requirements of Clerk's office, with other duties as assigned. COMPETENCIES/QUALIFICATIONS: The successful applicant should demonstrate good oral and written communications and a good working knowledge of grammar, punctuation, spelling, and proper sentence structure. The successful applicant should demonstrate proficiency with Microsoft Office and G Suite applications; knowledge and understanding of legal terminology, technical writing, and editing; appellate court dispositions, including without limitation opinions, decisions, memorandum opinions, dispositional orders, and other orders; legal and Court writing styles; legal citation procedures and rules; math and statistics; utilization of pleadings, briefs, and case records; Court rules, policies, and operations; Court case management systems; legal research, including electronic databases such as Westlaw, Lexis, New Mexico One Source of Law, and other electronic legal databases; legal resources such as the New Mexico Statutes Annotated (NMSA 1978), the New Mexico Rules Annotated (NMRA), law review articles, and legislative materials; be familiar with common legal citation, usage and writing references, such as The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation, Garner's Dictionary of Legal Usage, The Gregg Reference Manual, and Black's Law Dictionary; rules and filing procedures; hard copy calendaring and case file scanning; other Court agencies and resources; emergency plans; have a basic understanding of organizational management; conflict resolution. TO APPLY: Please visit nmcourts.gov/careers to view the full job description and submission details.

Legal Assistant

Modrall Sperling, a leading New Mexico law firm, has an excellent opportunity for an experienced legal assistant in our Litigation practice group. In this role, you will provide a broad range of legal assistant services to two or more attorneys in our Albuquerque office. Key Responsibilities: Support attorneys with case preparation, filing, and trial logistics; Draft, proofread, and edit legal documents including pleadings, discovery, subpoenas, and correspondence; E-file documents with state and federal courts; Maintain and organize case files, calendars, and deadlines; Manage attorney schedules and coordinate meetings, depositions, and court appearances; Conduct basic legal and factual research as needed; Communicate with clients, court staff, witnesses, and opposing counsel in a professional manner; Assist with client billing. Basic Requirements: 2 or more years' experience as a legal secretary, legal assistant, or paralegal in an estate planning/transactions practice group; Strong Word, PDF, Outlook, and calendaring skills; Excellent communication and client service skills; Editing and proofreading skills; Strong organizational and document assembly skills; Candidates with experience in Litigation strongly encouraged to apply. This position requires a legal assistant who is self-motivated, detail-oriented, and able to multi-task and work under pressure. Modrall Sperling offers an outstanding compensation and benefits package. Please forward your cover letter and resume to Susan Harris: susanh@modrall.com

Litigation Paralegal

Modrall Sperling has an excellent opportunity for an experienced Litigation Paralegal. The ideal candidate will be responsible for assisting attorneys in all stages of litigation matters. This candidate should feel comfortable conducting research, doing data entry, scheduling, maintaining case files, and completing other ad-hoc requests, as needed. Responsibilities: Organize, review and index discovery documents; Draft legal documents; Conduct legal research; Organize and electronically file pleadings; Prepare exhibits for depositions and trial; Assist attorneys at trial; Preparation of medical chronologies. Qualifications: Bachelor's degree or equivalent education and experience; 2+ years' as Litigation Paralegal or legal assistant is required. Strong computer skills, including experience with Word, PDFs, Outlook, Excel, and calendaring applications; Experience with electronic discovery applications; Experience with TrialDirector and IPro software are preferred; Strong organizational and case management skills. This position requires an individual who is self-motivated, detail-oriented, able to multi-task, and works well in a team environment. Modrall Sperling offers an outstanding compensation and benefits package. Please send resume and cover letter to susanh@modrall.com.

Services

True North Resolution Mediation Services Amy Glasser, Esq.

Neutral, experienced mediator; Over 25 years of legal expertise representing plaintiffs and defendants; Reasonable rates; Mediation via Zoom; Online Scheduling available. Email: amy@truenorthresolution.com; www.truenorthresolution.com

2025 Bar Bulletin Publishing and Submission Schedule

The Bar Bulletin publishes twice a month on the second and fourth Wednesday. Advertising submission deadlines are also on Wednesdays, three weeks prior to publishing by 4 pm.

Advertising will be accepted for publication in the Bar Bulletin in accordance with standards and ad rates set by publisher and subject to the availability of space. No guarantees can be given as to advertising publication dates or placement although every effort will be made to comply with publication request. The publisher reserves the right to review and edit ads, to request that an ad be revised prior to publication or to reject any ad. **Cancellations must be received via email by 5 p.m. (MT) 13 business days prior to the issue publication date.**

**For more advertising information, contact:
651-288-3422 or email
marketing@sbnm.org**

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Includes:

**Professional Development Program
Lawyer Assistance Program
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Professional Development Program (PDP):

Offers law practice management services and resources to State Bar of New Mexico members. This includes continuing education courses, “how-to” manuals and workshops, a confidential ethics advisory helpline and information, sample forms, checklists and assessments on best practices for lawyers.



New Mexico Lawyer Assistance Program (LAP):

Focuses on confidential and professional services for all legal professionals struggling with mental or emotional health disabilities resulting from disease, disorder, trauma or age that impair their ability to practice or serve. Struggles include, but are not limited to addiction, burnout, depression, and anxiety. The LAP's direct support services are confidential and free to the NM legal community.



Judicial Wellness Program (JWP):

Offers resources and services which provide a supportive environment for our judiciary to restore and maintain one's overall mental, physical, and spiritual health. It is designed and available to support judges of any level throughout New Mexico.

www.sbnm.org/ProfessionalProgramsGroup