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Spalsh by Ginna Heiden (see page 3)

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www.ginnaheiden.com

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Meetings

January

13 Animal Law Section Board 11:30 a.m., teleconference

13 Business Law Section Board 4 p.m., teleconference

13 Tax Law Section Board 9 a.m., teleconference

13 Children's Law Section Board Noon, teleconference

15 Family Law Section Board 9 a.m., teleconference

15 Indian Law Section Board Noon, teleconference

19 Solo and Small Firm Section Board 10:30 a.m., teleconference

21 Public Law Section Board Noon, teleconference

Workshops and Legal Clinics

January

14

Common Legal Issues for Senior Citizens Workshop

11 a.m.-noon, Video Conference For more details and to register, call 505-797-6005

27

Consumer Debt/Bankruptcy Workshop

6-8 p.m., Video Conference For more details and to register, call 505-797-6094

February

3

Divorce Options Workshop 6-8 p.m., Video Conference For more details and to register, call 505-797-6022

23

Common Legal Issues for Senior Citizens Workshop

11 a.m.-noon, Video Conference For more details and to register, call 505-797-6005

About Cover Image and Artist: Ginna Heiden is an artist living in New Mexico, best known for colorful, abstract paintings in oil or acrylic and multi-media sculptures. Her work is inspired by the science of happiness and the field of positive psychology. Whether the result is sophisticated or whimsical, her passion is to present content that is uplifting for the viewer. She studied at UNM, WNMU, and at the Instituto in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. She now lives with her husband Jack, in Rio Rancho where she maintains her in-home studio and gallery.

COURT NEWS New Mexico Supreme Court Rule-Making Activity

To view recent Supreme Court rulemaking 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.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. Library Hours: Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-noon and 1 p.m.-5 p.m. For more information call: 505-827-4850, email: libref@nmcourts.gov or visit https:// lawlibrary.nmcourts.gov.

U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico Notice to Federal Bench & Bar Association Members

The 2021 Bench & Bar Spending Plan has been approved in the amount of \$67,850.00 for 11 identified projects. To view the detailed spending plan, please see the "Attorney Information" page on the Court's website at https://www.nmd. uscourts.gov/.

Second Judicial District Court Notice To Attorneys:

Effective Jan. 1, 2021, all cases currently assigned to Judge Daniel Gallegos will be transferred to Judge Courtney B. Weaks, Division XV. Individual notices of reassignment will be sent out for all active cases. An email notification regarding the reassignment of inactive cases and probation violation cases will be sent to the Law Offices of the Public Defender, the District Attorney's Office and the private defense bar.

Second Judicial District Criminal Court Candidate Announcement

The Second Judicial District Criminal Court Judicial Nominating Commission convened on Dec. 14, 2020, and Dec. 15, 2020, via Zoom, and completed its evaluation of eighteen candidates for the four vacancies on the Second Judicial District

Professionalism Tip

With respect to the public and to other persons involved in the legal system: I will commit to the goals of the legal profession, and to my responsibilities to public service, improvement of administration of justice, civic influence, and my contribution of voluntary and uncompensated time for those persons who cannot afford adequate legal assistance.

Criminal Court. The Commission recommends the following candidates to Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham: Britt Marie Baca-Miller, Judge Jacqueline Dolores Flores, Bruce Crawford Fox, Michael Philip Fricke, Jason Robert Greenlee, Joseph Anthony Montano, Rose Osborne, Mark Anthony Ramsey and Jennifer J. Wernersbach.

Second Judicial District Children's Court Candidate Announcement

The Second Judicial District Children's Court Judicial Nominating Commission convened on Dec. 17, 2020 via Zoom, and completed its evaluation of fifteen candidates for the two vacancies on the Second Judicial District Children's Court. The commission recommends the following candidates to Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham: Catherine Begaye, Twila A Hoon, Mark A. Ramsey and Alma Cristina Roberson.

Bernalillo County Metropolitan Criminal Court Announcement Of Vacancy

Due to the recent election of Judge Courtney Weaks to the Second Judicial Court, there will be a vacancy in the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court -Criminal effective Jan. 1, 202l. Inquiries regarding the details or assignment of this judicial vacancy should be directed to the Administrator of the Court. Sergio Pareja, chair of the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court Nominating Commission, invites applications for this position from lawyers who meet the statutory qualifications in Article VI, Section 28 of the New Mexico Constitution. Applications may be obtained from the Judicial Selection website: https:// lawschool.unm.edu/judsel/application. html or emailed to you by contacting the Judicial Selection Office at akin@law.unm. edu. The deadline for applications has been set for Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2021, by 5 p.m. All applications and letters of references are to be emailed to akin@law.unm.edu. Applications received after 5 pm will not be considered. The Judicial Nominating Commission will meet at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2021, and the meeting will occur exclusively by Zoom. The commission meeting is open to the public, and anyone who wishes to be heard about any of the candidates will have an opportunity to be heard. If you would like the Zoom invitation emailed to you, please contact Beverly Akin by email at akin@law.unm.edu. Alternatively, you may find the Zoom information for this hearing below: Please change your zoom screen to your first, last name and title to be admitted.

Topic: Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court Nominating Commission Meeting Time: Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2021 at a.m. Join Zoom Meeting https://unm.zoom.us/j/379615447?pwd

=M3lSVGxuSEkrSjd4cExlVXYwK3Mz QT09

Meeting ID: 379 615 447 Password: 72146

Notice of Mass Case Reassignment

Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court Chief Judge Maria I. Dominguez announced the mass reassignment of cases in Division IV as a result of the 2020 General Election. Pursuant to Rule 23-109 NMRA, Chief Judge Dominguez announced that effective Jan. 11, all misdemeanor cases previously assigned to Judge Courtney B. Weaks will be reassigned to Judge David A. Murphy. Individual notices of reassignment will be mailed to the parties. Parties who have not yet exercised a peremptory excusal, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 7-106 NMRA, will have 10 business days from Jan. 11 to excuse Judge Murphy in cases filed on or after Jan. 1, 2021.

STATE BAR News COVID-19 Pandemic Updates

The State Bar of New Mexico is committed to helping New Mexico lawyers respond optimally to the developing COVID-19 coronavirus situation. Visit www.nmbar.org/covid-19 for a compilation of resources from national and local health agencies, canceled events and frequently asked questions. This page will be updated regularly during this rapidly evolving situation. Please check back often for the latest information from the State Bar of New Mexico. If you have additional questions or suggestions about the State Bar's response to the coronavirus situation, please email Executive Director Richard Spinello at rspinello@nmbar.org.

State Bar Building

The State Bar Center is closed until further notice and State Bar staff are working remotely. If documents need to be dropped off or picked up, front desk hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9-10 a.m. Please call 505-797-6000 or email sbnm@nmbar.org beforehand, or for more information.

Board of Bar Commissioners 2020 Election Results

The nomination period has ended for the 2020 election for the Board of Bar Commissioners and there were no contested districts. The following individuals have been elected by acclamation to three-year terms: Elizabeth J. Travis in the First Judicial District; Aja N. Brooks in the Second Judicial District; Robert Lara in the Third and Sixth Judicial Districts, Mitchell Mender in the Ninth and Tenth Judicial Districts. and Erinna M. "Erin" Atkins in the Twelfth Judicial District. No nomination petitions were received for a vacancy in the Second Judicial District, two vacancies in the Seventh and Thirteenth Judicial Districts, or the Out-of-State District position. A notice for those vacancies is included in this Bar Bulletin and the Board will make those appointments at their Feb. 5 meeting.

New Mexico Access to Justice Commission

The Board of Bar Commissioners will make two appointments to the NM Access to Justice Commission for three-year terms. The Commission is dedicated to expanding and improving civil legal assistance by increasing pro bono and other support to indigent people in New Mexico. Active status attorneys in New Mexico interested in serving on the Commission should send a letter of interest and brief resume by Jan. 15 to sbnm@nmbar.org.

State Bar of New Mexico Licensing Certifications and Fees Due by Feb. 1, 2021

Submit by Feb. 1, 2021, to avoid late

fees. To complete your annual licensing certifications and pay your fees by credit card, visit www.nmbar.org/licenserenewal. To request a PDF copy of the license renewal form or for questions regarding your renewal, email license@nmbar.org. For technical support, email techsupport@ nmbar.org.

Commissioner Vacancies in the Second, Seventh and Thirteenth Judicial Districts and Out-of-State District

Rule 24-101 (C) and (D) NMRA have been amended by the Supreme Court to reflect that the Bar Commissioner Districts shall follow the established State Judicial Districts. On Jan. 1, there will be four vacancies on the Board of Bar Commissioners as follows: One vacancy in the Second Judicial District, two vacancies in the Seventh and Thirteenth Judicial Districts, and one vacancy for an Out-of-State District position. The appointments will be made by the Board of Bar Commissioners at the Feb. 5 meeting to fill the vacancies until the next regular election of Commissioners, and the terms will run through Dec. 31, 2021. Active status members with a principal place of practice (address of record) in the Districts with vacancies are eligible to apply. The remainder of the 2021 Board meetings are scheduled for: April 16, June 11, Oct. 7, and Dec. 8 or 9 (TBD); depending on the COVID-19 situation, at least a couple of the meetings may be held virtually. Members interested in serving on the board should submit a letter of interest and resume to sbnm@nmbar.org by Jan. 15 COB.

Board of Bar Commissioners Meeting Summary

The Board of Bar Commissioners for the State Bar and the NM State Bar Foundation met virtually on Dec. 9. Action taken at the meeting follows:

• Approved the Sept. 23 and 24, 2020 meeting minutes as submitted;

• Received information on licensing and MCLE requirements and deadlines for commissioners to communicate with and address questions from members;

• Provided a revamped logo for the new Association Management Software and website redesign;

• Reviewed the updated Strategic Plan Timeline;

• Held an executive session to discuss a personnel issue;

• Appointed the new directors to the



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New Mexico State Bar Foundation Board as follows: Erin M. Atkins, Aja N. Brooks, Judge Kevin L. Fitzwater, Lucy H. Sinkular, and Constance G. Tatham as the Board of Bar Commissioner Directors; Judge Carl J. Butkus, Stefanie K. Davis, and Gerald G. Dixon as the at-large active State Bar members; and Stephanie Wagner as the at-large public director; the new board will be meeting early next year;

• Appointed Stuart M. Bluestone, Damon J. Hudson, David A. Stevens, and Paul Spruhan, the Indian Law Section member, for three-year terms;

• Reported that the notice for the two vacancies on the Access to Justice Commission will be re-published and BBC commissioners will solicit interest from members;

• Appointed Benjamin I. Sherman to the Access to Justice Fund Grant Commission for a three-year term;

• Distributed the Supreme Court Board and Committee Liaison roster and requested volunteers;

• Distributed the Board's internal committees list and requested volunteers;

• Reviewed the Committee on Diversity in the Legal Profession and the Committee

_www.nmbar.org

on Women and the Legal Profession's recommendations, which were compartmentalized into internal and external categories and the groups responsible for each category were identified; established a special internal committee to study the recommendations further and report back to the Board;

• Received a report from the Executive Director Evaluation and Compensation Committee;

• Received a report from the Executive Committee;

• Received a report from the Finance Committee and reported that no challenges were received to the budget disclosure and approved reimbursement from the State Bar to the Bar Foundation for the free CLE provided to members this year with the CO-VID-19 pandemic, and the Bar Foundation approved the reimbursement;

• Received a licensing update;

• Received a report from the Policy and Bylaws Committee and approved a Reserve Fund Policy with two separate funds, one of which is a building and equipment fund and the second is an operations, or "rainy day" fund; and approved amendments to Article IV, Section 4.4, Elections, which were in follow up to the redistricting rule changes;

• Received a report from the Regulatory Committee and referred a draft CPF Rule revision to the Executive Committee and appointed Roberta S. Batley as the chair of the newly-created Legal Specialization Commission;

• Tabled a report from the Member Services Committee to the February meeting;

• Received a report from the Statewide/ Rural Outreach Committee;

• Received a report from the Special Committee on Sections and tabled a presentation on lobbying to the February meeting;

• Reported that the Past Presidents Committee did not meet this year;

• Received a report from the Well-Being Committee;

• Received the Client Protection Fund Commission 2019 Annual Report; the chair will make a presentation on the report at the February meeting;

• Received an update on the Association Management Software;

• Received an update on the Judicial Clerkship Program;

• Received the report of the Judicial Compensation Commission;

• Received the 2021 Board meeting dates as follows: Feb. 5, April 16, June 11, Oct. 7, and Dec. 8;

• Received a report on the 2021 Executive Committee and Senior Staff Strategic Planning Session and the 2021 Annual Meeting, which will be held Oct. 8;

• Received a report on the Supreme Court meeting with the officers regarding the State Bar Budget, which was approved by the Supreme Court;

• Presented awards to commissioners with terms expiring the end of this year, including: Allison Block-Chavez, YLD Chair, Gerald G. Dixon, Immediate Past President, Tomas J. Garcia, Michael Eshleman, and Yolanda K. Hernandez, Paralegal Division Liaison; and

• NM Supreme Court Chief Justice Michael E. Vigil administered the Oath for the 2021 State Bar Officers virtually on the State Bar's YouTube channel.

Note: The minutes in their entirety will be available on the State Bar's website following approval by the Board at the Feb. 5 meeting.

New Mexico Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program

We're now on Facebook! Search "New Mexico Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program" to see the latest research, stories, events and trainings on legal well-being!

Monday Night Support Group

- Jan. 18
- Jan. 25
- Feb. 1

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, to know you are not in this alone and feel a sense of belonging. We laugh, we cry, we BE together. Email Pam at pmoore@nmbar. org or Briggs Cheney at BCheney@ DSCLAW.com and you will receive an email back with the Zoom link.

Employee Assistance Program Managing Stress Tool for Members

NMJLAP contracts with The Solutions Group, The State Bar's EAP service, to bring you the following: A variety of resources surrounding some of the complex issues we are facing today such as managing conversations when you disagree politically, dealing with challenging people during COVID, civil unrest, Zoom exhaustion and speaking up

about physical distancing. All of these can be found under the 'Additional Resources' tab when selecting the EAP option on the Solutions Group Website.Webinars are FREE, and have a wide range of topics such as mindfulness during Covid-19, bias in the work-place, managing stress, and many more. The Solutions Group offers Work-Life Services. The Work-Life Services is a free, confidential access to professional consultants and online resources. All resources topics, webinars, and the Work-Life Service can be found at www.solutionsbiz.com The Solutions Group can help with any life situation. Call 505.254.3555, or 866-254-3555 to receive FOUR FREE counseling sessions. Every call is completely confidential and free!

Solo and Small Firm Section January Virtual Lunch Presentation: Keeping Up with the Pandemic Developments

Dr. Greg Mertz, a UNMH doctor who specializes in vaccines and antivirals with an emphasis on clinical trials, will lead a timely presentation and discussion, joined by Robert McNeill, an Albuquerque attorney who previously served as state health and environmental secretary and established the state's epidemiological office. Please join the virtual lunch on Tuesday, Jan. 19 at noon. All State Bar members, State Bar staff, and their guests are welcome to attend. R.S.V.P. to member services at memberservices@nmbar.org.

UNM SCHOOL OF LAW Law Library Hours

Due to COVID-19, UNM School of Law is currently closed to the general public. The building remains open to students, faculty, and staff, and limited in-person classes are in session. All other classes are being taught remotely. The law library is functioning under limited operations, and the facility is closed to the general public until further notice.

Reference services are available remotely Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. via email at UNMLawLibref@gmail. com or voicemail at 505-277-0935. The Law Library's document delivery policy requires specific citation or document titles. Please visit our Library Guide outlining our Limited Operation Policies at: https://libguides.law.unm.edu/limitedops.

Legal Education

January

- Clear and Effective Communications With Clients, Colleagues and Staff

 0 EP
 Live Webinar
 Center for Legal Education of NMSBF
 www.nmbar.org
- 14 Drafting Liquidated Damages Clauses 1.0 G Teleseminar Center for Legal Education of NMSBF www.nmbar.org
- 15 Risky Tenants: Drafting Issues for Landlords

 1.0 G
 Teleseminar
 Center for Legal Education of NMSBF
 www.nmbar.org
- 2021 Americans with Disabilities Act Update

 0 G
 Teleseminar
 Center for Legal Education of NMSBF
 www.nmbar.org
- Basics of Trust Accounting

 1.0 EP
 Live Webinar
 Center for Legal Education of NMSBF

www.nmbar.org

20 TLA Chicago Regional Seminar 10.7 G Live Webinar Transportation Lawyers Association 913-222-8652

- 20 Ethical Issues When Representing the Elderly 1.0 EP Teleseminar Center for Legal Education of NMSBF www.nmbar.org
- 21 Nuclear Verdicts 1.0 G Live Webinar CEU Institute 407-324-0500
- 21 Ownership of Ideas Created on the Job 1.0 G Teleseminar Center for Legal Education of NMSBF www.nmbar.org
- 22 Lawyer Ethics When Working with Paralegals 1.0 EP Teleseminar Center for Legal Education of NMSBF www.nmbar.org
- 22 Techniques to Control the Difficult Witness 1.0 G Live Webinar Center for Legal Education of NMSBF www.nmbar.org
- 25 Annual Renewable Energy Law Conference 14.0 G, 2.0 EP Live Webinar Transportation Lawyers Association 512-232-1170

- 27 Trust and Estate Planning Issues in Divorce 1.0 G Teleseminar Center for Legal Education of NMSBF www.nmbar.org
- 28 Equity & Diversity in Law Practice: Best Practices for Law Firms 1.0 G Teleseminar Center for Legal Education of NMSBF www.nmbar.org
- 28 Real Property Institute 4.7 G Live Webinar Center for Legal Education of NMSBF www.nmbar.org
- 29 Ethics and Client Money: Trust Funds, Expenses, Setoffs & More 1.0 EP Teleseminar Center for Legal Education of NMSBF www.nmbar.org
- 29 Building Cross-Examination Skills with Practical Improv Techniques 1.5 G Live Webinar Center for Legal Education of NMSBF www.nmbar.org

Listings in the *Bar Bulletin* Legal Education Calendar are derived from course provider submissions and from New Mexico Minimum Continuing Legal Education. All MCLE approved continuing legal education courses can be listed free of charge. Send submissions to notices@nmbar.org. Include course title, credits, location/ course type, course provider and registration instructions. Opinions

As Updated by the Clerk of the New Mexico Court of Appeals

Mark Reynolds, Chief Clerk New Mexico Court of Appeals PO Box 2008 • Santa Fe, NM 87504-2008 • 505-827-4925

Effective December 11, 2020

PUBLISHED OPINIONS

UNPUBLISHED OPINIONSA-1-CA-37134State v. J TrujilloAffirm12/07/2020	A-1-CA-37609	A Kaushal v. Santa Fe Community Housing Trust	Reverse/Remand	12/10/2020	
A-1-CA-37134 State v. J Trujillo Affirm 12/07/2020	A-1-CA-37676	State v. A Montoya	Reverse/Remand	12/10/2020	
A-1-CA-37134 State v. J Trujillo Affirm 12/07/2020					
	UNPUBLISHED OPIN	UNPUBLISHED OPINIONS			
	A-1-CA-37134	State v. J Trujillo	Affirm	12/07/2020	
A-1-CA-37744 Z Shearill v. Mohammad Reverse 12/07/2020	A-1-CA-37744	Z Shearill v. Mohammad	Reverse	12/07/2020	
A-1-CA-37846 G Ayala v. NM Deptartment of Corrections Affirm 12/07/2020	A-1-CA-37846	G Ayala v. NM Deptartment of Corrections	Affirm	12/07/2020	
A-1-CA-37939 S Peacock v. C Guss Affirm 12/07/2020	A-1-CA-37939	S Peacock v. C Guss	Affirm	12/07/2020	
A-1-CA-38138 State v. J Lopez Affirm 12/07/2020	A-1-CA-38138	State v. J Lopez	Affirm	12/07/2020	
A-1-CA-38287 State v. O Wright Affirm 12/07/2020	A-1-CA-38287	State v. O Wright	Affirm	12/07/2020	
A-1-CA-38374 State v. A Nieto Affirm 12/07/2020	A-1-CA-38374	State v. A Nieto	Affirm	12/07/2020	
A-1-CA-38662 CYFD v. Elisa L Affirm 12/07/2020	A-1-CA-38662	CYFD v. Elisa L	Affirm	12/07/2020	
A-1-CA-39096 CYFD v. Destinee C Affirm 12/07/2020	A-1-CA-39096	CYFD v. Destinee C	Affirm	12/07/2020	
A-1-CA-37024Bayview Loan Service v. A MartinezReverse12/08/2020	A-1-CA-37024	Bayview Loan Service v. A Martinez	Reverse	12/08/2020	
A-1-CA-38613 State v. M Cucci Affirm 12/09/2020	A-1-CA-38613	State v. M Cucci	Affirm	12/09/2020	
A-1-CA-38441 State v. A Padilla Affirm 12/10/2020	A-1-CA-38441	State v. A Padilla	Affirm	12/10/2020	

Slip Opinions for Published Opinions may be read on the Court's website: http://coa.nmcourts.gov/documents/index.htm



A Message from State Bar President Carla Martinez

Dear Members of the State Bar of New Mexico,

I trust that you and your loved ones enjoyed a safe and peaceful holiday season. As we embark on a new year, I want to introduce myself as the 2021 President of the New Mexico State Bar. In December, Carolyn Wolf (President-Elect), Ben Sherman (Secretary-Treasurer) and I were sworn in by Chief Justice Michael Vigil during

an unprecedented virtual swearing-in ceremony. During the ceremony the New Mexico Supreme Court Justices acknowledged the incredible work done by 2020 State Bar President Ernestina Cruz. I personally want to thank Ernestina Cruz for her friendship, steadfast direction and passionate service during 2020. Through her amazing leadership, the State Bar continued to offer many important services and programs to its membership despite the challenges brought on by COVID-19. On behalf of the Board of Bar Commissioners (BBC) and its leadership team, we look forward to continuing to serve our State Bar members during 2021.

Last year, the BBC created a Standing Committee on Well Being in an effort to highlight the importance of judicial and attorney wellness. The Standing Committee consists of judges, lawyers and law students throughout the state of New Mexico focused on providing helpful information and events that promote a healthy lifestyle. Several of the initiatives that have emerged from this Committee are judicial roundtables, fit to practice events including yoga and a 5k virtual run, and webinars focused on wellness. Expect additional amazing events focused on wellbeing for judges, lawyers and law students during 2021.

Recognizing the challenges we have experienced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, now more than ever mental health resources are needed. I encourage you to familiarize yourself with the resources and services of the Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program. Through JLAP you can find 24/7 counseling and crisis help as well as educational webinars and resources through our Employee Assistance Program which is free for all members, their families, and staff. Visit www.nmbar.org/jlap for more.

In the State Bar's continued spirit of unity and inclusivity, the Committee on Diversity in the Legal Profession published the fourth decennial Report on Minorities in the Legal Profession during 2020. The Committee also held also held a webinar in 2020 focused on the results of the survey and the recommendations contained in the report. The Committee on Women and the Legal Profession also updated their Report on Gender in the Legal Profession during 2020. Both reports included detailed recommendations, which have been shared with the Board of Bar Commissioners. In December 2020, the BBC established a special internal committee that will closely review the reports and make recommendations for implementation.

Additionally, the New Mexico State Bar Foundation is the charitable arm of the State Bar of New Mexico, representing the legal community's commitment to serving the people of New Mexico and the profession. The goals of the Foundation are to enhance access to legal services for underserved populations; promote innovation in the delivery of legal services; and provide legal education to members and the public. Until recently, the governing bodies of the State Bar and Bar Foundation have been interchangeable. In the interest of clarifying board members' roles and encouraging the growth of the Bar Foundation, the Bar Foundation now has an independent yet interlocking board. In December, the BBC appointed five commissioners, three non-commissioner attorneys, and a non-attorney to the newly formed Bar Foundation Board.

Moreover, the State Bar is in the midst of an association management system upgrade, which includes a new website and database. The website will have an improved appearance and capabilities, including a member dashboard where you can access your account information, status on your CLE credits and license renewal, communication preferences, and more. We expect the association management system upgrade to be completed in early spring. Please stay tuned for more details to come. Lastly, please save the date of Oct. 8 for the 2021 Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Event. Similar to last year's successful event, we will be holding a one-day virtual CLE program. With the event being held in the fall of 2021, we are hopeful to have an in-person component which will be held at the State Bar Center. Furthermore, I am pleased to announce that the event and CLE will be free of charge to our members.

Again, I am honored to serve as your 2021 State Bar President. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. My email address is president@nmbar.org.

Sincerely,

area Montinez

Carla Martinez President, State Bar of New Mexico

2021 State Bar Officers Sworn In

- Dec. 9, 2020 -

In December, the 2021 officers of the State Bar of New Mexico were sworn in by Chief Justice Michael Vigil via Zoom.



President Carla C. Martinez



President-Elect Carolyn A. Wolf

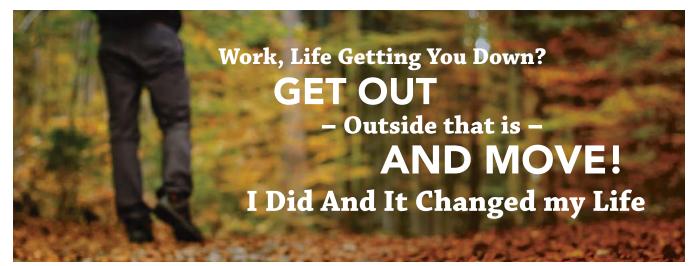


Secretary-Treasurer Benjamin I. Sherman

Typically, this ceremony is done in person in the Supreme Court chambers in Santa Fe. As was the case with many things in 2020, our plans had to change due to the public health emergency. After taking the oath, each officer had the opportunity to address the court and members of the bar.

You can watch the full ceremony on the State Bar of New Mexico's YouTube channel. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DTjHnV3sAZw Or search for "State Bar of New Mexico" on YouTube.

Congratulations to the 2021 leadership team! We can't wait to see what the year has in store.



By Norm Gagne

regularly walk, run and hike. We backpack in the wilderness. It wasn't always so. I was never much of an athlete. I was an active kid and then played basketball through high school, some intramural and a few years of City League ball after and then my organized sports "career" ended. And so did my regular physical activity.

Lawyering is a sedentary activity. So too is judging. We sit, often for long hours at a time. The incentives reward the iron butt. I slid into a life of long hours at the office and little activity. I would go home, have a drink to relax, have dinner with my family, watch a little television and then fall into bed before starting all over again the next day. Weekend work was common. It is all too easy to slide into this lifestyle.

I fell into an unhealthy routine; too busy, I thought, to get out, too tired to do much, too many drinks to try to relax and to try to ease the stresses of a difficult profession. I gained weight, more than was comfortable on my tall but slight frame, and, in retrospect, began feeling worse and worse physically and mentally. I was doing all the wrong things. I tried to fix it and began playing tennis once a week and very occasionally riding my bike. It never amounted to more than a very few hours each week. All the while I kidded myself that I was doing just fine. I wasn't.

In my mid-forties something changed. Through my older son's sports activities I had the opportunity to be around people, teenagers but also adults, who were physically active, glowing with health and energy. It slowly sunk in. My existing ways did not compare favorably with the vitality and joy I saw in these people. At age forty four, I got out and became active again. I started running. Mind you, I hated running when I was younger. But I was traveling constantly in my work and really don't like hotel health spas. A pair of running shoes, shorts, a t-shirt and a cap for most of the year, a long sleeve shirt, tights and gloves in colder winter weather and I was good to go. It was the easiest, most portable activity I could do. I could run anywhere my work took me. In time it became a very enjoyable way to explore an unfamiliar city.

I adjusted my diet to match my more active life. That coupled with activity caused weight loss to a more comfortable fit with my frame. I felt better. The paradox of exercise is that expending energy begets energy. My mood was vastly improved as was my resilience to stress. In time, I gave up drinking entirely.

In short, it changed my life.

I even began competitive running. I soon switched from road running to trail running. With a lot of help and encouragement from others, I have done every distance from 5k to a 34.5 mile "ultra marathon." I was never very fast, a middle or back of the pack competitor with an occasional age group medal. But winning is not the point. Moving, participating and finishing are. Along the way in addition to just plain feeling good, I have seen miles of beautiful country, met some wonderful people and made some good friends. Jane and I run, hike and backpack all the time, life affirming and bonding activities we enjoy together.

Is running not for you? (don't discount it entirely - I once hated running). There are other ways to get out that are just as rewarding and beneficial. For most people, walking is the single most available and accessible form of exercise. It is also one of the best. [*Walking: Your Steps To Health*, Harvard Health Publishing, Harvard Medical School (October 2020)]. You can do it in your neighborhood and wherever you travel. Near Albuquerque are miles of Open Space trails. Our neighboring Sandia Mountains have enough trails to keep you hiking and exploring for a long time. If on foot is not your favorite way to get around outdoors, Albuquerque has over 400 miles of bike paths and trails to explore. Mountain bike trails are everywhere. Many other communities have walking and bike paths and trails. The State has abundant public lands and recreational opportunities can easily be found near where you live. With a little looking around, you will soon find your favorite places.

Getting out and moving is good! But don't just take my word for it. There is a sound, scientific basis for the physical and mental benefits I derive from my active life.

First, just getting outside is a boost to your physical and mental health. [*A Prescription For Better Health: Go Alfresco*, Harvard Health Publishing, Harvard Medical School (July 2010)]. Being outside increases Vitamin D. Epidemiological studies suggest that maintaining healthy levels of Vitamin D have protective effects against everything from osteoporosis to cancer, depression, heart attack and strokes. (Id.). Additionally, you are likely to get more exercise outdoors, you will be happier particularly in winter - light elevates mood, your concentration will likely improve and, if you have an injury or illness, you will likely heal faster. (Id.)

Other studies show that being outside reduces stress, anxiety and depression, lowers blood pressure and calms the body. [*Sour Mood Getting You Down? Get Back To Nature*, Harvard Health Publishing, Harvard Medical School (July 2018)].

Throw some exercise into the mix and magic happens. Studies show that exercise can improve sleep, increase libido, improve endurance, relieve stress, improve mood, improve energy and stamina, reduce tiredness and increase mental alertness, reduce weight and cholesterol and improve cardiovascular fitness. *Exercise For Mental Health*, Sharma, et al., The Primary Care Companion to the Journal of Clinical Psychiatry, 2006; 8(2): 106.

Almost any kind of regular movement outside is enough to make a difference. And all by just getting out of the chair and out the door!

"Yeah but" I hear you say. Ah, the "yeah buts," graveyard of good intentions.

"Yeah but I don't have time." Neither did I. Make time. It doesn't need to be a lot particularly at first. Take a walk around the block in the morning before you shower and leave for work. Or in the evening. Do little things to increase movement outside. Don't look for the nearest parking spot but park some distance from the entrance and get a little walk to and from. Walk the stairs instead of the elevator - OK, not outside but still good. You get the idea. Just get moving. You will find that you have more energy, can concentrate longer and work more efficiently.

"Yeah but I travel a lot." So did I. A pair of walking or running shoes, comfortable walking clothes or running togs and you are good to go. Uncertain about safety in the area where you are staying? Ask the hotel. Hotel staff have directed me to some great routes for my runs. I have explored virtually every city and town to which I have traveled since I started running, have never felt insecure and have never had a problem. If you are concerned carry a small pepper spray.

"Yeah but the weather!" Too hot? Go early before it gets hot or late after it cools down. Too cold? Wait until it warms up and bundle up in layers; layer up when cold, down when warm. I find that when I am outside frequently, I adjust physically and mentally to temperature shifts with the seasons and have a much greater tolerance for temperatures outside of the narrow indoor range. Too windy? You won't blow away. Too rainy? You won't melt. You get the idea. You are much more adaptable than you think. Besides, weather is really pretty cool. We have had our most memorable runs, hikes and backpacking trips in epic weather.

"Yeah but I have physical limitations." Do what you can. There is probably an activity and a level of exertion that will work for you. If in doubt, talk to your doctor, a physical therapist or a trainer.

"Yeah but Covid 19." Outside activities are and have been the least restricted and, by consensus of all the health experts, the safest. Social distancing is easy. In our experience, most people you encounter outside are respectful and careful. It is easy to step aside and avoid the few who are not.

"Yeah but . . . " "Yeah but. . . " "Yeah but. . . " To borrow a phrase, JUST DO IT! Grab your mask. Get out, walk, hike, run, bike. You won't regret it. ■

Norm Gagne is Of Counsel to Butt Thornton & Baehr PC, his professional home for forty two years. He recently completed two terms on the New Mexico Judicial Standards Commission, has been a Board member of the New Mexico Cancer Center Foundation for eighteen years and is a volunteer mediator in the Landlord/ Tenant Mediation Program, a response of the City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court to the ongoing public health emergency caused by the pandemic. He is a member of the Judicial Wellness Subcommittee of the New Mexico Wellness Committee.



The Public Law Section of the State Bar is honoring New Mexico's public lawyers with its 2020 PUBLIC LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD.

This recognition highlights the unique challenges that public lawyers have faced, and continue to overcome, during the ongoing public health emergency.

As public lawyers, we serve federal and state governments, tribes, counties, municipalities, and public interest organizations. We are prosecutors and public defenders. We are administrative law judges and hearing officers. We are advisors, advocates, analysts, adjudicators, and policy makers.

We are lawyers serving the public while navigating the extraordinary circumstances of a worldwide pandemic.

Our challenges include disaster response, and addressing public health and safety at a time when collaboration is exceedingly difficult.

We are protecting due process in criminal and civil matters at a time when evidentiary records can be made only on virtual platforms.

We are supporting democratic institutions to meet critical needs such as food, shelter, transportation, and financial support when government buildings are closed and safe distances must be maintained.

We are mitigating the harsh realities of an acute emergency that exacerbates the suffering of those in the chronic conditions of poverty, disability, addiction, homelessness, and domestic violence.

We have met many of these challenges using new technology, or old technology in new ways. We have continued to focus on the most effective ways of providing service with often limited resources. We are keenly aware of what it means to work in the public service at a time when what we do together, and how we do it together, is more important than anything we can do as individuals.

During this extraordinary year, we are proud to recognize New Mexico's public law attorneys as the 2020 Public Lawyer of the Year.

Joseph Dworak, *Chair* • Geraldine Garduno, *Chair-Elect* • Felicia Orth, *Secretary* Jonas Armstrong, *Budget Officer* • Andrea Salazar, *Past-Chair* Erin McSherry • Cristela Valdez • Mahlon Wigton • Nathan Eckberg Kevin Sanders • Ramona Martinez • Cady Sartorius Emy White and Emma Stahl, *UNM Student Representative*





The Client Protection Fund Commission thanks WILLIAM D. SLEASE

for the many years of support, advice, and good will that he extended to the Client Protection Fund Commission. Mr. Slease's efforts contributed to the increased efficiency and effectiveness of the Commission. We will miss him but wish him well in his next endeavors.

2020 CPF COMMISSIONERS:

Leigh Anne Chavez, Chair • James T. Reist, Vice-Chair • Matthew C. Sanchez, Secretary/Treasurer Erin O-Brien Anderson • Jeffrey L. Baker • Andrew J. Cloutier Sally J. Galanter • Carolyn A. Wolf • Linda M. Vanzi



The State Bar's Fee Arbitration Program wishes to thank the following volunteers who have generously given their time to arbitrate fee disputes between attorneys and clients in 2020.

Mark C. Abramson Lynn A. Barnhill Phillip B. Davis James C. Ellis Anne E. Gibson Damon J. Hudson Angela M. Martinez Deborah L. Thuman

The purpose of the State Bar's Fee Arbitration program is to provide attorneys and clients with an out-of-court method of resolving fee disputes that is expeditious, inexpensive, and impartial. The State Bar offers this program as a free service. For more information or to join the panel of volunteer arbitrators please visit **nmbar.org/feearbitration**.



Hearsay.



Modrall Sperling is pleased to welcome Executive Director, **Scott Cocker**, to the firm. Scott has extensive experience in the field of law firm management, having worked at several prominent law firms in the United States. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Washington, Cocker was an administrative director at Perkins Coie in

Seattle. Cocker held several different roles at the firm, one of which involved managing the firm's offices in China. Later, Cocker worked as a director at the law firm of Debevoise & Plimpton, serving in the firm's New York City headquarters and later managing the firm's office in Washington, DC. During his career, Cocker has also worked with smaller firms and legal-related nonprofits, including the New York Council of Defense Lawyers.



Robert J. Johnston, a lawyer with Sutin, Thayer & Browne, has been named to the Board of Directors for the Tax Law Section of the State Bar of New Mexico. His practice concentrates on New Mexico tax law, including corporate income tax, gross receipts tax, property tax, and public finance. He also practices in the areas of liquor licens-

ing, and business and corporate law. Johnston is listed in Super Lawyers-Rising Stars and in Best Lawyers in America-Ones to Watch for tax law.

Rothstein Donatelli is proud to announce the appointment of three attorneys in its Criminal Practice Group to the New Mexico Federal District Court Criminal Justice Act attorney panel by Chief United States District Judge William P. Johnson. The Court appointed **Alicia Lopez** to represent defendants in complex criminal cases, serious felony cases and appeals/habeas corpus cases. **Kate Thompson** has been appointed to the serious felony panel. The court selected **Megan Dorsey** to handle complex criminal and serious felony cases. The court's recognition of Alicia, Kate and Megan fortifies the Firm's position as the largest and most experienced criminal defense firm in New Mexico in all aspects of criminal defense with over 136 combined years of litigation experience in this demanding field. Congratulations to Alicia, Kate and Megan! joined the firm. Hollowwa is licensed in New Mexico where his practice will focus on real property and contract law. A graduate of Regent University School of Law in Virginia, Hollowwa was a staff editor on the Regent Law Review, achieving publica-

tion of his own law review note. During law school, Hollowwa served as a legal extern to the Honorable David W. Lannetti in the 4th Judicial Circuit of Virginia. Prior to becoming an attorney, Hollowwa attended undergraduate school at Georgetown University. Hollowwa then served as a F-18E/F Super Hornet pilot in the U.S. Navy and continues to serve as an officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve. Hollowwa is a native of Albuquerque where he resides with his wife and four children.

Sutin, Thayer & Browne has been recognized by the American Bar Association's Health Law Section in this year's Regional Law Firm Recognition List. The Sutin firm ranked eighth in the West region, an area comprising Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. "We are honored to once again be included among the top healthcare law firms in the nation," says David H. Johnson, the senior-most member of the firm's healthcare law practice. "It is validation of Sutin's ongoing commitment to developing comprehensive, innovative solutions to our clients in the healthcare industry." Almost a dozen attorneys work in the Sutin healthcare law team; four of these (Johnson, Deborah E. Mann, Stefan R. Chacon, and Jesse D. Hale) focus almost exclusively in healthcare law, serving as the practice's core. Collectively, they have more than six decades of experience representing healthcare clients and have been recognized for their expertise by their peers and clients alike. Johnson was named Albuquerque Healthcare Lawyer of the Year by Best Lawyers in America in 2015 and 2020. More recently, Mann earned the same honor for 2021, being named Albuquerque's Healthcare Lawyer of the Year. In early 2020, Chacon was re-appointed chair of the Healthcare Litigation and Risk Management Interest Group, the largest interest group within the American Bar Association Health Law Section. Also earlier this year, Hale earned re-appointment as the vice chair of the Membership Committee of the ABA's Health Law Section.

Pregenzer, Baysinger, Wideman & Sale, P.C., is pleased to announce attorney **Bridget L. Mullins** was recently selected by Southwest Rising Stars for the third year in a row for family law and estate and trust litigation. Mullins represents clients in the areas of family law, estate planning, elder law, probate, and guardianships and conservatorships, with a focus on working with Spanish-speaking clients.

In Memoriam



William (Bill) Francis Riordan passed away on Monday, Nov. 16, 2020 after a short illness. His wife and children were able to be by his side when he passed. Bill is survived by his wife, Jocelyn Ruebel, daughters Cindy, Carol, and Stacy, son John, and wife Jessica. Bill had three granddaughters, Carson Kavathas, Sarah Gavaldon and Scottie Riordan, whom he adored and two grandsons, Dustin and Ty Davis. Bill is also

survived by three of his brothers, Jim, Richard and Terry and a sister Mary Ellen. He was preceded in death by his parents, Bernard and Helen Riordan and older brother, Bob. Bill was born in Wichita, Kansas on Wednesday, March 26, 1941. His father worked for TWA and in 1948, he was transferred to Albuquerque. Bill always considered Albuquerque his hometown. He attended Highland High School and received a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from UNM in 1965 and a Juris Doctorate Degree from UNM Law School in 1968. Bill began his law career by working as a Legal Aid Attorney with the Legal Aid Society in Albuquerque. In 1969, Bill served as an Assistant District Attorney in Bernalillo County. He also served as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of New Mexico the following year. From 1972-1978, Bill had his own private practice in which he handled commercial law, personal injury, and trial litigation. In 1978, Bill was selected by the Second Judicial District Judiciary to serve as a Children's Court Judge. Bill was elected to the New Mexico Supreme Court in 1980. He was selected in 1986 to serve as Chief Justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court. After leaving the Supreme Court in 1987, Bill was asked to be the Acting Secretary of Corrections for New Mexico by then Governor, Garry Carruthers. Bill was again in private practice from 1987 to 1992 and 1994-2001. His practice was primarily representation of numerous state and local government agencies under contract with the New Mexico Risk Management Department. Bill also served as the first Independent Counsel for the City of Albuquerque from 1987-1990. In 2001, Bill developed a successful mediation/arbitration practice and he remained in practice until his death. Bill was a devoted father, friend and husband. Bill had a passion for the law and doing the right thing. He was one of a kind. Bill also loved Hot Rods and would travel around the country to car shows whenever his schedule would permit. He could talk for hours about cars and the adventures he had with his own Hot Rods. He will be missed. Rest in Peace. Court is adjourned.



Thomas A. Tabet, passed away on Monday evening, Nov. 30, due to Covid related complications. He was 71. We embrace a beautiful image of his niece, Cathy, and his mom, Lily, bringing him home to the Lord. Tom graduated from Belen High School in 1967, received his BA from the University of New Mexico in 1971, and his law degree from Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, DC, in 1975. He practiced

law in Albuquerque for over three decades. Tom was preceded in death by his parents, Joe and Lily (Baca) Tabet; brother Herman Tabet; and brother Wilfred Tabet. Tom is survived by his daughter, Celena Tabet, husband Steven Jaquez; his son, Jeffrey Thomas Tabet, partner Jeremy Jimenez; his grandchildren, Miguel, Gabriella, and Aria; siblings Dolores (Eugene) Schiess, Fidel Tabet, Gloria Trujillo, Lorena (Gilbert) Sanchez, and Richie (Sue) Tabet; and his wife, Michelle Tabet. Tom is also survived by many nieces and nephews. The family would like to thank the staff, especially Tom's caregivers Emi and Gary, for the extra special care they provided for him during his almost eleven year stay at Manzano del Sol. Tom's children would like to give a special thank you and blessing to Dolores and Eugene Schiess, Tom's guardian angels, who made sure that he was comfortable, well cared for, and that all his needs were met. As we have received many, many calls, cards and texts of condolences for Tom's death, we reflect on the common themes we received of Tom's life. Over and over we heard "he was such a good guy..., he helped me and my family out of difficult situations..., he loved his children." Trying to reconcile our loss, we believe Tom's final message to us would be to live life to the fullest. Tom would tell you that if you have a problem with drugs and alcohol, get help. If you obtain sobriety, work at it everyday like your life depends on it, because it does. If you are hurt or angry with someone, forgive them and don't give up on them. Life is short and family is everything.

From the Clerk of the New Mexico Supreme Court

Joey D. Moya, Chief Clerk New Mexico Supreme Court PO Box 848 • Santa Fe, NM 87504-0848 • (505) 827-4860

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE OF LIMITED ADMISSION

On December 2, 2020: **Robert Pompey Alexander** Office of the Second Judicial District Attorney 520 Lomas Blvd., NW Albuquerque, NM 87102 505-222-1099 robert.alexander@da2nd. state.nm.us

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE OF REINSTATEMENT TO ACTIVE STATUS AND CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Effective October 6, 2020: Elliot Forrest Barela Pregenzer, Baysinger, Wideman & Sale, PC 2424 Louisiana Blvd., NE, Suite 200 Albuquerque, NM 87110 505-827-0505 505-872-1009 (fax) ebarela@pbwslaw.com

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE OF REINSTATEMENT TO ACTIVE STATUS

Effective December 4, 2020: **Faranak Nazari Benjamin** 1060 Hubert Road Oakland, CA 94610 970-901-6424 frankienazari@gmail.com

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE OF LIMITED ADMISSION

On December 2, 2020: Benjamin Lawrence Burke Law Offices of the Public Defender 105 Sipapu Street Taos, NM 87571 575-613-1364 575-613-1499 (fax) benjamin.burke@lopdnm.us

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE OF ADMISSION

On November 5, 2020: Gary Elzey United States Air Force, JAG Corps 1600 Wright Brothers Avenue, Suite 265 Seymour Johnson AFB, NC 27531 504-616-0817 garyelzey@gmail.com

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE OF LIMITED ADMISSION

On December 15, 2020: Sara Marie Fossum Law Offices of the Public Defender 300 Gossett Drive Aztec, NM 87410 (505) 386-4060 sara.fossum@lopdnm.us

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE OF REINSTATEMENT TO ACTIVE STATUS

Effective November 10, 2020: J. Wayne Griego 6300 Second Street, NW Albuquerque, NM 87108 505-410-2989 waynegriego@gmail.com

CLERK'S OF CERTIFICATE OF NAME AND ADDRESS CHANGE

As of November 17, 2020: Jennifer A. Houston f.k.a. Jennifer A. Delnick Buckingham Barrera Law Firm 4110 Cutler Avenue, NE, Suite 100 Albuquerque, NM 87110 505-266-4878 jennifer@buckbarrlaw.com

CLERK'S OF CERTIFICATE OF NAME AND ADDRESS CHANGE

As of October 26, 2020: Noell Sauer Huffmyer f.k.a. Noell E. Sauer Rodey, Dickason, Sloan, Akin & Robb, PA PO Box 1888 201 Third Street, NW, Suite 2200 (87102) Albuquerque, NM 87103 505-756-6900 505-768-7395 (fax) nhuffmyer@rodey.com

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE OF LIMITED ADMISSION

On December 15, 2020: **Yolonda Joiner** Law Offices of the Public Defender 419 W. Cain Street Hobbs, NM 88240 (575) 263-2272 yolonda.joiner@lopdnm.us

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE OF LIMITED ADMISSION

On December 15, 2020: **Thomas J. Lewis** Law Offices of the Public Defender 1422 Paseo de Peralta, Bldg. 1 Santa Fe, NM 87501 (505) 395-2890 thomas.lewis@lopdnm.us

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE OF ADMISSION

On November 5, 2020: Meaghan Rose McHenry PO Box 292690 Phelan, CA 92329 760-954-5251 meaghanmchenry@gmail. com

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE OF REINSTATEMENT TO ACTIVE STATUS AND CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Effective December 4, 2020: Maryl M. McNally PO Box 428 Roswell, NM 88202 920-277-8009 marylmcnally@outlook.com

CLERK'S OF CERTIFI-CATE OF NAME AND ADDRESS CHANGE

As of November 13, 2020: **Michele A. Puiggari** f.k.a. **Michele A. Masiowski** Puiggari & Associates 3801 Milwaukee Court Missoula, MT 59808 505-690-4052 michele@mpuiggari.com

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE OF REINSTATEMENT TO ACTIVE STATUS AND CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Effective November 4, 2020: **Cynthia A. Sikelianos** Johanna A. Pickel LLC 1 Ridge Court Placitas, NM 87043 505-798-2515 505-214-6562 (fax) cindy@johannapickel.com

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Effective October 19, 2020: **Paul Cattell Collins** Crowley Law Firm PO Box 2529 Billings, MT 59103

Effective October 26, 2020: **Kenneth Rooney** 3406 Warder Street, NW Washington, DC 20010

Effective October 30, 2020: John Joseph Kelly 7309 Indian School Rd., NE Albuquerque, NM 87110

Effective October 31, 2020: **Robert M. Hall** 9920 Lorelei Lane, NE Albuquerque, NM 87111

Stephen P. McCue PO Box 25062 Albuquerque, NM 87125 Effective November 18, 2020:

Timothy J. Vidal PO Box 8980 Santa Fe, NM 87504

Effective December 1, 2020: Arthur James Waskey 2 Bosque Loop Santa Fe, NM 87508

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Advance Opinions

From the New Mexico Supreme Court and Court of Appeals

From the New Mexico Court of Appeals
Opinion Number: 2020-NMCA-008
No. A-1-CA-36190 (filed September 24, 2019)
ANGELA RUSS,
Plaintiff-Appellee/Cross-Appellant,
v.
JEFFREY L. RUSS,
Defendant-Appellant/Cross-Appellee,
and
NEW MEXICO HUMAN SERVICES
DEPARTMENT,
Intervenor.
APPEAL FROM THE DISTRICT COURT OF BERNALILLO COUNTY
DEBRA RAMIREZ, District Judge

Certiorari Granted, December 4, 2019, No. S-1-SC-37962. Released for Publication February 11, 2020.

New Mexico Family Law, PC AMANDA A. ARAGON Albuquerque, NM for Appellee MICHELLE CORTEZ Albuquerque, NM L. HELEN BENNETT Albuquerque, NM for Appellant

Opinion

J. Miles Hanisee, Judge.

{1} Jeffrey Russ (Husband) appeals a district court order requiring reimbursement to Angela Russ (Wife), along with continued payments to her, of half of Husband's military retirement pay (Retirement Pay), pursuant to their Marital Settlement Agreement (MSA). At issue is what remains owed to Wife after Husband waived his Retirement Pay in exchange for receiving disability-based Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC). Husband argues the United States Supreme Court's recent decision in Howell v. Howell, 137 S. Ct. 1400 (2017) preempts New Mexico case law and prohibits the district court from ordering Husband to reimburse Wife for waived Retirement Pay. Although we agree with Husband that our contrary decision in Hadrych v. Hadrych, 2007-NMCA-001, 140 N.M. 829, 149 P.3d 593, is no longer controlling precedent after Howell, we nonetheless conclude there to be sufficient reason under still-applicable New Mexico precedent to deny retroactive application of *Howell*. We therefore affirm on grounds different than those relied on by the district court. **BACKGROUND**

{2} Husband and Wife married in 1993. Husband served in the military for the duration of the thirteen-year marriage. Upon their divorce in 2006 the parties entered into the MSA. Incorporated into the district court's final decree, the MSA stated that "as a compromise division of community assets," Husband and Wife agreed that Wife "receive 50 [percent] of [Husband's] disposable [R]etirement] [P]ay which was earned during the term of [their] marriage." Husband retired from the military and began receiving Retirement Pay ef-fective January 1, 2011. On April 6, 2011, Wife filed a motion to amend the MSA to state instead that Wife would receive "50 [percent] of [Husband's] disposable [R] etirement [P]ay from date of retirement" so that the Defense Finance and Accounting Service would disperse her portion of the Retirement Pay. Without a response from Husband, the district court entered an order approving the change less than a week later.

{3} From January 2011 until May 2014, Husband received monthly Retirement Pay varying in amount from \$1,578 to \$1,638. Wife received her portion of Husband's Retirement Pay from August 2011 until April 2014. On May 1, 2014, Husband began receiving CRSC, as a consequence of his conversion of 100 percent of his Retirement Pay to CRSC, eliminating altogether Wife's monthly percentage of Husband's Retirement Pay under the MSA. On April 11, 2014, Wife filed an emergency motion to enforce the MSA requesting that the district court compel Husband to pay Wife the amount "she would be getting from her portion of [Husband's] [R]etirement [P]ay and to award her back pay from the time the retirement benefits ceased." On May 23, 2014. Husband also filed a motion to enforce the MSA, arguing that the language of the MSA should not have been modified, and that Wife is only entitled to half of Husband's Retirement Pay during the marriage, equaling 32.2 percent of Husband's monthly Retirement Pay, and that disbursements under Husband's CRSC benefits are his "separate property."

{4} After a hearing on January 4, 2016, the district court determined that the issue of whether, under the MSA, Husband's CRSC benefits "converted from Retirement [Pay] to CRSC post-retirement[, remain] a community asset and [are] divisible" would be resolved following a trial on the merits. A bench trial took place on November 21, 2016, after which the district court entered its findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order of judgment (Order) on December 19, 2016. The district court found: (1) "[Wife] began receiving her vested portion of the [K]etirement [Pay]" in August 2011, Husband "cannot escape the responsibility of paying [Wife] what the parties agreed she earned during the time that he served in the military, no matter what name is attributed to that compensation or the source from which [Husband] pays [Wife]"; (3) principles of equity required that Wife receive 32.3 percent of the Retirement Pay in accordance with the amount she "earned for the term of the marriage"; (4) Husband owes Wife \$22,243.09 in military retirement arrears,¹

¹The total amount of arrears includes \$5,841.92 for Retirement Pay not paid to Wife before conversion from January 2011 to March 2014, along with \$16,401.17 for April 2014 until December 2016 for amounts of Retirement Pay Wife would have received if Husband had not converted his Retirement Pay. Only the portion of the arrears involving payment not received after the conversion is at issue on appeal.

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and; (5) Wife owes Husband \$8,738 in overpaid child support, which was used by the district court to offset the overall judgment against Husband. The district court then ordered Husband to pay Wife \$529.07 a month—the sum of 32.3 percent of Husband's Retirement Pay—for as long as allowed by the Department of Defenses' Military Retirement Regulations, and an additional \$500 a month to be paid toward the overall \$13,505.09 judgment owed to Wife. Husband timely appealed the district court's order.

DISCUSSION

{5} On appeal, Husband argues that the United States Supreme Court decision in Howell abrogates this Court's past decisions in Hadrych, 2007-NMCA-001, and Scheidel v. Scheidel, 2000-NMCA-059, 129 N.M. 223, 4 P.3d 670. Both opinions held, in differing circumstances, that a court can order a military spouse to indemnify a non-military spouse for post-divorce decree military waivers of military retirement pay. Husband also argues that Howell should be applied retroactively in this case in accordance with the factors in Beavers v. Johnson Controls World Services, Inc., 1994-NMSC-094, ¶ 23, 118 N.M. 391, 881 P.2d 1376, because (1) Howell did not create a new principle of law as federal statute and the United States Supreme Court's decision in Mansell v. Mansell, 490 U.S. 581 (1989) prohibited waived military retirement pay from categorization as community property by family courts; (2) limiting application of Howell would frustrate congressional intent as manifested within the Uniformed Services Former Spouses' Protection Act (USFSPA) 10 U.S.C. § 1408 (2018); and (3) equity favors retroactive application since hardship endured by non-military spouses is outweighed by hardship endured by military veterans receiving disability due to their own inability to support themselves.

{6} Wife answers that *Howell* does not abrogate Scheidel because Scheidel addressed a contractual provision of indemnification; and the MSA contains a release clause analogous to an indemnity provision which protects Wife's contractual interest in Husband's Retirement Pay and bars Husband from seeking application of Howell because to do so would deprive Wife of her share of the Retirement Pay. Wife further contends that Howell should not be applied retroactively because it applies a new principle of law by overruling past precedent and because retroactivity would burden the judicial system, economically devastate non-military spouses receiving military retirement payments, and unfairly reduce Wife's share of community property originally agreed to in the MSA. Wife does not rebut Husband's argument that Howell abrogated Hadrych.

Standard of Review

{7} "[T]his Court has applied a de novo standard to questions of federal preemption." Humphries v. Pay & Save, Inc., 2011-NMCA-035, ¶ 6, 150 N.M. 444, 261 P.3d 592. In addition, we affirm for reasons different than those relied on by the district court only in circumstances that are not unfair to the appellant. Meiboom v. Watson, 2000-NMSC-004, ¶ 20, 128 N.M. 536, 994 P.2d 1154 ("This Court may affirm a district court ruling on a ground not relied upon by the district court, but will not do so if reliance on the new ground would be unfair to appellant." (alteration, internal quotation marks, and citation omitted)). **Federal Preemption**

{8} Both parties address Scheidel and Hadrych in light of their factual similarity to the instant case. Husband argues that both cases are abrogated by Howell, whereas Wife argues that Scheidel is factually distinct from Howell thereby avoiding abrogation. Federal preemption only applies "in situations where Congress has announced a 'clear and manifest purpose'" for state application since New Mexico courts "maintain a strong preference against the doctrine." Humphries, 2011-NMCA-035, § 7; Lohman v. Daimler-Chrysler Corp., 2007-NMCA-100, 9 15, 142 N.M. 437, 166 P.3d 1091 ("Courts apply a strong presumption against preemption, particularly in areas of law that are traditionally left to state regulation."). Federal law preempts "the application of state community property law to [R] etirement [P]ay." Howell, 137 S. Ct. at 1403 (internal quotation marks and citation omitted). The USFSPA states that a state "may treat [veterans'] disposable retired pay[,]" § 1408(c)(1), as divisible property upon divorce, but expressly excludes from the definition of disposable retired pay any amount "deducted from the retired pay as a result of a waiver . . . required by law in order to receive [disability benefits]." § 1408(a)(4)(A)(ii). As such, and based upon our thorough review of Howell, we have determined only the holding in Hadrych must be considered incongruent with the holding in *Howell*. We explain. **{9**} During the pendency of this appeal, the United States Supreme Court issued Howell. In Howell, a veteran husband "waived a share of the retirement pay in order to receive nontaxable disability benefits from the Federal Government[,]" resulting in a reduction in his ex-spouse's share of his retirement payment. 137 S. Ct. at 1402, 1404. The parties were divorced before the husband's retirement, at which time the non-veteran wife was awarded 50 percent of the husband's military retirement as her sole and separate property in the divorce decree. Id. at 1404. Thirteen years after retirement, the husband was found to be

20 percent disabled and elected to receive disability benefits, consequently waiving approximately \$250 per month of his military retirement pay. Id. The husband's waiver resulted in the wife receiving \$125 less per month from his retirement pay. Id. Upon a motion to enforce the preexisting judgment by the wife, the lower state court "held that the original divorce decree had given [the wife] a vested interest in the prewaiver amount of that pay, and ordered [the husband] to ensure [the wife] receive her full 50 [percent] of the military retirement without regard for the disability." Id. (internal quotation marks and citation omitted). The Supreme Court reversed, holding that a state court cannot "subsequently increase, pro rata, the amount the divorced spouse receives each month from the veteran's retirement pay in order to indemnify the divorced spouse for the loss caused by the veteran's waiver[.]" Id. at 1402. The Court concluded that its previous decision in Mansell, holding that "federal law completely pre[]empts the [s]tates from treating waived military retirement pay as divisible community property[,]" determined the outcome of the case. Howell, 137 S. Ct. at 1405. The Court noted the rationale of the lower court, observing that "like several other state courts, [the lower court] emphasized the fact that the veteran's waiver in Mansell took place before the divorce proceeding[,]" whereas the waiver in *Howell* took place "several years after the divorce proceedings." Howell, 137 S. Ct. at 1405. Nonetheless, the Supreme Court determined that factual difference does not render Mansell inapplicable. Howell, 137 S. Ct. 1405. It reasoned that the state court did not (and most likely legally could not) control the "future contingency" of the wife's share of the military retirement pay, and stated "[t]he existence of that contingency meant that the value of [the wife's] share of military retirement pay was possibly worth less-perhaps less than [the wife] and others thought-at the time of the divorce." Id. The Court also reasoned that the state court did not have the authority to "vest" the wife with interest in the waivable portion under 38 USC § 5301(a)(1) (2018), because disability benefits are not assignable. The Court further clarified that even if the wife was "vested" with a right to half of the husband's retirement pay, such an interest is at most "contingent, depending for its amount on a subsequent condition: [the husband]'s possible waiver of that pay." Howell, 137 S. Ct. at 1406. The Court also held "[r] egardless of their form . . . reimbursement and indemnification orders displace the federal rule and stand as an obstacle to the accomplishment and execution of the purposes and objections of Congress. All such orders are thus pre-empted." Id.

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While the Court recognized "the hardship that congressional pre-emption can sometimes work on divorcing spouses[,]" it stated that a state court may take into account the contingency of Retirement Pay and consider potential reductions in value when determining a family's assets. *Id.*

{10} In *Hadrych*, decided long before Howell, we found it equitable to "require [the h]usband to be responsible for the reduction in [the w]ife's benefits" since "although [the h]usband is deemed disabled by the military," he was employed and earning additional income each month. Hadrych, 2007-NMCA-001, ¶ 15. The final decree awarded the wife 50 percent of the husband's retirement pay "attributable to the period of time the parties were married." Id. = 10 (internal quotation marks and citation omitted). There was no marital settlement agreement and therefore "no indemnity provision or non-alteration provision[,]" thereby distinguishing the case from Scheidel.² Haydrych, 2007-NMCA-001, ¶ 9. We held that "the [district] court could act to enforce and preserve [the w]ife's right to benefits established by the final decree" because "we cannot accept the inequity and unfairness that results when one party is allowed to unilaterally reduce the other's benefits established either under an agreement or a final decree." *Id.* ¶ 11. We also interpreted *Mansell* to "only appl[y] to the division of payments at the time of divorce and [to] not preclude a court from ordering the spouse who has adversely impacted the other spouse, by converting retirement benefits to disability benefits, to pay the other spouse directly." Haydrych, 2007-NMCA-001, ¶ 13.

{11} In light of *Howell*, relief under *Hadrych* is no longer proper. A state court's capacity to order reimbursement

or indemnification of post-divorce waived retirement pay in an effort to restore past marital settlement agreements or its own past order dividing marital assets is expressly preempted under *Howell*, and therefore, impermissible in New Mexico. *See Howell*, 137 S. Ct. at 1406.

The District Court's Relief Was Improper Under *Howell*

{12} Howell disallows the relief ordered by the district court—by application of Hadrych—providing Wife with indemnity for the waived amounts of Retirement Pay. The facts in this case are analogous to the facts in both Howell and Hadrych: (1) Retirement Pay was awarded to Wife as a form of divisible community property; (2) the divorce decree was entered, and then years later, Husband converted his Retirement Pay to CRSC;³ (3) Wife stopped receiving monthly payments of Retirement Pay after Husband began receiving CRSC; and (4) at trial, Wife claimed she was entitled to continue receiving the original amount of Retirement Pay agreed to by both parties in the MSA despite the waiver. Wife attempts to distinguish her case from Hadrych and *Howell* by stating that the MSA contains a release clause that functions as an indemnification provision, much like the indemnity provision in Scheidel.⁴ However, the clause in the MSA cited by Wife is not an indemnity provision because it contains no language requiring Husband to reimburse wife in any fashion. Wife's attempts to analogize to Scheidel are therefore unconvincing. This case is not factually similar to Scheidel because in Scheidel there was a clear provision in the MSA requiring husband to reimburse wife for any underpayment of funds as agreed upon by the parties. Scheidel does not apply.

{13} Because of the close similarity between the facts of this case, *Howell*, and *Hadrych*, the district court's ruling is

inconsistent with the holding of Howell. First, the district court found that Wife's interest in the Retirement Pay was "vested" after Husband retired. Even if Wife's interest in the Retirement Pay "vested" when Husband retired, her interest was contingent and dependent upon Husband's possible waiver of Retirement Pay in exchange for disability benefits. See Howell, 137 S. Ct. at 1405-06 ("State Courts cannot 'vest' that which (under governing federal law) they lack the authority to give."). Second, the district court ordered Husband pay Wife what they agreed "she earned during the time that he served in the military, no matter what name is attributed to that compensation or the source from which he pays her." The Court in Howell, however, made clear that state court orders of reimbursement or indemnification for waived Retirement Pay are preempted. 137 S. Ct. at 1406.

Howell Does Not Apply Retroactively in New Mexico

{14} Because *Howell* was decided a year after the district court entered its order in 2016, we next consider whether Howell should apply retroactively under New Mexico law. The United States Supreme Court did not explicitly state whether its opinion in Howell should apply retroactively or prospectively. *See Howell* 137 S. Ct. 1400. "When such a statement is lacking, there is a presumption of retroactivity for a new rule imposed by a judicial deci-sion in a civil case." *Edenburn v. N.M. Dep't* of Health, 2013-NMCA-045, § 27, 299 P.3d 424 (internal quotation marks and citation omitted). "This presumption, however, may be overcome by a sufficiently weighty combination of one or more factors." Id. (omission, internal quotation marks, and citation omitted). These factors, adopted from Chevron Oil Co. v. Huson, 404 U.S. 97 (1971), include: (1) whether a new

²In Scheidel, this Court held that "federal law does not prohibit state courts from enforcing indemnity provisions which ensure the payment of a minimum sum to a non-military spouse as his or her share of a community pension, provided that veterans' disability benefits are not specified as the source of such payments." 2000-NMCA-059, \P 12. The marital settlement agreement in *Scheidel* stated the husband could not "voluntarily modify his military retirement pay in such a manner as to cause [the w]ife's share to be diminished or reduced," and if such a reduction occurs, that the husband would be responsible for paying the wife the difference in payment. *Id.* \P 2 (internal quotation marks omitted). The husband was 30 percent disabled at the time of the divorce, and eventually received a 100 percent disability rating as a result of worsening health conditions. *Id.* \P 3. Then, upon the wife's motion, the district court "determined that [the h]usband had violated the terms of the MSA by applying for and receiving a higher disability rating, and required [the h]usband to indemnify [the w]ife for her losses." *Id.* \P 4. We disagreed with the husband's argument that payment to the wife would amount to "an impermissible distribution of disability benefits to [the w]ife" under *Mansell*, and explained that because the husband was "free to satisfy an indemnity obligation from any source," that "enforcement of indemnity provisions does not result in the impermissible division of disability benefits." *Scheidel*, 2000-NMCA-059, \P 7, 8-9.

³Whereas the military spouses in *Howell* and *Hadrych* both waived Retirement Pay in order to receive disability benefits and Husband here converted his Retirement Pay to CRSC, we treat both circumstances the same. *See In re Marriage of Cassinelli*, 229 Cal. Rptr. 3d 801, 808 (2018) ("Because CRSC is not retired pay—just as veteran's disability benefits are not retired pay—under FUSFSPA as construed in *Mansell*, a state court does not have jurisdiction to treat CRSC as community property.").

⁴Were Wife's argument correct and such a provision present in the MSA, we would have to resolve *Scheidel's* remaining applicability post-*Howell*. Because such a circumstance is not here the case, we decline to address *Scheidel's* remaining place in our jurisprudence. *See Insure N.M., LLC v. McGonigle*, 2000-NMCA-018, ¶ 27, 128 N.M. 611, 995 P.2d 1053 ("We will not issue an advisory opinion in the absence of a justiciable issue.").

Advance Opinions.

principle of law is established "either by overruling clear past precedent on which litigants may have relied, or by deciding an issue of first impression whose resolution was not clearly foreshadowed"; (2) whether "retrospective operation will further or retard its operation" when "weigh[ing] the merits and demerits in each case by looking to the prior history of the rule in question, its purpose and effect," and; (3) whether "substantial inequitable results" could occur if retroactivity is applied given that "there is ample basis in our cases for avoiding the injustice or hardship by a holding of nonretroactivity." Beavers, 1994-NMSC-094, § 23 (internal quotation marks and citation omitted).

{15} New Mexico precedents addressing closely-related retroactivity questions guide our analysis. In Whenry v. Whenry, 1982-NMSC-067, 98 N.M. 737, 652 P.2d 1188, at issue was whether to retroactively apply McCarty v. McCarty, 453 U.S. 210 (1981), superceded in statute as stated in Howell, 137 S. Ct. 1400, in which the United States Supreme Court held that federal law precludes state courts from treating military retirement pay as community property. Applying the three-factor Beavers test, our Supreme Court held that McCarty did not apply retroactively. The Court concluded first that McCarty "clearly establish[ed] a new principle of law" because it overruled New Mexico precedent. Whenry, 1982-NMSC-067, § 8. The Court reasoned that "[p]roperty settlements have been agreed upon based on [the overruled New Mexico] precedent[,]" and that in light of this "extensive reliance," retroactive application of McCarty would have been "unjust and inequitable." Whenry, 1982-NMSC-067, § 8. Turning to the second factor, the Court recognized that the federal interest at stake in not reducing retirement benefits was to maintain the incentive for enlistment and re-enlistment. Id. 9. Because prospective application of McCarty would "guarantee them full entitlement of retirement benefits[,]" prospective application of McCarty would not reduce "the incentive to enlist or re-enlist." Whenry, 1982-NMSC-067, ¶ 9. Addressing the third factor, the Court observed that "in no other area of law is the need for stability and finality greater than in marriage and family law," and the Court concluded that "there is ample basis for avoiding the injustice and hardships which would result in applying a rule of retroactive application." *Id.* ¶¶ 10, 11.

{16} Similarly, in Toupal v. Toupal, 1990-NMCA-027, 109 N.M. 774, 790 P.2d 1055, this Court held that Mansell, on which Howell relies, should not apply retroactively. Mansell held that "the USFSPA preempts states from treating military disability retirement benefits as community property." Toupal, 1990-NMCA-027, 9 1. In Toupal, a husband moved to modify and, under Rule 1-060(B), to reopen a district court's judgment dividing his disability retirement benefits as community property based on Mansell. Toupal, 1990-NMCA-027, ¶ 1. Following the lead of our Supreme Court in Whenry, we applied the three *Beavers* factors and determined: (1) "Mansell created new law by overruling prior New Mexico cases holding that disability retirement pay may be treated as community property"; (2) "the Mansell decision did not espouse any legitimate governmental interest to be served by preventing states from treating disability retirement as community property, so refusal to give the decision retroactive effect will not impinge on any important purpose furthered by the decision"[;] and (3) if applied retroactively, the judicial system could be inundated with Rule 1-060(B) petitions from military retirees and "[e] x-spouses who have been receiving such payments, in reliance on established New Mexico case law, will face the prospect of repaying those amounts with diminished resources." Toupal, 1990-NMCA-027, § 6. {17} Our analysis is similar to the analyses in both Whenry and Toupal. First, *Howell* establishes a new principle of law by abrogating established New Mexico precedent that protects a wife's interest, awarded by decree, in her husband's military retirement benefits such that the husband was responsible for indemnifying the wife upon his elected reduction in those benefits. See Hadrych, 2007-NMCA-001, ¶¶ 10, 15. Even though Howell states its reliance on Mansell (which predates Hadrych) in reaching its holding, see Howell, 137 S. Ct. at 1405, Howell cautioned that it is improper for state courts to distinguish Mansell by "emphasiz[ing] the fact that the veteran's waiver in Mansell took place before the divorce proceeding; [whereas] the waiver [in the state cases] took place several years after the divorce proceedings." Howell, 137 S. Ct. at 1405. This Court made that very distinction in Hadrych. 2007-NMCA-001, ¶ 13 ("We join other jurisdictions that have held that Mansell only applies to the division of payments at the time of divorce and does not preclude a court from ordering the spouse who has adversely impacted the other spouse, by converting retirement benefits to disability benefits, to pay the other spouse directly."). Just as retroactive application of *McCarty* would have been "unjust and inequitable" because of litigants' "extensive reliance on that prior precedent," *Whenry*, 1982-NMSC-067, ¶ 8, retroactive application of *Howell* would unjustly and inequitably undo significant provisions of marital settlement agreements that were based on New Mexico precedent, including the MSA in this case.

{18} Second, the congressional purposes of Retirement Pay as an "inducement for enlistment or re-enlistment," *McCarty*, 453 U.S. at 234, will not be substantially harmed if *Howell* is not applied retroactively since future enlistees or re-enlistees will still benefit from prospective application of the rule as established in *Howell*. Our analysis of the second factor mirrors our Supreme Court's analysis of this factor in *Whenry*, 1982-NMSC-067, ¶ 9.

{19} Third, retroactive application could produce inequitable results for ex-spouses who rely upon the amount of Retirement Pay agreed to by both parties and relied on by the district court in approving the MSA's division of community assets, as a source of income. See Toupal, 1990-NMCA-027, 9 6. In addition, New Mexico's judicial system could experience an influx of petitions to re-open divorce cases that have long since been settled if retroactivity is applied. See id. Reopening this category of cases abruptly in response to a change in law could disturb "the need for stability and finality" in marriage and family law, of which "the relitigation of property interests long after the issues were supposedly settled would merely serve to reopen old wounds and create new ones." Whenry, 1982-NMSC-067, § 10 (internal quotation marks and citation omitted).

{20} Weighing the inequities that result from retroactive application in light of the *Beavers* factors, we conclude that the presumption of retroactive application is here overcome. We hold that *Howell* does not apply retroactively in New Mexico. **CONCLUSION**

{21} Based upon the reasons set forth in this opinion, we affirm.

{22} IT IS SO ORDERED. J. MILES HANISEE, Judge

WE CONCUR:

KRISTINA BOGARDUS, Judge ZACHARAY A. IVES, Judge



Montgomery & Andrews, P.A. is pleased to announce that Ricardo (Rico) Gonzales has joined the firm as an associate. Born and raised in Valencia County, New Mexico with long-standing ties to the region, Ricardo graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of New Mexico School of Law where he attained admission to the Order of the Coif. During law school, his course of study focused on real property law, water law, and business law. Prior to law school, he obtained his master's degree in the History of the U.S. West from the University of New Mexico, graduating with distinction and working as an associate editor at the *New Mexico Historical Review*.



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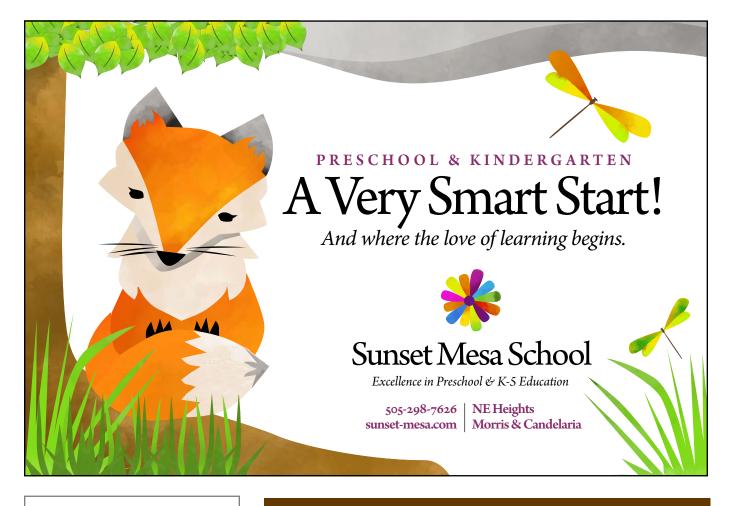
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With 53 offices and over 1,600 attorneys, Lewis Brisbois is one of the largest and most prestigious law firms in the nation. Our Albuquerque office is seeking associates with a minimum of three years litigation defense experience. Candidates must have credentials from ABA approved law school, be actively licensed by the New Mexico state bar, and have excellent writing skills. Duties include but are not limited to independently managing a litigation caseload from beginning to end, communicating with clients and providing timely reporting, appearing at depositions and various court appearances and working closely with other attorneys and Partners on matters. Please submit your resume along with a cover letter and two writing samples to phxrecruiter@lewisbrisbois.com and indicate "New Mexico Litigation Attorney Position". All resumes will remain confidential.

Taos Pueblo Tribal Prosecutor – RFP

Notice is hereby given that Taos Pueblo Tribal Court calls for Proposals for: RFP # 2020-4: Proposal for Taos Pueblo Tribal Prosecutor. Interested parties may secure a copy of the Proposal Packet from Volaura Mondragon, Taos Pueblo Tribal Court, 195 Rio Lucero, Taos Pueblo, New Mexico 87571, (575) 751-0488, ext. 201 or via email by sending a request to vmondragon@ taospueblo.com. Proposals must be received no later than January 22, 2021 at 4:00 P.M. and submitted to: Taos Pueblo Central Management System? ATTN: Taos Pueblo Tribal Court: Volaura Mondragon, 1075 Veterans Highway, P.O. Box 1846, Taos, New Mexico 87571 or via email to vmondragon@ taospueblo.com. Hard copies of the proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope that is clearly marked "Proposal for Taos Pueblo Tribal Prosecutor." If mail delivery is used, the proposer should mail the proposal early enough to ensure arrival by this deadline. The proposer uses mail or courier service at his/ her own risk. Taos Pueblo will not be liable or responsible for any late delivery of proposals. Postmarks will not be accepted. Until award of the contract, proposals shall be held in confidence and shall not be available for public review. No proposal shall be returned after the date and time set for opening thereof. Taos Pueblo CMS reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and/to waive any information in the proposal process.

Eleventh Judicial District Attorney's Office, Div II

The McKinley County District Attorney's Office, Gallup, New Mexico is seeking resumes for two (2) Assistant Trial Attorney and (3) Senior Trial Attorney positions. Senior Trial Attorney position requires substantial knowledge and experience in criminal prosecution, rules of criminal procedure and rules of evidence. Admission to the New Mexico State Bar preferred, but will consider applicants who are eligible to be admitted by reciprocity. The District Attorney elect is also seeking resumes for a DUI Task Force Attorney. This position must be New Mexico and Navajo Nation Licensed. Former position is ideal for persons who recently took the NM bar exam. The McKinley County District Attorney's Office provides regular courtroom practice and a supportive and collegial work environment. Enjoy the spectacular outdoors in the Adventure Capital of New Mexico. Salaries are negotiable based on experience. Submit letter of interest and resume to District Attorney elect Bernadine Martin, Office of the District Attorney, 201 West Hill, Suite 100, Gallup, NM 87301, or e-mail letter to bernadinem25@gmail.com. Positions to commence on January 2, 2021 and will remain opened until filled.

Taos Pueblo Tribal Conflict Public Defender – RFP

Notice is hereby given that Taos Pueblo Tribal Court calls for Proposals for: RFP # 2020-6: Proposal for Taos Pueblo Tribal Conflict Public Defender. Interested parties may secure a copy of the Proposal Packet from Volaura Mondragon, Taos Pueblo Tribal Court, 195 Rio Lucero, Taos Pueblo, New Mexico 87571, (575) 751-0488, ext. 201 or via email by sending a request to vmondragon@taospueblo. com. Proposals must be received no later than January 22, 2021 at 4:00 P.M. and submitted to: Taos Pueblo Central Management System; ATTN: Taos Pueblo Tribal Court: Volaura Mondragon; 1075 Veterans Highway; P.O. Box 1846; Taos, New Mexico 87571 or via email to vmondragon@taospueblo.com. Hard copies of the proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope that is clearly marked "Proposal for Taos Pueblo Tribal Conflict Public Defender." If mail delivery is used, the proposer should mail the proposal early enough to ensure arrival by this deadline. The proposer uses mail or courier service at his/her own risk. Taos Pueblo will not be liable or responsible for any late delivery of proposals. Postmarks will not be accepted. Until award of the contract, proposals shall be held in confidence and shall not be available for public review. No proposal shall be returned after the date and time set for opening thereof. Taos Pueblo CMS reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and/to waive any information in the proposal process. Taos Pueblo CMS reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and/to waive any information in the proposal process. GENERAL CONDI-TIONS: This Request for Proposal (RFP) does not commit Taos Pueblo to award a contract to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of the proposal in response to this request, or to procure or contract for services or supplies. Taos Pueblo expressly reserve the right to reject any and all proposals or to waive any irregularity or information in any proposal or in the RFP procedure and to be the sole judge of the responsibility of any proposer and of the suitability of the materials and/or services to be rendered. Taos Pueblo reserve the right to modify the RFP schedule described above.

Associate Attorney

Tucker, Yoder & Associates, LLC Farmington, NM. Must have 3-4 years of attorney experience including litigation and must be able to manage a case load involving injury, domestic relations and criminal charges. Must be licensed in New Mexico and familiar with state and federal rules. Excellent writing, legal research and communications skills are a must. Salary determined upon review of experience. Please email resumes to: sarah@ tuckeryoderlaw.com or mail to: Tucker, Yoder & Associates, Attn: Sarah Foust, 105 North Orchard Ave., Farmington, NM 87401

Managing Attorney

The Law Offices of the Public Defender has a great opportunity for the right attorney! Are you the one? This person can step immediately into a Managing Attorney position in the Hobbs, New Mexico, LOPD office. In addition to supervising the office, the Managing Attorney will carry a caseload and provide professional level services representing juvenile and adult indigent clients, handle highly complex appeals or serve as lead counsel for serious violent felony or appeals and other highly complex litigation cases. The average salary for Managing Attorneys is \$44.67 hourly/ \$92, 913.60/annually. This position is also eligible for geographical pay \$3.75/hourly. About Hobbs: If you enjoy the warmth of a "small-town," you will feel right at home here; Hobbs, located four miles from the Texas border, is a community of about 36,000 residents. It has the largest oil and gas reserves in the world as well as a strong ranching and agriculture community. Additionally, the Hobbs economy has diversified into wind, solar, nuclear, health care and tourism. Weather is temperate all year long with lots of blue sky beckoning to outdoor activities - bicycling, running and fishing, among others. Golfweek named Hobbs' Rockwind Community Links the second best course in New Mexico. Hobbs comes alive with even more excitement during its annual fall horse racing. Additional features of the quality of living experienced in Hobbs includes a state-of-the-art recreational center, and the annual Jack Maddox Distinguished Lecture Series that has included such distinguished speakers as: Laura Bush, Kareem Abdul Jabar, Ben Carson and Condoleeza Rice. Hobbs is the home of the University of the Southwest, the New Mexico Junior College and two new elementary schools. For more information and to apply for this position, go to https:// www.governmentjobs.com/careers/lopdnm.

Full-Time Associate Attorney

Egolf + Ferlic + Martinez + Harwood, LLC, located in downtown Santa Fe, seeks an exemplary associate attorney for its plaintiff's litigation and civil rights practice group. The ideal candidate will have excellent research and writing skills and wants to join a fastpaced litigation team working to achieve outstanding results for our clients. Candidate must be a self-starter, appreciate the importance of the Oxford comma. Ability to work collaboratively in a team environment is a must. New Mexico licensure is required; a clerkship or 2 plus years of litigation experience is desired. The Firm offers a competitive salary, bonus and benefits package with opportunities for future growth. Resumes and writing samples should be sent to Annette@ EgolfLaw.com.

Taos Pueblo Tribal Public Defender – RFP

Notice is hereby given that Taos Pueblo Tribal Court calls for Proposals for: RFP # 2020-5: Proposal for Taos Pueblo Tribal Public Defender. Interested parties may secure a copy of the Proposal Packet from Volaura Mondragon, Taos Pueblo Tribal Court, 195 Rio Lucero, Taos Pueblo, New Mexico 87571, (575) 751-0488, ext. 201 or via email by sending a request to vmondragon@taospueblo.com. Proposals must be received no later than January 22, 2021 at 4:00 P.M. and submitted to: Taos Pueblo Central Management System; ATTN: Taos Pueblo Tribal Court: Volaura Mondragon; 1075 Veterans Highway; P.O. Box 1846; Taos, New Mexico 87571 or via email to vmondragon@ taospueblo.com. Hard copies of the proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope that is clearly marked "Proposal for Taos Pueblo Tribal Public Defender." If mail delivery is used, the proposer should mail the proposal early enough to ensure arrival by this deadline. The proposer uses mail or courier service at his/her own risk. Taos Pueblo will not be liable or responsible for any late delivery of proposals. Postmarks will not be accepted. Until award of the contract, proposals shall be held in confidence and shall not be available for public review. No proposal shall be returned after the date and time set for opening thereof. Taos Pueblo CMS reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and/to waive any information in the proposal process.

Associate Attorney and Paralegal

Law Offices of Lynda Latta, LLC seeks an associate attorney and a paralegal for a fastpaced law firm specializing in family law and criminal misdemeanor defense. Excellent computer and communication skills, ability to multitask and being a good team player are all required. Pay DOE. Send resume via mail to 715 Tijeras Ave. NW, 87102 or email: holly@lyndalatta.com

Legal Assistant

Legal Assistant with minimum of 3- 5 years' experience, including current working knowledge of State and Federal District Court rules and filing procedures, trial preparation, document and case management, calendaring, online research, is technologically adept and familiar with use of electronic databases and legal-use software. Seeking organized and detail-oriented professional with excellent computer and word processing skills for established commercial civil litigation firm. Email resumes to e_info@abrfirm.com or Fax to 505-764-8374.

Paralegal

The City of Albuquerque Legal Department is seeking a Paralegal to assist an assigned attorney or attorneys in performing substantive administrative legal work from time of inception through resolution and perform a variety of paralegal duties, including, but not limited to, performing legal research, managing legal documents, assisting in the preparation of matters for hearing or trial, preparing discovery, drafting pleadings, setting up and maintaining a calendar with deadlines, and other matters as assigned. Excellent organization skills and the ability to multitask are necessary. Must be a team player with the willingness and ability to share responsibilities or work independently. Starting salary is \$20.69 per hour during an initial, proscribed probationary period. Upon successful completion of the proscribed probationary period, the salary will increase to \$21.71 per hour. Competitive benefits provided and available on first day of employment. Please apply at https://www. governmentjobs.com/careers/cabq.

Temporary Part Time and Full Time Paralegal

ATA Services is currently seeking highly qualified temporary part time and full time Paralegal II to work on an assignment in Santa Fe and Albuquerque. Work Summary: Employees in this role coordinates administrative support activities and deals with public businesses and other organizations. Employees, under the guidance and direction of an attorney: develop reporting procedures, identify and describe legal problem areas, and inform public as to legal avenues available; keep accurate files of correspondence and materials relating to cases; make investigations, procedure evidence, take statements of witness and prepare affidavits; notarize documents and files in court records; develop and maintain case files; prepare drafts of proposed rules, regulations and resolutions; determine eligibility for representation; search records and deeds; serve summonses, subpoenas and papers Minimum Qualifications: High school or GED and a minimum of three (3) years of experience as a Certified Paralegal. ATA Services, Inc is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, protected veteran status, or disability status. Salary: \$25.00 /hour.For more information and to apply Veronica Gutierrez at 505-881-1724 or vgutierrez@ataservices.net.

Litigation Secretary – Albuquerque, New Mexico

The Albuquerque office of Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP is seeking a Litigation Secretary with 3+ years' experience in the various areas of insurance defense. This fulltime position requires knowledge of State and Federal court procedures, court rules, e-filing procedures, and docketing. Experience working with insurance companies is always a plus. ATTRIBUTES: Self-starter who can work with little supervision, be extremely organized and very detail oriented; Ability to multi-task effectively and prioritize incoming work to meet deadlines; Demonstrate a professional demeanor and customer service approach during busy times. TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS: Advanced computer skills with Windows, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook; Proficient with document management software, docketing and records management systems. Contact: Please email your cover letter and resume to phxrecruiter@LewisBrisbois.com and include "Albuquerque Litigation Secretary" in the subject line. Lewis Brisbois offers a compensation and benefits package including health, dental and vision insurance, vacation and sick leave, 401k and more!

Experienced Paralegal - Santa Fe

Full-time experienced paralegal needed for 5-attorney intensive diverse civil litigation practice. We are looking for someone who can perform under pressure and work as a dependable, positive team member. Must have fluency in or be willing to learn calendaring software, MS Word, Outlook, Excel and state/ federal court rules and procedures. Competitive salary and benefits based on skills and experience, and 401k. Fun fast-paced work atmosphere with fair expectations. Reply in confidence to: qsimons@simonsfirm.com or to The Simons Firm, LLP, P.O. Box 5333, Santa Fe, NM 87502-5333.

Office Assistant

Matthews Fox, P.C. is a two-lawyer firm concentrating on education and administrative law. We seek a reliable, organized, detail-oriented person to administer our Santa Fe office on a part-time basis. Successful candidate must be skilled in Timeslips, QuickBooks, Microsoft Office 2013 (Word, Outlook, Excel), and Adobe Acrobat. Fundamental bookkeeping abilities required. Sense of humor and positive attitude a must! We offer competitive compensation and benefits. Email letter of interest and resume with references to sfox@matthewsfox.com, and include "Office Assistant" in the subject line.

Full-Time Paralegal

Egolf + Ferlic + Martinez + Harwood LLC is hiring a full-time paralegal position. The Firm is based in downtown Santa Fe but represents clients throughout the state. Ideal candidate will show initiative, demonstrate attention to detail and organization, and work well under pressure. They must be able to communicate well with others, while also being able to work independently. Litigation experience a plus! For the right candidate, the Firm is willing to train individuals with related experience or education. The Firm offers a competitive salary and benefits package that includes healthcare, life insurance & retirement match. Interested candidates should submit a resume to Annette@EgolfLaw.com

Legal Secretary/Legal Assistant

Hinkle Shanor LLP is hiring a legal secretary/ legal assistant for a busy medical malpractice defense group in its Santa Fe office. Applicants must have strong typing and computer skills. Experience in calendaring deadlines and court filings in all courts is required. Duties include reviewing, responding to and processing e-mails on a daily basis, reviewing correspondence and pleadings, keeping all files and filing up to date, scheduling depositions, management of electronic files and opening of new files. Familiarity with LMS time and billing software for time entry is a plus. Please send resume and letter of interest to gromero@hinklelawfirm.com.

Paralegal

Civil litigation firm seeking Paralegal with minimum of 3- 5 years' experience, including current working knowledge of State and Federal District Court rules and filing procedures, trial preparation, document and case management, calendaring, and online research, is technologically adept and familiar with use of electronic databases and legaluse software. Qualified candidates must be organized and detail-oriented, with excellent computer and word processing skills and the ability to multi-task and work independently. Salary commensurate with experience. Please send resume with references and a writing sample to paralegal3.bleuslaw@gmail.com

Services

Legal Writing and Research Services

Please call; (575) 495-9076. Writing samples available upon request. Kenneth C. Detro LLC

Office Space

Downtown Office Space For Lease:

1001 Luna Circle. Charming 1500 square ft. home converted to 4 offices, kitchenette and open reception/secretarial area with fireplace and wood floors. Walking distance from courthouses and government buildings. Free parking street-front and in a private lot in back. Security System. \$1500/mo. plus utilities. Call Ken @ 505-238-0324

Sun Valley Executive Office Suites

Conveniently located in the North Valley with easy access to I-25, Paseo Del Norte, and Montano. Quick access to Downtown Courthouses. Our all-inclusive executive suites provide simplicity with short term and long-term lease options. Our fully furnished suites offer the best in class in amenities. We offer a move in ready exceptional suite ideal for a small law firm with a secretary station. Visit our website SunValleyABQ. com for more details or call Jaclyn Armijo at 505-343-2016.

Miscellaneous

Want To Purchase

Want to purchase minerals and other oil/ gas interests. Send details to: P.O. Box 13557, Denver, CO 80201

2021 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 by 10 a.m. on Thursday, three weeks prior to publication.**

For more advertising information, contact: Marcia C. Ulibarri at 505-797-6058 or email mulibarri@nmbar.org

The publication schedule can be found at www.nmbar.org/BarBulletin.

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