

Gina Dennis

Gina Dennis (she/her/ella) is an attorney at New Mexico Legal Aid specifically for LGBTQ+ clients in our Safe To Be You LGBTQ+ Legal Access program. At New Mexico Legal Aid, Gina currently litigates LGBTQ+ civil rights discrimination matters in state and federal courts, she litigates violence-related matters for LGBTQ+ clients in state courts, and she represents LGBTQ+ clients in civil rights discrimination matters in state and federal administrative forums. Gina is licensed in Maryland (2004), licensed in DC (2005), licensed in two Tribal Courts (2020), and licensed in New Mexico (2021). Gina was born in Houston, TX and she grew up in Washington, DC. In 1998, Gina studied Constitutional Law in the post-apartheid era at Rhodes University in South Africa and she worked at the Rhodes University Legal Aid Clinic in South Africa. In 1999, Gina interned in the White House, West Wing, where she served as President Clinton's direct Intern in the Oval Office. Gina earned her bachelor's degree from Spelman College in 2000. During law school, Gina was a member of the American University International Law Review. She was a federal summer law clerk for Judge Henry Kennedy of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in the summer of 2001. She earned her law degree in 2003 from American University's Washington College of Law and she earned her MBA degree in 2005 via the JD/MBA Joint Degree program at American University in Washington, D.C. After graduating from American University's Washington College of Law in 2003, she practiced law at large law firms on matters involving federal regulatory law, international trade, foreign policy, and real estate transactions. Later, Gina had her own law practice. Gina also operated a green building consulting company, and in pursuit of that, Gina lived in South Sudan, lived in China where she earned a Language Certificate in Mandarin Chinese, and in 2015, moved to New Mexico. Gina made her home in New Mexico; she has represented seven Tribes on matters of sovereignty, land, and construction, and she has litigated in Tribal Courts. Gina volunteered as a community organizer in New Mexico, organizing over 100,000 people across seventeen neighborhoods. Gina serves on the board of directors of the New Mexico LGBTQ+ Bar Association.

Stacy Fatemi

Stacy Fatemi (they/them) is the first Education & Outreach Program Manager for the Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico. After coming out as trans at the age of 17, they began casually educating others to address a gap in gender knowledge that affected their everyday life. Now, at age 25, they do transgender cultural fluency trainings and workshops for organizations all around the country, with an added focus on nonbinary people and the issues they face. Before becoming part of the Center, Stacy worked with the Health Equity Alliance for LGBTQ+ New Mexicans on the New Mexico GSA Digital Curriculum, as well as under the moniker transeducation.net for trans-related trainings. When not at work, Stacy can be found making metal, punk, and ambient music with their longtime friend, the 6-string bass guitar.

Derek Garcia

Derek Garcia has practiced law for seven years as a solo attorney, primarily in plaintiffs' civil rights, family law, and criminal defense. For three years he has been representing survivors of DV, interpersonal violence, and sexual assault to obtain protection orders, as a contract attorney for New

Mexico Legal Aid and as a legal advocate for Community Justice for Survivors of Sexual Assault. In 2018, he started as a full time staff attorney with Safe to Be You!, New Mexico Legal Aid's LGBTQ+ legal access project.

Michelle Garcia

Managing Attorney Michelle Garcia is a 2012 graduate of Loyola University who is admitted to the New Mexico Bar, Navajo Nation Bar, the State Bar of Louisiana, Pueblo of Pojoaque and the Federal District Court, District of New Mexico. After graduating from law school, Michelle worked as a prosecutor and law clerk for the State of New Mexico. She joined New Mexico Legal Aid in 2018 and became the managing attorney for Northern New Mexico in 2020. She works in the area of civil rights, violence, rural accessibility and LGBTQ+ discrimination