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Hop, Skip and a Jump, by Janet Bothne (see page 4)

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SPECIAL INSERT

Excerpts from the State Bar of New Mexico Client Protection Fund 2023 Annual Report

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From the New Mexico Court of Appeals

Formal Opinions	
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Advertising	

Section, Division and Committee Meetings

Section, Committee, Division	April	Мау	Time, Format	
Animal Law	N/A	8	12:30 p.m., Zoom	
Appellate	2	7	Noon, Zoom	
Bankruptcy Law	9	14	Noon, Bankruptcy Court & Zoom	
Cannabis Law	12	10	TBD	
Children's Law	15	20	Noon, Zoom	
Elder Law	5	3	TBD	
Employment and Labor Law	3	1	12:30 p.m., Zoom	
Family Law	19	17	9 a.m., Zoom	
Immigration Law	26	31	11 a.m., Zoom	
Indian Law	N/A	19	Noon, Zoom	
Intellectual Property Law	23	28	Noon, Zoom	
NREEL	23	28	Noon, Zoom	
Prosecutors	N/A	10	Noon, Zoom	
Public Law	17	15	Noon, Zoom	
Real Property, Trust and Estate	N/A	14	Noon, Zoom	

About Cover Image and Artist: Janet Bothne has been 'weaving' color in her vibrant works for over three decades. Her focus on the paint itself being the subject matter has taken this former realist into a new practice that balances gut vs. brain, chaos vs. organization and a zen-like approach which results in works that straddle the familiar and the enigmatic. Eleven years ago, she moved to New Mexico and opened "Studio J" in Los Ranchos de Albuquerque where she currently makes her work. Visit www.janetbothne.com to see a full bio and more of her artworks.

Notices

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

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. (MT). Library Hours: Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m. (MT). For more information call: 505-827-4850, email: libref@nmcourts.gov or visit https:// lawlibrary.nmcourts.gov.

N.M. Administrative Office of the Courts Adjustment of Fee Schedule for Court-Appointed Attorneys Now Available

The Administrative Office of the Courts' Court Appointed Attorney Program ("AOC-CAAP") is pleased to announce that, effective March 20,the fee schedule for court-appointed attorneys has been adjusted to better reflect the hard work undertaken by court-appointed attorneys. The revised fee schedule and invoice forms can be reviewed at https://courtappointedattorneys. nmcourts.gov/non-contract-attorneys/ payment-guidelines-forms/. Please submit invoices to aoccaaff@nmcourts.gov or contact the CAAP team if you have any questions at aoccaaff@nmcourts.gov.

Learn About Access to Justice in New Mexico in the "Justice for All" Newsletter

Learn what's happening in New Mexico's world of access to justice and how you can participate by reading "Justice for All," the New Mexico Commission on Access to Justice's monthly newsletter! Email atj@ nmcourts.gov to receive "Justice for All" via email or view a copy at https://accesstojustice.nmcourts.gov.

Professionalism Tip

With respect to my clients:

I will be loyal and committed to my client's cause, and I will provide my client with objective and independent advice.

First Judicial District Court Notice of Mass Reassignment of Cases

Effective April 1, a mass reassignment of all active cases previously assigned to Judge Sylvia LaMar and Division IV will occur pursuant to NMSC Rule 23-109, the Chief Judge Rule. The Hon. Denise Thomas has been appointed to Division IV of the First Judicial District and will maintain a Family Court Docket. Parties who have not previously exercised their right to challenge or excuse will have ten (10) days from April 24 to challenge or excuse Judge Denise Thomas, pursuant to Rule 1-088.1.

Second Judicial District Court Notice of Reassignment of Cases

Pursuant to Rule 1-088.1, NMRA, the Second Judicial District Clerk of Court hereby serves notice that a mass reassignment of all Children's Court cases assigned to the Honorable Marie C. Ward and Division XIX in the Children's Court, will be automatically reassigned to the Hon. Diana Garcia Division XIX, effective April 1. Any party may file a peremptory excusal within 10 days upon completion of this publication which is on or before April 10.

Tenth Judicial District Court Notice of Mass Reassignment of Cases

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham has announced the appointment of Timothy L. Rose to fill the vacancy in Division I of the Tenth Judicial District Court. Effective April 1, a mass reassignment of cases will occur. All cases previously assigned to District Judge Albert J. Mitchell, Jr., Division I, will be reassigned to District Judge Timothy L. Rose, Division I. Parties who have not previously exercised their right to challenge or excuse will have 10 days from April 24 to challenge or excuse the judge pursuant to Rule 1-088.1 and 5-106.

Text Notifications Service for Attorneys Now Available

The Second Judicial District Court will provide text notifications to attorneys to share information related to inclement weather delays and temporary closures. Sign up to receive texts by sending a text from your mobile device to 77295 and entering the word, "attorney2nd." Information provided will strictly be on behalf of the Second Judicial District Court and is not intended to relay information for any other courts.

Eleventh Judicial District Court Announcement of Consideration of Additional Applicants

The Eleventh Judicial District Court met March 21 and submitted one name to Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham for consideration to fill the vacancy in the Eleventh Judicial District Court (Gallup) due to the retirement of the Hon. Louis E. DePauli, Jr., effective April 1. Gov. Lujan Grisham has requested that the commission submit additional names to her for consideration. Applications, as well as information related to qualifications for the position, may be obtained from the Judicial Selection website. The deadline for applications has been set for April 9 at 5 p.m. (MT). Applications received after that date will not be considered. Applicants seeking information regarding election or retention if appointed should contact the Bureau of Elections in the Office of the Secretary of State. The date and time of the reconvening of the Eleventh Judicial District Judicial Nominating Commission (Gallup) will be April 22, 2024, and any additional interviews will be conducted then. The Commission meeting is open to the public, and members of the public who wish to be heard about any of the candidates will have an opportunity to speak at that time.

Eleventh Judicial District Court Judicial Nominating Commission

Announcement of Candidates

The Eleventh Judicial District Court Judicial Nominating Commission convened on March 21 at the Eleventh Judicial District Court to interview applicants for

www.sbnm.org

the two vacancies in the Eleventh Judicial District, due to the retirement of the Hon. Louis E. DePauli, Jr., effective April 1, in Gallup, N.M., as well as the retirement of the Hon. Karen L. Townsend, effective March 31, in Aztec, N.M. The Commission recommends **Brian Douglas Decker** and **Stephen Michael Wayne** for the vacancy in Aztec.

STATE BAR NEWS Board of Bar Commissioners Appointment to ABA House of Delegates

Pursuant to the American Bar Association Constitution and Bylaws (Rules of the Procedure House of Delegates) Article 6, Section 6.4, the Board of Bar Commissioners will make one appointment to the American Bar Association (ABA) House of Delegates for a two-year term, which will expire at the conclusion of the 2026 ABA Annual Meeting. The delegate must be a licensed New Mexico attorney and a current ABA member in good standing and be willing to attend meetings or otherwise complete his/her term and responsibilities without reimbursement or compensation from the State Bar; however, the ABA provides reimbursement for expenses to attend the ABA mid-year meetings. Members wishing to serve on the House of Delegates should send a letter of interest and brief resume by May 3 to bbc@sbnm.org.

Appointment to Judicial Standards Commission

Pursuant to NMSA 1978, § 34-10-1(B) (1999), the Board of Bar Commissioners will make one appointment to the Judicial Standards Commission for a four-year term. Applicants must be licensed to practice law in New Mexico. The time commitment for service on this Commission is substantial and the workload is voluminous. Receiving, reviewing and analyzing substantial quantities of electronic documents are necessary to prepare for Commission matters. Strict adherence to constitutional, statutory and regulatory authority governing the Commission is mandatory, expressly including but not limited to confidentiality. Commissioners meet at least six (6) times per year for approximately three hours per meeting. A substantial amount of reading and preparation is required for every meeting. In addition to regular meetings, the Commission schedules at least three (3) weeklong trailing dockets of trials. Additional trials, hearings,

or other events may be scheduled on special settings. Additionally, mandatory in-house training sessions may periodically take place. Unless properly recused or excused from a matter, all Commissioners are required to faithfully attend all meetings and participate in all trials and hearings. Appointees should come to the Commission with limited conflicts of interest and must continually avoid, limit, or eliminate conflicts of interest with the Commission's cases, Commission members. Commission staff and with all others involved in Commission matters. Attorneys who wish to serve on the Commission should send a letter of interest and brief resume by May 3 to bbc@sbnm.org.

New Mexico Lawyer Assistance Program Monday Night Attorney Support Group

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

NM LAP Committee Meetings

The NM LAP Committee will meet at 4 p.m. (MT) on July 11 and Oct 11. The NM LAP Committee was originally developed to assist lawyers who experienced addiction and substance abuse problems that interfered with their personal lives or their ability to serve professionally in the legal field. The NM LAP Committee has expanded their scope to include issues of depression, anxiety, and other mental and emotional disorders for members of the legal community. This committee continues to be of service to the New Mexico Lawyer Assistance Program and is a network of more than 30 New Mexico judges, attorneys and law students.

New Mexico Well-Being Committee Meetings

The N.M. Well-Being Committee was established in 2020 by the State Bar of New Mexico's Board of Bar Commissioners. The N.M. Well-Being Committee is a



p.m. ET, Monday–Friday. Customer service can be reached at 866-773-2782 or support@fastcase. com. For more information, contact techsupport@sbnm.org.

standing committee of key stakeholders that encompass different areas of the legal community and cover state-wide locations. All members have a well-being focus and concern with respect to the N.M. legal community. It is this committee's goal to examine and create initiatives centered on wellness. The Well-Being Committee will meet the following dates at 3 p.m. (MT): May 28, July 30, Sept. 24 and Nov 26. Email Tenessa Eakins at Tenessa.Eakins@sbnm.org.

The Solutions Group Employee Assistance Program

Presented by the New Mexico Lawyer Assistance Program, the Solutions Group, the State Bar's Employee Assistance Program (EAP), extends its supportive reach by offering up to four complimentary counseling sessions per issue, per year, to address any mental or behavioral health challenges to all SBNM members and their direct family members. These counseling sessions are conducted by licensed and experienced therapists. In addition to this valuable service, the EAP also provides a range of other services, such as management consultation, stress management education,



The **New Mexico Lawyer Assistance Program** provides confidential, professional and peer assistance to help individuals identify and address problems with alcohol and other drugs, depression and other mental health/emotional disorders. NM LAP endeavors to improve the well-being of lawyers, law students, paralegals, law clerks and all other legal staff through support, education and early intervention with the goal of ensuring every legal professional is healthy and fit to practice.

Meet the Friendly Faces of NM LAP



Pamela Moore, MA, LPCC,

currently serves as a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor and Director of the State Bar of New Mexico's Professional Programs Group where she educates the legal community on positive health and well-being and assists in providing

resources and services to any legal professional struggling with mental, emotional or behavioral issues.



Tenessa Eakins is the Case Manager of the State Bar of New Mexico Lawyer Assistance Program, overseeing a 24-hour helpline and managing the NM LAP monitoring program. With a background as an EMT-B for San Diego's 911 services, she brings valuable experience to her role. Ms. Eakins is dedicated

to promoting positive health and well-being within the legal community through educational initiatives.

Find more information about the New Mexico Lawyer Assistance Program at www.sbnm.org/nmlap



webinars, critical incident stress debriefing, video counseling, and a 24/7 call center. The network of service providers is spread across the state, ensuring accessibility. When reaching out, please make sure to identify yourself with the NM LAP for seamless access to the EAP's array of services. Rest assured, all communications are treated with the utmost confidentiality. Contact 505-254-3555 to access your resources today.

New Mexico State Bar Foundation Pro Bono Opportunities

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

Young Lawyers Division Ask-a-Lawyer Call-In Day: Volunteers Needed for May 4

Once a year, New Mexico residents can get their legal questions answered free or receive brief legal advice through the Aska-Lawyer Call-in Program sponsored by the YLD. The YLD is recruiting volunteer attorneys virtually and in-person to answer questions from across the state on a variety of topics including: employment law, divorce, child support, landlord/tenant issues, personal injury, estate planning, real estate and more. This year's program will take place from 9 a.m. to noon (MT) on May 4. Help us spread the word to you friends and family of this great event. For further questions, contact Member Services at memberservices@ sbnm.org.

UNM SCHOOL OF LAW Law Library Hours

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

2024 Law Scholarship Golf Classic

The UNM School of Law Alumni/ae Association's annual Law Scholarship Golf Classic is happening on June 7, 2024 with a shotgun start at 8 a.m. (MT) on the UNM Championship Golf Course (South). This is your chance to help with the Alumni/ae Association student scholarships and have an outstanding day of golf and friendly competition! Please go to https://lawschool.unm. edu/alumni/events/golf.html to register, or contact Lynn Taylor at lynn.taylor@law.unm. edu. We hope to see you on the green!



Supreme Court of New Mexico



Dear Colleagues,

As my term as Chief Justice is concluding, I am reflecting on the things most important to me as a member of the judiciary. To no one's great surprise, my thoughts turn to access to justice and pro bono service. Consistent with this, I am taking this opportunity to remind all members of the New Mexico Bar to include pro bono public legal services in their 2024 calendar. As you know, Rule 24-108 NMRA encourages 50 hours of pro bono public legal services per year or \$500 in financial contribution to organizations that provide legal services to persons of limited means in New Mexico. Only district attorneys are exempt from pro bono work, but they are not exempt from making a donation.

Now is the time to commit to a pro bono practice. Information on how to volunteer your time is readily available at **accesstojustice.nmcourts.gov**, **www.sbnm.org**, and by contacting the following organizations:

- The New Mexico Legal Aid Volunteer Attorney Program (VAP) Connects low-income self-represented New Mexicans with members of the private bar.
- The Modest Means Helpline A free legal helpline for New Mexico residents with an income at or below 500% of the Federal poverty guidelines, which gives advice on topics including, but not limited to, domestic relations, landlord-tenant, and small business issues.
- Legal Resources for the Elderly A volunteer attorney pool which serves New Mexico residents 55 or older.
- The ABA Free Legal Answer Program A virtual legal advice portal where clients request brief advice and counsel about a specific legal issue without any expectation of long-term representation.
- The Young Lawyers Division's Programs, including Wills for Heroes, Veterans' Legal Clinics, Homeless Legal Clinic, and Ask-A-Lawyer Call-in Program.
- DNA People's Legal Services Provides free, culturally appropriate legal services in tribal, state, and federal courts to qualifying low-income residents living in geographically isolated portions of Arizona, Utah, and New Mexico.
- Advocacy, Inc. Serves at-risk children and youth from birth to 18 years by providing legal advocacy and support through legal representation for children in foster care or state custody, guardianship, adoption, and guardian ad litem services.
- Pegasus Legal Services for Children Provides comprehensive, high-quality legal services to the most vulnerable children and youth in New Mexico.
- The New Mexico Immigrant Law Center Provides high-quality legal representation accessible to lowincome immigrant communities.
- Catholic Charities of Central New Mexico and Catholic Charities of Southern New Mexico -Provides high quality, low-cost, pro bono legal representation to individuals and families in various immigration matters.

- Disability Rights New Mexico A private, non-profit organization whose mission is to protect, promote and expand the rights of persons with disabilities.
- Enlace Comunitario Provides domestic violence survivor services to Spanish-speaking immigrants and their families.
- Native American Disability Law Center Provides advocacy and referral information to all Native Americans with a disability living anywhere in the Four Corners area, who feels they have been discriminated against because of their disability, abused or neglected, or wrongly denied a service.
- New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty Works with low-income New Mexicans to improve living conditions, increase opportunities, and protect the rights of people living in poverty.
- Southwest Women's Law Center Provides legal advice and limited legal brief services to women and girls across New Mexico.

But wait, there's more ...

- When you actively engage in pro bono work, you enhance your legal skills, including research, writing, negotiation, and advocacy.
- You will expand your professional network through collaborating with other lawyers, judges, and community organizations involved in public interest law.
- Your reputation as a lawyer committed to social justice will grow among your colleagues and the community.
- Pro bono cases often lead to referrals and connections with potential paying clients who appreciate your dedication to public service.
- Most pro bono programs provide malpractice insurance separate from your employment.

Most importantly, you will be giving back to your community by helping those who are vulnerable and require representation to navigate the legal process. New Mexico needs attorneys to provide regular pro bono service, so please explore our legal community's resources and sign up today!

Sincerely yours,

C. Shannon Bacon Chief Justice

The State Bar of New Mexico's Annual Meeting looks a little **different** this year.

Save the Date! October 25, 2024

Attend In-Person at the State Bar Center in Albuquerque or Virtually

Earn all 12 of your CLE credits for the year at a discounted rate! Earn a portion of your CLE credits by attending the live (in-person or virtual) Annual Meeting event and complete the remaining credits with access to our CLE On-Demand courses. More information coming soon!

www.sbnm.org/AnnualMeeting2024

be

inspired.



- STATE BAR OF NEW MEXICO -2024 Annual Awards



Nominations are being accepted for the **2024 State Bar of New Mexico Annual Awards** to recognize those who have distinguished themselves or who have made exemplary contributions to the State Bar or legal profession in the past year. The awards will be presented at the **2024 Annual Meeting on Fri., Oct. 25**, at the State Bar Center in

Albuquerque, NM. All awards are limited to one recipient, whether living or deceased, with the exception of the Justice Pamela B. Minzner Professionalism Award, which can have two recipients—an attorney and a judge. Nominees may be nominated for more than one award category. Previous recipients for the past three years are listed below.

To view last year's recipients and the full list of previous recipients, visit:

www.sbnm.org/AnnualAwards



Recognizes nonlawyers who have provided valuable service and contributions to the legal profession over a significant period of time.

Previous recipients: Mary Galves, Juan Abeyta, Bernice Ramos

Excellence in Well-Being Award

Many individuals have made significant contributions to the improvement of legal professional well-being including destigmatizing mental health, strengthening resiliency, and creating a synergic approach to work and life. This award was created to recognize an individual or organization that has made an outstanding positive contribution to the New Mexico legal community's well-being. As the State Bar of New Mexico is committed to improving the health and wellness of New Mexico's legal community, we strongly encourage self-nominations and peer nominations for any lawyer, judge or nonlawyer working in some capacity with the N.M. legal community.

Previous recipients (created in 2022): Joy Applewhite, Pamela Moore

Recognizes attorneys who have provided valuable service and contributions to the legal profession, the State Bar of New Mexico and the public over a significant period of time.

Previous recipients: David Stout, Michael P. Fricke, Joey D. Moya

*This award was renamed in 2019 in memory of Judge Singleton (1949-2019) for her tireless commitment to access to justice and the provision of civil legal services to low-income New Mexicans. She also had a distinguished legal career for over four decades as an attorney and judge.

Judge Sarah M. Singleton^{*} Distinguished Service Award

Recognizes attorneys and/or judges who, over long and distinguished legal careers, have by their ethical and personal conduct exemplified for their fellow attorneys the epitome of professionalism.

Previous recipients: Justice Edward L. Chavez, Judge James J. Wechsler and Quentin P. Ray, Frederick M. Hart (posthumously) and F. Michael Hart

*Known for her fervent and unyielding commitment to professionalism, Justice Minzner (1943–2007) served on the New Mexico Supreme Court from 1994 to 2007.

• Recognizes outstanding, extraordinary law-related organizations or programs that serve the legal profession and the public.

Previous recipients: Judicial Branch IT Staff, Pueblo of Pojoaque Path to Wellness Court, Intellectual Property Law Section Pro Bono Fair, New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty Award

Justice Pamela

B. Minzner^{*} Professionalism

Outstanding Legal Organization or Program Award

Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year Award Awarded to attorneys who have, during the formative stages of their legal careers by their ethical and personal conduct, exemplified for their fellow attorneys the epitome of professionalism; nominee has demonstrated commitment to clients' causes and to public service, enhancing the image of the legal profession in the eyes of the public; nominee must have practiced no more than five years or must be no more than 36 years of age.

Previous recipients: Shasta N. Inman, Lauren E. Riley, Maslyn K. Locke

Robert H. LaFollette^{*} Pro Bono Award Presented to an attorney who has made an exemplary contribution of time and effort, without compensation, to provide legal assistance over his or her career to people who could not afford the assistance of an attorney.

Previous recipients: Ella Joan Fenoglio, Darlene T. Gomez, Torri A. Jacobus

*Robert LaFollette (1900–1977), Director of Legal Aid to the Poor, was a champion of the underprivileged who, through countless volunteer hours and personal generosity and sacrifice, was the consummate humanitarian and philanthropist

• Recognizes judges who have distinguished themselves through long and exemplary service on the bench and who have significantly advanced the administration of justice or improved the relations between the bench and the bar; generally given to judges who have or soon will be retiring.

Previous recipients: Judge Lorenzo F. Garcia, Judge Henry A. Alaniz, Judge Mary W. Rosner

Justice Montgomery (1937–1998), a brilliant and widely respected attorney and jurist, served on the New Mexico Supreme Court from 1989 to 1994 decades as an attorney and judge. Seth D. Montgomery^{} Distinguished Judicial Service Award

Nominations should be submitted through the following link: form.jotform.com/sbnm/2024sbnmawards

Additional information or letters may be uploaded with the form and submitted with the nomination.

Deadline for Nominations: Monday, July 8, 5 p.m. (MT)

For more information or questions, please contact Kris Becker at kris.becker@sbnm.org or 505-797-6038.

Legal Education Calendar

April

- 1-30 Self-Study Tools for Creative Lawyering: An Introduction to Expanding Your Skill Set with Eric Sotkin

 1.0 G, 2.0 EP
 Online On-Demand
 The Ubuntuworks Project
 www.ubuntuworksschool.org
- 10 Ugh! I Feel so Conflicted Right Now! Common Conflicts of Interest 1.0 EP Webinar Center for Legal Education of NMSBF www.sbnm.org
- 12 Spring Family Law Institute: Impact of Domestic Abuse on Families 5.0 G In-Person or Webcast Center for Legal Education of NMSBF www.sbnm.org
- 12 Making Victim's Rights Meaningful: Representing Victims in Criminal Courts 1.5 G, 0.5 EP In-Person or Webcast DWI Resource Center/Victims Rights Project www.victimsrightsnm.org
- Master Microsoft Word's Most Useful Hidden Feature - Styles - to Easily Create Better Formatted Documents
 1.0 G
 Webinar
 Center for Legal Education of NMSBF
 www.sbnm.org

May

 1-30 Self-Study - Tools for Creative Lawyering: An Introduction to Expanding Your Skill Set with Eric Sotkin

 1.0 G, 2.0 EP
 Online On-Demand
 The Ubuntuworks Project
 www.ubuntuworksschool.org

- 17 "Boilerplate" Provisions in Business and Commercial Contracts: Traps for the Unwary
 1.0 G
 Teleseminar
 Center for Legal Education of NMSBF
 www.sbnm.org
- 18 REPLAY: Special Education Needs and Challenges
 1.0 EIJ
 Webcast
 Center for Legal Education of NMSBF
 www.sbnm.org
- Equipment Leases: Drafting & UCC Article 2A Issues

 O G
 Teleseminar
 Center for Legal Education of NMSBF
 www.sbnm.org
- Retain Your Clients: A Roadmap to Effective, Ethical Client Service
 1.0 EP
 Webinar
 Center for Legal Education of NMSBF
 www.sbnm.org
- SSF CLE Roundtable: Money Trapped!

 O G
 Virtual, link with registration Solo and Small Firm Section www.sbnm.com
- 24 REPLAY: Understanding Public Housing Resources 1.0 EIJ Webcast Center for Legal Education of NMSBF www.sbnm.org
 - 2024 Professional Development Institute 5.0 EP, 1.0 EIJ In-Person or Webcast Center for Legal Education of NMSBF www.sbnm.org

9

How Secondary Trauma Affects Attorney Mental Health 1.0 EP Webinar Center for Legal Education of NMSBF www.sbnm.org

24

- 24 Heavy Trucking Forensics: Technology, Failure Analysis and Biomechanics 1.5 G Webcast (Live Credits) New Mexico Defense Lawyers Association www.nmdla.org
- 25 Ethics, Attorneys, and Social Media: How to Keep the Disciplinary Counsel from Knocking at Your Door 1.0 EP Webinar Center for Legal Education of NMSBF www.sbnm.org
- 25 Health Law Legislative Roundup 1.5 G Webinar Center for Legal Education of NMSBF www.sbnm.org
- 26 Overcoming Barriers to Justice: Serving People Experiencing Poverty 1.0 EIJ Webinar Center for Legal Education of NMSBF www.sbnm.org

I've Got a Secret: Confidentiality, Privilege, and Work-Product - They Are Not All the Same 1.0 EP Webinar Center for Legal Education of NMSBF www.sbnm.org

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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@sbnm.org. Include course title, credits, location/ course type, course provider and registration instructions.

Opportunities for Pro Bono Service CALENDAR

April

Asylum Initial Application 13 Peter H. Johnstone Day Family 17 Citizenship & Residency Workshop 25 and Work Permit Pro Se Clinic Law Legal Fair In-Person In-Person In-Person New Mexico Immigrant Law Center www.nmilc.org/citizenship New Mexico Immigrant Law New Mexico Legal Aid bit.ly/NMLALegalFairSignUp Location: El Centro de Igualidad y Center Location: Second Judicial District www.nmilc.org/asylum Derechos Courthouse Location: Announced prior to clinic Legal Fair 26 **Special Immigrant Juvenile** 27 In-Person **Status Pro Bono Clinic**

New Mexico Legal Aid

Location: Hernandez

bit.ly/NMLALegalFairSignUp

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

- Resources for the Public

 CALENDAR
 April

 13
 Peter H. Johnstone Day Family
 17
 Citizenship & Residency Workshop
 24
 Consumer Debt/l
 - Law Legal Fair In-Person New Mexico Legal Aid bit.ly/NMLALegalFairSignUp Location: Second Judicial District Courthouse

In-Person

Center

New Mexico Immigrant Law

Location: Modrall Sperling Law

www.nmilc.org/sijs

- 25 Asylum Initial Application and Work Permit Pro Se Clinic In-Person New Mexico Immigrant Law Center www.nmilc.org/asylum Location: Announced prior to clinic
- 17 Citizenship & Residency Workshop In-Person New Mexico Immigrant Law Center www.nmilc.org/citizenship Location: El Centro de Igualidad y Derechos
- 26 Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Pro Bono Clinic In-Person New Mexico Immigrant Law Center www.nmilc.org/sijs Location: Modrall Sperling Law
- **Consumer Debt/Bankruptcy Workshop** Virtual State Bar of New Mexico Call 505-797-6094 to register Location: Virtual
- **Legal Fair** In-Person New Mexico Legal Aid bit.ly/NMLALegalFairSignUp Location: Hernandez

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Listings in the *Bar Bulletin* Pro Bono & Volunteer Opportunities Calendar are gathered from civil legal service organization submissions and from information pertaining to the New Mexico State Bar Foundation's upcoming events. All pro bono and volunteer opportunities conducted by civil legal service organizations can be listed free of charge. Send submissions to probono@sbnm.org. Include the opportunity's title, location/format, date, provider and registration instructions.

alloui're State Bar Foundation

Plassic



Please Save the Date and Get Your Golf Team Together!

The New Mexico State Bar Foundation invites you to participate in the **New Mexico State Bar Foundation Golf Classic** *All proceeds benefit the New Mexico State Bar Foundation.*



More Information on Sponsorships and Registration Coming Soon!



Accessing Civil Legal Services For New Mexicans In Need

There are a variety of organizations and groups committed to ensuring that income is not a bar to access to the civil justice system in New Mexico. Four groups that provide guidance and support in New Mexico's Access to Justice efforts are:

The New Mexico Commission On Access To Justice



- Identifies Access to Justice needs statewide, sets priorities, and spearheads efforts to provide greater access to justice
- Makes recommendations to the New Mexico Supreme Court to improve court legal services
- Troubleshoots statewide access to justice barriers and challenges
- Does not directly fund any civil legal service provider

Civil Legal Service Commission (CLSC)

- The Civil Legal Services Commission promotes and expands legal services to New Mexicans in need
- Awards contracts to civil legal service providers who represent New Mexicans in need from legislative appropriations and money from court filing fees

Equal Access To Justice



EQUAL • A nonprofit that provides unrestricted, noncompetitive grants to New Mexico Legal Aid, DNA People's Legal Services, and the New Mexico Center for Law and Poverty through donations to its ACCESS TO Annual Campaign from the legal community JUSTICE • Is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

Access To Justice Fund Grant Commission



- Administered by the State Bar of New Mexico
- Access to Justice Fund Created by the NM Supreme Court
 - The Commission is the financial steward of the New Mexico Supreme Court Fund for Access to Justice (ATJ Fund)
- Awards competitive grants to civil legal service providers from interest on attorney fees paid to the State Bar and from attorney donations on the license renewal form
- The ATJ Grant Commission, as an independent board, evaluates and awards all funding requests

How Can I Help Fill The Gap In Access To The Civil Justice System?

"A lawyer should be mindful of deficiencies in the administration of justice and of the fact that the poor, and sometimes persons who are not poor, cannot afford adequate legal assistance. Therefore, all lawyers should devote professional time and resources and use civic influence to ensure equal access to our system of justice for all those who because of economic or social barriers cannot afford or secure adequate legal counsel. A lawyer should aid the legal profession in pursuing these objectives and should help the bar regulate itself in the public interest."

- Preamble to the New Mexico Rules of Professional Conduct

rom the start of law school to the passing of the bar, each of us gained training and skills to utilize our legal system to solve problems for community members. For many New Mexicans access to this legal system is not a reality, they lack the financial resources to hire an attorney. New Mexico is fortunate to have many civil legal service organizations that provide free legal representation, including, but not limited to: Legal Aid; NM Center on Law and Poverty; Pegasus Legal Services for Children; and Disability Rights

New Mexico. These organizations work hard every single day to serve New Mexicans who cannot afford counsel and otherwise lack meaningful access to the civil justice system. They cannot do it alone. No matter how hard they try, the level of need is too great for these organizations, to have the capacity and ability to serve all of those in need. Each of us must step forward, help in this effort, and invest our time to ensure New Mexicans have equal access to the civil justice system.

There are many ways you can help, even with a limited time investment, in a meaningful way that will positively impact our community and ensure greater access to the civil justice system.

1. Sign up for the Volunteer Attorney Program.

Volunteer Attorney Program ("VAP") is a program run by New Mexico Legal Aid in partnership with the State Bar of New Mexico and New Mexico's 13 Judicial District Pro Bono Committees. VAP connects low-income New Mexicans with members of the private bar. In signing up for VAP, you will receive an email when Legal Aid needs to find an attorney to consult with and possibly undertake representation of the pro se client. You are not obligated to take on the case, but rather have the opportunity to agree to consult and the option to provide limited representation. Contact VAP at 1-866-416-1922 or VAPreferrals@nmlegalaid.org.

While the impulse to turn down a case that is outside of your area of expertise may be automatic, instead pause and consider whether, with the support of other persons who have expertise in that area of law, it is a case you could take on. Expanding your wheelhouse can provide tangible relief to the pro bono client who may otherwise lack any realistic legal remedy. There are numerous resources to help you navigate the legal issues in cases involving family law, landlord-tenant/housing, public benefits, expungement, unemployment, consumer/bankruptcy, wills/probate, contracts, and immigration at: https://www.sbnm.org/ Bar-Foundation/Pro-Bono-Opportunities-New-Mexico-State-Bar-Foundation/New-Mexico-State-Bar-Foundation-Volunteer-Attorney-Pool. The additional effort to expand your practice area can not only assist the pro bono client but it can also enrich your practice.

2. Sign up for A Legal Clinic Hosted in Your County or a Tele-Clinic.

The NM State Bar has information on upcoming legal clinics here: https://www.sbnm.org/For-Public/Workshop-Legal-Clinics.

3. Partner Up.

Reach out to your colleagues, partners, and associates to team up on working a pro bono case together. Take on a VAP case with your State Bar mentee and start the culture of pro bono work from their first year as a lawyer.

4. Volunteer Your Mediation and Guardian Ad Litem Services.

In addition to pro bono legal representation, pro bono mediators are in significant need throughout the State of New Mexico. Courts throughout the State of New Mexico face real and significant shortages of attorneys to provide necessary, and statutorily required, Guardian ad Litem services in guardianship and family law cases. Contact the Court Appointed Attorney Program (aoccaaff@nmcourts. gov) or your local district court to volunteer.

5. Give Financial Contributions to Organizations Supporting Legal Service Providers.

You can make financial contributions to the following organizations that support or provide direct civil legal services to New Mexicans: Catholic Charities: https://www.ccasfnm.org/ Disability Rights NM: https://drnm.org/ DNA People's Legal Services: https://dnalegalservices.org/ Enlace Communitario: https://www.enlacenm.org/ Equal Access to Justice: https://www.eaj-nm.org/ KWH Law Center: https://www.kwhlawcenter.org/ Native American Disability Law Center: https://www.nativedisabilitylaw.org/ Legal Resources for the Elderly Program: https://www.sbnm.org/LREP **Modest Means Helpline:** https://www.sbnm.org/MMH NM Center for Law and Poverty: http://nmpovertylaw.org/ NM Immigrant Law Center: https://www.nmilc.org/?locale=en NM Legal Aid: https://www.newmexicolegalaid.org/ **Pegasus Legal Services for Children:** https://pegasuslaw.org/ Senior Citizens' Law Office: http://sclonm.org/ Southwest Women's Law Center: https://swwomenslaw.org/ **United South Broadway:** https://www.unitedsouthbroadway.org/

6. Change Your IOLTA Account to a Bank in the Leadership Circle.

The interest on your IOLTA account is distributed by the Access to Justice Fund Grant Commission to fund civil legal service providers in New Mexico. Banking institutions in the "Leadership Circle" have committed to providing a significantly higher interest rate on attorney IOLTA accounts, resulting in more money to fund these important civil legal service providers. If you already bank with a bank in the Leadership Circle confirm your IOLTA account has been correctly classified. Banks in the Leadership Circle include:

- Wells Fargo
- Enterprise Bank & Trust
- Century Bank of Santa Fe
- Pinnacle Bank
- BMO Harris

There are many ways that we can help support efforts to ensure access to the civil justice system. If we each commit to doing at least one of the items listed above, we would make a significant impact on making sure each New Mexican has access to the civil justice system while complying with our professional obligations as attorneys.



What is the Professional Development Program?

The Professional Development Program ("PDP") offers services and resources to State Bar members pertaining to law practice management, professional liability and the New Mexico Rules of Professional Conduct.

What resources does the PDP offer to State Bar of **New Mexico members?**

PDP resources include:

- Continuing education courses
- "How-to" manuals and workshops
- Ethics Helpline
- Information about and a list of certified professional coaches
- Well-being articles and podcasts
- Information about professional liability insurance
- Anonymous and confidential online self-assessments focused on best practices in nine different areas
- Sample forms and checklists



Are PDP resources, including the Ethics Helpline, confidential?

Information and documents provided to or by the PDP, or created by the PDP when offering resources to a lawyer, are confidential as set forth in Rule 24-112. This includes calls to the Ethics Helpline and use of the online self-assessments.

Can you tell me more about the Ethics Helpline?

The Ethics Helpline, reached at 800-326-8155, is a free and confidential service available to New Mexico attorneys to discuss issues pertaining to the New Mexico Rules of Professional Conduct, professional liability and law practice management. Helpline responses offer suggestions as to things that the inquiring lawyer may want to research and consider based upon the facts presented in the Helpline call. This includes relevant Rules of Professional Conduct, applicable case law and pragmatic considerations.

The Helpline response is limited to discussing the inquiring lawyer's issues, and will not discuss the conduct of other attorneys, the propriety of their actions, or issues of substantive law. The Helpline response is not considered evidence, it is not intended to be used in any subsequent matters, it is not offered as legal advice to the inquiring lawyer, and it does not constitute the formation of an attorney-client relationship between the inquiring lawyer and the State Bar or any of its employees.

Are PDP resources free?

Virtually all PDP resources are free and open to use by State Bar of New Mexico members.

The most notable exceptions are the Certified Professional Coaches available through the PDP portion of the State Bar of New Mexico's website. The listed coaches are not employees or agents of the State Bar of New Mexico and any financial compensation for a coach is the sole responsibility of the lawyer or law firm who chooses to work with a coach.

What has been the PDP's impact to New Mexico's Legal community?

The PDP is providing valuable support and resources to the practicing bar. Calls to the Helpline cover a variety of topics and number anywhere from 10 – 15 each week. In addition to providing guidance to the inquiring lawyer, the Helpline provides the opportunity to direct callers to additional PDP and State Bar of New Mexico resources, some of which members might not otherwise know about or consider.

Where can I learn more about the PDP?

PDP resources are available on the State Bar of New Mexico website at https://www.sbnm.org/PDP. Members can also email the PDP at profpractice@sbnm.org, or call 505-797-6079.





2024 Professional Development Institute

Thursday, May 9, 2024 • 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. (MT) Earn 5.0 EP and 1.0 EIJ Credits

Offered via webcast or join us in-person at the State Bar Center! In-person attendees will be provided with a continental breakfast and lunch, with a mocktail reception to follow the Institute for an opportunity for you to network with your colleagues!

The **State Bar of New Mexico Professional Development Program (PDP**) proudly presents a day-long Institute focused on attorney best practices, compliance with the Rules of Professional Conduct, Well-Being and Equity In Justice.

> Register to attend in-person: https://bit.ly/PDI_inperson Register to attend virtually: https://bit.ly/PDI_virtual

Professional Development Institute Sessions to include:

- Basics of Trust Accounting Presented by Anne L. Taylor, Chief Disciplinary Counsel, NM Supreme Court Disciplinary Board and William D. Slease, State Bar of New Mexico's Professional Development Program Director
- Huh, So That's How It Works. Mock Meeting of the NM State Bar Ethics Advisory Committee – Presented by members of the Ethics Advisory Committee
- Are The Bots Coming For Your Job? Artificial Intelligence in the Practice of Law – Presented by Hon. David K. Thomson, NM Supreme Court; Prof. Sonia Gipson Rankin, UNM School of Law and William D. Slease, State Bar of New Mexico's Professional Development Program Director
- Oops, Now What? What You Need To Know About Next Steps After Discovering That You've Made A Mistake – Presented by Briggs F. Cheney, Dixon, Scholl, Carrillo, P.A.
- An Honest Conversation About Well-Being Presented by Tenessa Eakins, State Bar of New Mexico's Lawyer Assistance Program Case Manager
- **Key Considerations For Interrupting Bias** Presented by Dr. Amanda Parker, Equity and Inclusion Educator



Now Open stration is 2024 Open for the + Drokession the - Drokession at Clerk's Certificates

From the Clerk of the New Mexico Supreme Court

Elizabeth A. Garcia, Chief Clerk of the New Mexico Supreme Court PO Box 848 • Santa Fe, NM 87504-0848 • (505) 827-4860

Clerk's Certificate of Change to Inactive Status

Effective January 16, 2024: Judith E. Paquin 201 3rd St NW Ste 300 Albuquerque, NM 87102-3366

Lisa McClanahan Power 809 S Webber St Urbana, IL 61801-4330

Patrick M. Schaefer 7524 Republic Dr NE Albuquerque, NM 87109-5164

Suzana Skrabo PO Box 7412 London, KY 40742-7412

Alexander H. Steinbach PO Box 2761 Palmer, AK 99645-2761

Ramon Acosta La barra de Colotepec, C.P., OC 70934

Puya Agahi 3411 Bayonne Dr San Diego, CA 92109-6603

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Holly Haseloff 5013 122nd St Lubbock, TX 79424-8281

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Justin Henry 5500 N 24th St Phoenix, AZ 85016-3130

Michael Hoeferkamp 445 Woodbrook Way Lawrenceville, GA 30043-2396

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Kathryn Thompson Ritter 4111 E 37th St N Wichita, KS 67220-3203

Mary W. Rosner PO Box 241 Las Cruces, NM 88004-0241

Paul J. Rubino 380 Caldwell North Rd Munfordville, KY 42765-9236

Eric W. Schuler PO Box 82584 Albuquerque, NM 87198-2584

David E. Shelle PO Box 66552 Albuquerque, NM 87193-6552

John E. Stroud 8 Azul Way Santa Fe, NM 87508-8799

Xochitl Liana Torres Small 1320 4th St Las Cruces, NM 88005-1951

Robert C. Trenchard Jr. 1801 C St Lincoln, NE 68502-1646

Elizabeth A. Trickey PO Box 788 Santa Fe, NM 87504-0788

Excerpts from the State Bar of New Mexico Client Protection Fund 2023 Annual Report

Presented to the Supreme Court of New Mexico and the State Bar of New Mexico Board of Bar Commissioners

Full report available at www.sbnm.org/CPF



State Bar of New Mexico Client Protection Fund

2023 Commission

Sally Galanter *Chair* Tonya Herring *Vice-Chair* Scotty Holloman *Secretary/Treasurer*

Ex Officio Members Richard B. Spinello Stormy Ralstin

March 1, 2024

Dear Colleagues,

State Bar of New Mexico Client Protection Fund Commissioners Don Anque Aja Brooks Andrew Cloutier Mick Gutierrez James Reist Hon. Linda Vanzi Commission Liaison Anne L. Taylor

It has been my pleasure and honor to serve as the 2023 Chair of the Client Protection Fund. The annual report provides fund information from 2005, when the Supreme Court issued an order establishing the State Bar of New Mexico Client Protection Fund Commission through 2023, including the history, purpose of the fund, revenues generated, the claims process and claims approved and denied.

The Commissioners are dedicated to ensuring that those who have been financially harmed by the dishonest conduct of lawyers admitted and licensed to practice in New Mexico are reimbursed, fulfilling the purpose of the fund by promoting public confidence in the administration of justice and the integrity of the legal profession. The nine members, licensed New Mexico attorneys, are assigned multiple claims and thereafter conduct a thorough investigation and ultimately complete a recommendation which is presented to and voted on by the full Commission.

The Commission continues to see claims against deceased attorneys as well as claims in which attorneys have failed to retain unearned fees in their trust account and/or have failed to maintain adequate records regarding trust funds held for their clients. Observing these problems is a good reminder to all attorneys of the importance of vigilantly complying with the rules as to trust accounting and ensuring that trust funds are never comingled with other funds or removed from the trust account until earned.

In the eighteenth full year of Commission operation, Commissioners approved 11 claims against 9 attorneys reimbursing \$98,941.43 to claimants. The Supreme Court designated Anne Taylor to distribute trust account funds of one attorney in the amount of \$1,810.81 directly to one claimant. Commissioners denied 14 claims against 13 attorneys and had 12 finalized during the investigatory process. 13 claims have been carried over to be completed in 2024.

I thank all commission members for their tireless work and service towards fulfilling the purpose of the commission adding a special thanks to Aja Brooks, who while serving her one-year term in her capacity as secretary-treasurer added much to the quality of the work completed. Additionally, I would like to thank State Bar staff Stormy Ralstin, David Powell, Kate Kennedy and Donna Smith and Disciplinary Board Staff Anne Taylor and Tamma Williams without whose assistance, the commission could not complete its work and whose assistance has greatly enhanced the success of commission work. Sincerely,

Sally Galanter 2023 Chair



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Introduction



History and Purpose

The purpose of the Client Protection Fund (CPF) is to promote public confidence in the administration of justice and the integrity of the legal profession by reimbursing losses caused by the dishonest conduct of lawyers admitted and licensed to practice law in the courts of this jurisdiction. The Client Protection Fund Commission was established by order of the New Mexico Supreme Court effective Dec. 13, 2005, as a permanent commission of the State Bar of New Mexico Board of Bar Commissioners. The Supreme Court adopted a modified version of the American Bar Association's model rules for client protection funds and codified them at Rules 17A-001 et seq. of the New Mexico Rules Annotated. The Commission oversees the CPF and is charged with receiving, holding, managing, and disbursing money from the Fund according to the rules. The State Bar is responsible for administering the Commission, developing and approving the budget, and managing operations and staffing. Since January 1, 2014, the New Mexico Disciplinary Board has assisted in the technical administration of the Commission's tasks, including the processing of claims under the Commission's direction.

Revenues

The initial resources for the Fund were provided in 2005 by a Supreme Court order transferring funds from accumulated fines against lawyers who failed to comply with the Court's Minimum Continuing Legal Education requirements. In 2008 the Supreme Court ordered an additional transfer of funds from MCLE to the Fund. In 2009 the Supreme Court ordered a \$15 annual assessment of every active New Mexico attorney pursuant to Rule 17A-003 (B) NMRA. In 2010, 2012, 2016, and 2018 additional monies were also transferred from MCLE to the Fund by Supreme Court Orders. The State Bar provides in-kind support to the Fund and the Commission through staff support, office and meeting space, and fiscal administration. (See 2023 Financial Information, page 10). From time to time, the Fund receives monies from court-ordered sanctions directed to the fund at the discretion of the judge.

Eligible Claims

To qualify for a reimbursement from the Fund, a client must have incurred a financial loss caused by the dishonest conduct of a New Mexico-licensed lawyer who was counseling, advising, or representing the client or serving in another fiduciary capacity such as a trustee. The claim must be filed no later than five years after the client knew or should have known of the lawyer's dishonest conduct. Dishonest conduct is specifically defined under the CPF rules as wrongful acts such as theft or embezzlement of money or the wrongful taking or conversion of money, property, or other things of value; e.g., failing to refund unearned fees or borrowing money from a client without the intention to repay or disregarding the lawyer's inability or reasonably anticipated inability to repay. A typical CPF claim involves a lawyer who collected a retainer from a client, performed some legal work, and then became unable or unwilling to finish the work or refund the unearned amount.

The rules also include a hardship exception which allows the Commission, in cases of extreme hardship or special and unusual circumstances, to recognize a claim that was filed late or would not otherwise be reimbursable. This exception is rarely used. The maximum reimbursable amount was increased in 2012 from \$10,000 to \$20,000 per individual claim, and, effective January 1, 2016 from \$20,000 to \$50,000.

Processing a Claim

The claimant must complete a prescribed claim form and have it notarized. The claimant must provide a copy of any written agreement pertaining to the claim and copies of any checks, money orders, receipts, or other proof of payment. The claimant is responsible for completing the form and providing evidence of a reimbursable loss up to the maximum amount payable per claim.

The CPF gives notice of a claim to the lawyer against whom it is filed (or the lawyer's representative) and allows 20 days for a response. The Disciplinary Board is also notified of the claim. After the lawyer's response and other initial facts and documents are gathered, the claim is assigned to one of the CPF commissioners for investigation. The commissioner investigates and presents a recommendation to the full Commission. If appropriate under the circumstances, the recommendation includes the investigating commissioner's estimate of any amount that should be allowed as a credit against the claim for the value of work the lawyer performed or costs the lawyer properly paid with client funds. The approval or denial of a claim requires the affirmative votes of at least five commissioners.



The claimant and the lawyer are notified of the Commission's decision. Either party may request reconsideration in writing within 30 days of the denial or determination of the amount of a claim. If no request for reconsideration is received, the check for any approved reimbursement is sent after the notice period expires. If a timely request is received, the check for any approved reimbursement is sent after the Commission has reconsidered its decision. Rule 17A-013 NMRA provides that in either case the Commission's decision is final and there is no further right of appeal. Reimbursement is discretionary and no person has a legal right to reimbursement from the Fund. As part of the claim form, the claimant agrees to assign his/her claims against the lawyer to the fund in the event that the CPF makes a payment, and the CPF may pursue reimbursement and recovery from the lawyer or the lawyer's successor (e.g., an estate).

2023 Annual Report Highlights and Commission Activities



The Client Protection Fund Commission finished its eighteenth full year of operation in 2023 paying nearly \$99,000 in 11 claims against 9 lawyers. To date, the Commission has paid \$1,325,288.42 in cumulative reimbursements for clients' financial losses involving 85 lawyers. Year-by-year and cumulative statistics appear later in this report.

The Commission met 3 times in 2023, with Commissioners appearing in person and via Zoom. There was no conference travel by the Commissioners.

The Commission reminds everyone that Rule 17A-018(A) protects the confidentiality of information on claims, claimants, and respondent lawyers with exceptions for approved claims and other limited purposes as set forth below:

- A. Publicizing awarded claims. Claims, proceedings and reports involving claims for reimbursement are confidential until the commission authorizes reimbursement to the claimant, except as provided below, unless provided otherwise by law. After payment of the reimbursement, the commission shall publicize the nature of the claim, the amount of reimbursement, and the name of the lawyer. The name and the address of the claimant shall not be publicized by the commission unless specific permission has been granted by the claimant. The commission may provide a waiver to the claimant which authorizes disclosure.
- B. Exceptions. This rule shall not be construed to deny access to relevant information by the disciplinary board, other professional discipline agencies or other law enforcement authorities as the commission shall authorize, or the release of statistical information that does not disclose the identity of the lawyer or the parties, or the use of such information as is necessary to pursue the fund's subrogation rights under Rule 17A-015 NMRA.

Visit the State Bar website at www.sbnm.org/cpf for further information on the Client Protection Fund.



State Bar of New Mexico Client Protection Fund

2023 Claims and Respondent Lawyers

2023 Claims and Respondent Lawyers

As required by Rule 17A-018, the Commission reports that 11 claims resolved in 2023 resulted in payments to the complaining party as a result of the actions of 9 lawyers. The following table summarizes those payments.

2023 Summary of Claims Approved by Lawyer						
Lawyers	Lawyer's Status as of 12/31/2023	Claims Approved in 2023	Dollars Awarded in 2023	Reason		
Diane Albert	Deceased	1	\$600.00	Unearned Fees		
Sean Thomas	Deceased	3	\$3,252.76	Unearned Fees		
William Morgan	Deceased	1	\$1,000.00	Unearned Fees		
David Proper	Suspended	1	\$2,500.00	Unearned Fees		
David Mathias	Deceased	1	\$2,475.00	Unearned Fees		
Diwayne Gardner	Deceased	1	\$1,640.00	Unearned Fees		
Shannon Robinson	Disbarred	1	\$10,740.00	Unearned Fees		
Anthony Rascon	Disbarred	1	\$26,733.67	Unearned Fees		
Anthony Ayala	Disbarred	1	\$50,000.00	Unearned Fees		
Claims paid on 9 lawyers	Total approved	11	\$98,941.43			

Annual Statistics 2006-2023

2006-2023 Annual Statistics

CLAIMS APPROVED	2006-2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTALS
Total number of claims approved in whole or in part	247	6	7	10	48	11	329
Total dollar amount of claims approved and paid (revised from prior annual reports after reconciliation of cumulative lawyer summary)	\$920,611	\$22,093	\$41,877	\$62,398	\$179,367.99	\$98,941.43	\$1,325,288.42
CLAIMS DENIED							
Total number of claims denied in whole or part	248	11	12	7	13	14	305
Total dollar amount of denials	\$1,437,637	\$164,065	\$277,192	\$149,624	\$259,099.28	\$145,128.38	\$2,432,745.66
Claims made over limit	20	0	0	1	2	0	23
Total amount denied over limit	\$290,638	0	0	\$51,000	0	0	\$341,638
Total amount denied for other reasons	\$1,146,999	\$164,065	\$277,192	\$98,624	\$259,099.28	\$145,128.38	\$2,091,107.66
CLAIMS PENDING AT END	OF YEAR						
Claims undecided and carried over to next year	115	15	16	34	26	13	
Claim amount pending at end of year	\$647,114	\$272,336	\$205,821	\$347,744	\$183,792.42	\$345,931.37	
ATTORNEY STATISTICS							
Total number of attorneys with claims filed	235	14	14	20	27	26	
CONTRIBUTIONS/ SANCTIONS/ RESTITUTION	\$56,187.49	\$1,700.00	\$12,932.31	\$12,991.03	\$16,465.18	\$32,205.53	\$132,481.54



Full report available at www.sbnm.org/CPF



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Also, thank you to **Chief Disciplinary Counsel Anne Taylor** and **Disciplinary Board Staff Tamma Williams** for assisting the Commission in completing its work. Their assistance has contributed immeasurably to the success of Commission.



If you are interested in serving on the Client Protection Fund Commission or other State Bar Committees/Commissions, please contact Donna Smith at donna.smith@sbnm.org.

> State Bar of New Mexico Client Protection Fund

FORMAL OPINION

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Filing Date: 3/5/2024

No. A-1-CA-40325

CORLINDA H. LUJAN, IDA M. LUJAN, and PABLO LUJAN, Plaintiffs-Appellants,

v. ACEQUIA MESA DEL MEDIO, a New Mexico Community Ditch Association, Et al., Defendants-Appellees, and

ELISE P. BENSEN, Et al., Defendants.

APPEAL FROM THE DISTRICT COURT OF RIO ARRIBA COUNTY

Francis J. Mathew, District Court Judge

Montgomery & Andrews, P.A. Randy S. Bartell Santa Fe, NM

> Ida M. Luján Santa Fe, NM

for Appellants

Humphrey & Odé, P.C. Mary E. Humphrey Connie Odé, Et al. El Prado, NM

for Appellees Acequia Mesa del Medio and Teodoro (Ted) Chacon, Richard (Ricky) Martinez, Steven D. Salazar, and Luis Tobias (Toby) Velasquez

Introduction of Opinion

This appeal pertains to a dispute about the rights that several landowners have to irrigate their properties with water from the Aceguia Mesa del Medio (the Aceguia) and the role of the governing body of the Acequia, Defendant-Appellee Acequia Mesa del Medio (AMM), in the distribution of water to those landowners. The district court ruled against Plaintiffs-Appellants Corlinda Lujan, Ida Lujan, and Pablo Lujan and in favor of AMM and Defendants-Appellees Jose Leandro Martinez and Magdalena Martinez. The court concluded that AMM had the authority to distribute water to its members based on custom; the Lujans owned only a portion of a decreed water right rather than the entire right; the Lujans failed to show that they had a constitutionally protected property interest that supported their due process claim; and the Lujans must pay AMM's expert costs and attorney's fees. View full PDF online.

Zachary A. Ives, Judge WE CONCUR: Megan P. Duffy, Judge Jane B. Yohalem, Judge

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

Filing Date: 3/6/2024

No. A-1-CA-40410

STATE OF NEW MEXICO,

Plaintiff-Appellee,

٧.

ANTONIO VOZZA,

Defendant-Appellant.

APPEAL FROM THE DISTRICT COURT OF BERNALILLO COUNTY

Britt Baca-Miller, District Court Judge

Raúl Torrez, Attorney General Santa Fe, NM Peter J. Valencia, Assistant Attorney General Albuquerque, NM

for Appellee

Harrison & Hart, LLC Nicholas T. Hart Albuquerque, NM

for Appellant

Introduction of Opinion

Defendant Antonio Vozza appeals his convictions of unlawful taking of a motor vehicle, in violation of NMSA 1978, Section 30-16D-1 (2009) and battery against a household member, in violation of NMSA 1978, Section 30-3-15 (2008). He further appeals the district court's decision to prohibit him from bartending as a term of his probation. For the following reasons, we affirm Defendant's convictions and the condition of probation imposed.

{2} Because this is an unpublished memorandum opinion written solely for the benefit of the parties, see State v. Gonzales, 1990-NMCA-040, ¶ 48, 110 N.M. 218, 794 P.2d 361, and the parties are familiar with the factual and procedural background of this case, we omit a background section and leave the discussion of the facts for our analysis of the issues.

Kristina Bogardus, Judge WE CONCUR: Shammara H. Henderson, Judge Katherine A. Wray, Judge

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

Filing Date: 3/6/2024

No. A-1-CA-39979

STATE OF NEW MEXICO,

Plaintiff-Appellee,

v.

PAUL COLLINS, Defendant-Appellant.

APPEAL FROM THE DISTRICT COURT OF GRANT COUNTY

Thomas F. Stewart, District Court Judge

Raúl Torrez, Attorney General Santa Fe, NM Van Snow, Assistant Attorney General Albuquerque, NM

for Appellee

Law Office of David Arnone & Associates David Arnone Deming, NM

for Appellant

Introduction of Opinion

Defendant entered a conditional guilty plea to one count of trafficking controlled substances, contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 30-31-20 (2006), and on appeal, argues that the district court should have (1) granted the motion to suppress because the traffic stop that uncovered the evidence supporting the conviction was pretextual under State v. Ochoa, 2009-NMCA-002, 146 N.M. 832, 206 P.3d 143; and (2) granted the motion to dismiss based on prosecutorial misconduct. We affirm the denial of the motion to suppress because the State established that based on the totality of the circumstances, despite a long-standing narcotics investigation, Defendant would have been stopped for travelling approximately 90 miles per hour in a 60 mile-perhour zone or 42 miles per hour in a 35 mileper-hour zone. See id. ¶ 46. We further affirm the denial of the motion to dismiss based on the district court's supported determination that the State's conduct in responding to the suppression motion did not rise to the level of bad faith as Defendant argues.

Katherine A. Wray, Judge WE CONCUR: Kristina A. Bogardus, Judge Jacqueline R. Medina, Judge

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

Filing Date: 3/6/2024

No. A-1-CA-40654

STATE OF NEW MEXICO,

Plaintiff-Appellant, v.

ADAM R. ZAMORA,

Defendant-Appellee.

APPEAL FROM THE DISTRICT COURT OF COLFAX COUNTY

Melissa A. Kennelly, District Court Judge

Raúl Torrez, Attorney General Maris Veidemanis, Assistant Attorney General Lee Green, Assistant Attorney General Santa Fe, NM

for Appellant

Bennett J. Baur, Chief Public Defender Santa Fe, NM Luz C. Valverde, Assistant Appellate Defender Albuquerque, NM

for Appellee

Introduction of Opinion

An October 9, 2020, criminal information charged Defendant Adam R. Zamora with six counts of criminal sexual penetration of a child J.R. who was under thirteen years of age, contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 30-9-11(A), (D) (2009); one count of criminal sexual penetration of a child A.S. who was under thirteen years of age, contrary to Section 30-9-11(A), (D); two counts of criminal sexual contact of a minor A.S. and A.L., contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 30-9-13(A), (B) (2003); and one count of contributing to the delinguency of a minor A.L., contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 30-6-3 (1990). Following a hearing on Defendant's motion to dismiss for violating his right to a speedy trial, the district court entered an order of dismissal on speedy trial grounds. The State appeals from the order of dismissal. We reverse and remand.

Jacqueline R. Medina, Judge WE CONCUR: Megan P. Duffy, Judge Michael D. Bustamante, Judge, retired, Sitting by designation

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

Filing Date: 3/6/2024

No. A-1-CA-40127

NANCY HENRY,

Petitioner-Appellant, v.

NEW MEXICO LIVESTOCK BOARD and JULIE GAUMAN, in her official capacity as Records Custodian for the New Mexico Livestock Board, Respondents-Appellees.

APPEAL FROM THE DISTRICT COURT OF BERNALILLO COUNTY

Daniel E. Ramczyk, District Court Judge

Barnhouse Keegan Solimon & West LLP Michelle T. Miano Christina S. West Jesse D. Heibel Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, NM

for Appellant

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

for Appellees

Introduction of Opinion

In this Inspection of Public Records Act (IPRA) case, Petitioner Nancy Henry petitioned the district court for a writ of mandamus requiring Respondents—the New Mexico Livestock Board (NMLB) and its records custodian, Julie Gauman—to produce documents they failed to produce in response to Petitioner's IPRA request. After the district court issued a writ of mandamus, Respondents produced the documents sought by Petitioner. However, the district court denied Petitioner's requests for (1) statutory damages pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 14-2-11(C) (1993), and (2) compensatory damages, attorneys' fees, and costs pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 14-2-12(D) (1993). Petitioner appeals, arguing that both rulings are based on legal errors. We agree and therefore reverse and remand for further proceedings regarding Petitioner's requests.

Zachary A. Ives, Judge WE CONCUR: J. Miles Hanisee, Judge Jacqueline R. Medina, Judge



Montgomery & Andrews, P.A. is pleased to announce that **Angela Harris** has joined the firm as an associate. Angela graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of New Mexico School of Law with a certificate in Natural Resources & Environmental Law in 2022. Prior to working at Montgomery & Andrews, Angela practiced Native American Law at Barnhouse Keegan Solimon & West in Los Ranchos de Albuquerque. While in law school, Angela clerked for the Department of the Interior Southwest Region Solicitor's Office, the New Mexico Office of the Attorney General, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Prior to law school, Angela worked in higher education and the non-profit sector. She graduated from the University of California at Santa Cruz with a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies & Biology.



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Agenda

Sign-in		7:45 – 8:15 a.m.
Introductory Remarks	Vickie R. Wilcox, J.D., LL.M.	8:15-8:30 a.m.
Federal and State Estate and Gift Tax Update 2024	Vickie R. Wilcox, J.D., LL.M.	8:30 – 9:30 a.m.
Corporate Transparency Act - Current NEWances	Madison R. Jones, J.D., M.B.A.	9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Break		10:30 – 10:45 a.m.
2024 Legislative Update: The State of the State	Fred Nathan, Jr., J.D.	10:45 – 11:45 a.m.
Lunch: Pizza, Beverages, and Networking in the Charity Exhibit Hall		11:45 – 12:45 p.m.
Uh, I Want That: Highlights of Spendthrift Litigation	Gregory MacKenzie, J.D.	12:45 – 1:45 p.m.
Watching the Sunset – Estate Planning Strategies for 2026 (or Before?)	Vickie R. Wilcox, J.D., LL.M. & Madison R. Jones, J.D., M.B.A.	1:45 – 2:45 p.m.
Break		2:45-3:00 p.m.
Ethics: Use of Artificial Intelligence in Estate Planning and the Legal Profession	Anne Taylor, J.D.	3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Presented By: Wilcox, Myers, & Jones, P.C. Post Office Box 70238 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87197

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Mid- size downtown Defense firm looking for Experienced Associate Attorney in Civil Rights, Employment Law, Complex and General Liability. Excellent benefits. Pay at high end of range based on experience. Congenial and easy-going firm. Please contact Karen Arrants at Stiff, Garcia & Associates, KArrants@stifflaw.com

Various Assistant City Attorney Positions

The City of Albuquerque Legal Department is hiring for various Assistant City Attorney positions. Hybrid in person/remote work schedule available. The Legal Department's attorneys provide a broad range of legal services to the City and represent it in legal proceedings in court and before state, federal and administrative bodies. Current open positions include: Litigation Division: The City is seeking attorneys to join its in house Litigation Division, which defends claims brought against the City; Real Property: The City is seeking an attorney to represent it in all aspects of its real property needs. Responsibilities include negotiating, drafting, reviewing, advising and approving commercial contracts for the sale/purchase, lease/rent, license, use, exchange, grants of easements and donation of real property. This attorney will represent the City in any related litigation and condemnation actions; Employment/Labor: The City is seeking an attorney to represent it in litigation related to employment and labor law in New Mexico State and Federal Courts, before the City of Albuquerque Personnel Board, and before the City of Albuquerque Labor Board; Utilities/ PRC: The City is seeking an attorney to represent it in matters regarding franchise and right of way agreements, public utilities, broadband and telecommunications, and will appear before the Public Regulation Commission ("PRC"); City Clerk General Counsel: The City is seeking an attorney to be general counsel for the City Clerk's Office. Responsibilities include advising on a broad range of IPRA and OMA issues, contract review, and other duties as assigned; Air Quality: The City is seeking an attorney to serve as general counsel to the City's Environmental Health Department ("EHD") regarding Air Quality issues throughout Bernalillo County including at federal and state facilities. Responsibilities include participating in rulemaking and appeals, enforcement actions, and other duties as assigned; Health, Housing and Homelessness and Youth and Family Services General Counsel: The City is seeking an attorney to serve as general counsel to the Department of Health, Housing and Homelessness and the Department of Youth and Family Services for contract review, and a broad range of general legal issues, including federal grant compliance, procurement, rulemaking and interpretation, and other duties as assigned; General Counsel to APD: The City is seeking an attorney to advise APD regarding policies, procedures and training, review and negotiate contracts, review uses of force, draft legal opinions, review and draft legislation and administrative instructions. Additional duties may be assigned based on experience. Attention to detail and strong writing and interpersonal skills are essential. Preferences include: Three (3)+ years' experience as a licensed attorney; experience with government agencies, government compliance, litigation, contracts, and policy writing. Salary based upon experience. For more information or to apply please send a resume and writing sample to Angela Aragon at amaragon@cabq.gov.

Santa Clara Pueblo Chief Judge Position

Santa Clara Pueblo Full-time Chief Judge; Salary: Negotiable; Full benefits; Applications: Open until filled; First day of work: TBD; Position Summary: Hired by the Santa Clara Pueblo Tribal Council, the Chief Judge serves as the chief judicial officer of the Santa Clara Pueblo Tribal Court system and represents the values of Santa Clara Pueblo. Qualifications: At least 30 years of age, high moral character and integrity, no felony convictions within the past 20 years and never removed from any position as judge for cause. Prior knowledge of the customs, traditions and laws of Santa Clara Pueblo and bar admission in any jurisdiction shall be considered. Experience in civil, criminal, juvenile and probate law shall also be considered. Knowledge of Pueblo, State and Federal civil and criminal jurisdiction within the Pueblo, the Indian Child Welfare Act and Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction is highly recommended, All STCJ Judges shall be a law school graduate and a member of a Federal bar. For any other questions or more information on the list of duties and responsibilities: Please con-tact SCP Human Resources Director Angela M. Gallegos, amgallegos@santaclarapueblo.org

Associate Attorney

Atkinson, Baker & Rodriguez, P.C. is a successful and established Albuquerque-based complex civil commercial and tort litigation firm seeking motivated and talented associate attorney candidates with great academic credentials. Join our small but growing focused Firm and participate in litigating cases from beginning to end with the support of our nationally recognized, experienced attorneys! Come work for a team that fosters development and growth to become a stand-out civil litigator. Highly competitive compensation and benefits. Send resumes, references, writing samples, and law school transcripts to Atkinson, Baker & Rodriguez, P.C., 201 Third Street NW, Suite 1850, Albuquerque, NM 87102 or e_info@abrfirm.com. Please reference Attorney Recruiting.

Pueblo of Acoma - Chief Judge

The Pueblo of Acoma is seeking a Chief Judge to fairly and impartially hear and decide judicial matters within the jurisdiction of the Pueblo of Acoma Tribal Courts pursuant to Acoma Laws, customs and traditions, ordinances, regulations, duly adopted policies, and applicable federal and local laws. The Chief Judge is responsible for protecting and enhancing the Pueblo's sovereignty and must conduct himself/herself according to the highest level of moral and ethical standards. Responsibilities may also include the administrative operations of the Acoma Tribal Court and super-vision of its employees, including case management and timeliness of judgments and orders. Please refer to www.puebloofacoma.org to view the full position description and/or contact the Pueblo of Acoma Human Resources Department at (505) 552-6728.

Assistant City Attorney – City of Alamogordo, NM

The City of Alamogordo is looking for an Assistant City Attorney. In addition to a Juris Doctor degree and litigation experience (or clinic work), unlicensed candidates must be able to obtain a license to practice law in New Mexico within one year of employment. The salary range is \$62,473 to \$74,661 annually DOQ. For a complete announcement or to apply, go to https://www. governmentjobs.com/careers/alamogordo. The City of Alamogordo is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

New Mexico Legal Aid – Current Job Opportunities

New Mexico Legal Aid (NMLA) provides civil legal services to low income New Mexicans for a variety of legal issues including domestic violence/family law, consumer protection, housing, tax issues and benefits. NMLA has locations throughout the state including Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Las Cruces, Gallup, Roswell, Silver City, Clovis, Hobbs, Las Vegas, Taos, and Santa Ana. Managing Attorney - Hobbs, Roswell and Clovis Office; Staff Attorney Positions: (1) Disaster Relief, Northern NM, LGBTQ - Safe To Be You; Paralegal - Housing Stability and Veteran's Project; Paralegal - Volunteer Attorney Program. Please visit our website for all current openings, NMLA benefits, Salary Scales and instructions on how to apply - https://newmexicolegalaid.isolvedhire. com/jobs/

Litigation Associates

Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani is seeking Associate/Senior Counsel attorneys in our Albuquerque office with experience handling Commercial Litigation, Tort & Product Liability, Employment, Insurance Defense, and Healthcare. Candidates must have an excellent academic background, proven skills in writing, analysis, research, and be a self-starter who is able to handle a case from inception with minimal supervision. Additionally, a commitment to superior client service is essential. Trial experience is preferred, but not required. Candidates must reside and be licensed in New Mexico (additional States are a plus). GRSM is a full-service Am Law 100 firm with robust national and local practices and the first and only law firm with attorneys and offices in all 50 States. We have garnered national recognition for our demonstrated commitment to the recruitment, retention and advancement of qualified female and diverse attorneys. We offer flexible options for successful candidates, including fully remote, hybrid, and full-time opportunities. We offer competitive compensation and a full benefits package including eligibility for subjective and objective bonuses and student debt repayment assistance. For consideration, please submit a cover letter, resume and writing sample to: dmorris@grsm.com and note the practice group(s) you are applying to in the subject line. No recruiter or telephone calls please. Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani is an equal opportunity employer.

Bilingual Managing Attorney (Immigration)

Rebecca Kitson Law (RKL) is a small, vibrant law firm devoted to excellent representation and advocacy for immigrants and their families. RKL represents immigrants in family-based and humanitarian petitions, removal proceedings before the immigration court system, and appellate cases before administrative agencies and federal court. RKL has a unique opening for a bilingual Managing Attorney at our Albuquerque office. This position will be principally responsible for managing the legal support staff while working as part of a creative and collaborative attorney team. It is a shareholder-track position with the opportunity to help us grow and thrive while charting your own remarkable career path. Primary Qualifications: Juris Doctor and admission to NM or another state bar; fully bilingual in English/Spanish; Min. 3 yrs. postgraduate experience in immigration; Min. 1 yr. supervisory/management experience. RKL is an EEO. Salary DOE, full benefits, and re-location budget available. To see full posting and apply: https://rebeccakitsonlaw. bamboohr.com/careers/47

Las Cruces - Administrative Law Judge/Hearing Officer

The Administrative Hearings Office (AHO) is hiring a Hearing Officer-Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) in its Las Cruces office. This ALJ handles Implied Consent Act and Motor Vehicle Code cases under the Administrative Hearings Office Act in Las Cruces and southern New Mexico. This ALJ also handles moderately complex cases involving state tax protests, Medicaid fraud, and matters for other state agencies. This ALJ manages a large docket of cases, decides motions, writes orders, controls the conduct of hearings, issues final decisions and orders, and complies with AHO's Code of Conduct. The ideal candidate must be organized, analytical, and ethical, with strong writing skills, judgment, and a commitment to the law and public service. The ALJ works solo in Las Cruces without daily onsite management or support staff, requiring a high degree of professional independence and selfmotivation. This classified state government position requires a law degree and a full or limited license to practice law in New Mexico. The ALJ must be current with all tax obligations, pass a background check, and have a valid driver's license. Frequent in-state travel is required. Salary ranges from \$37.19/ hr. to \$66.94/hr. (\$77,354/yr. to \$139,238/yr.) with generous state benefits. The position will remain open until filled. Review the posting on the State Personnel website, https://bit. ly/AHOLasCruces2024, and submit your application for JobID #142148.

Public Defender

Pueblo of Laguna, NM – Great employer and benefits, competitive pay DOE! Seeking fulltime at-torney to represent adult criminal defendants and juveniles in delinquency cases in Laguna Pueblo Court. No murder cases or hard felonies. Office has assistant and significant behavioral resources are available as alternatives to incarceration. Leisurely commute from Albuquerque metro, Los Lunas, or Grants, with remote work available. Salary DOE. Apply now, will fill quickly. Application instructions and position details at: Employment | Pueblo of Laguna (lagunapueblo-nsn.gov)

Attorney

JGA is seeking an attorney, licensed/good standing in NM with at least 3 years of experience in Family Law, Probate, and Civil Litigation. All replies will be maintained as confidential. Please send cover letter, resume, and a references to: jay@jaygoodman.com.

Court of Appeals Appellate Attorney

THE NEW MEXICO COURT OF APPEALS is accepting applications for one or more full-time permanent Appellate-Attorney Senior, Appellate-Attorney Associate, or Appellate-Attorney Assistant positions. The positions may be located in either Santa Fe or Albuquerque, depending on the needs of the Court and available office space. The target pay for the Senior position is \$81,176-\$131,768, plus generous fringe bene-fits. The target pay for the Associate position is \$75,893-\$116,715 plus generous fringe benefits. The target pay for the Assistant position is \$70,250-\$98,762, plus generous fringe benefits. Eligibility for the Senior position requires seven years of practice. Eligibility for the Associate position requires five years of practice or judicial experience. Eligibility for the Assistant position requires three years of practice or judicial experience. These positions also require New Mexico State Bar admission and a current license to practice law in New Mexico. These positions require management of a heavy caseload of appeals covering all areas of law considered by the Court. Extensive legal research and writing is required. The work atmosphere is congenial, yet intellectually demanding. Interested applicants should submit a completed New Mexico Judicial Branch Resume Supplemental Form, along with a letter of interest, resume, law school transcript, and writing sample of 5-7 double-spaced pages to Cynthia Hernandez Madrid, Chief Appellate Attorney, c/o AOC Human Resources Division, aochrd-grp@ nmcourts.gov, 237 Don Gaspar Ave., Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501. Position to commence immediately and will remain open until filled. More information is available at www. nmcourts.gov/careers. The New Mexico Judicial Branch is an equal-opportunity employer.

Part-Time Staff Attorney

The New Mexico Victim's Rights Project seeks an attorney to represent victims of violent crime around the state to protect and assert their constitutional and statutory rights as victims in criminal proceedings and assist with Orders of Protection occasionally. Work is intermittent and would be in collaboration with NMVRP's current staff attorney. If you are interested, please send a resume to latkinson@victimsrightsnm.org or contact Carolyn Callaway at 505-291-9774 for more information. New Mexico Victim's Rights Project is a project of DWI Resource Center, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization.

Associate Attorney

Alcaraz Law, P.A., is seeking a full-time associate attorney with 2+ years' experience. Excellent salary and benefits package. Collaborative, connected, and friendly work environment. Please send resume to heather@alcarazlawnm.com.

Client Protection Fund Commission Paralegal:

The State Bar of New Mexico seeks qualified applicants to join our team as a parttime (25 hours/week) Client Protection Fund (CPF) Commission Paralegal. The successful incumbent will provide clerical and administrative support to the CPF Commission, including investigating claims, gathering documents, and interviewing claimants and attorneys. \$22-\$25 per hour, depending on experience and qualifications. Generous benefits package included. This position qualifies for partial telecommuting. Qualified applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to HR@sbnm.org. Visit www.sbnm.org/SBNMjobs for full details and application instructions

Front Desk/Guest Services Coordinator

The State Bar of New Mexico seeks qualified applicants to join our team as a full-time (40 hours/week) Front Desk/Guest Services Coordinator. The successful applicant will coordinate and schedule State Bar Center room rentals, internal meetings, ensure set-up for rooms, greet visitors, and field incoming phone calls and emails to SBNM general phone line and email inbox. \$17-\$19/hour, depending on experience and qualifications. Generous benefits package included. This position is in office only (not eligible for remote work). Qualified applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to HR@sbnm.org. Visit www. sbnm.org/SBNMjobs for full details and application instructions.

Experienced Civil Litigation Paralegal Needed:

Albuquerque Plaintiffs firm with a significant focus on medical malpractice seeking experienced civil litigation paralegal. Upon hiring, the paralegal will be involved in all stages of litigation from discovery to trial prep/ assistance. Ideal candidate will have seven years of prior experience in civil litigation with knowledge of State and Federal District Court rules and filing procedures, factual and legal online research and document management and processing. Remote work allowed. All inquiries confidential. Salary DOE, benefits included. Email resume and cover letter to: info@collinsattorneys.com

Legal Support Staff - Legal Secretary (5 years)

We have an immediate opening for a Litigation Legal Secretary in our Albuquerque office as noted below. Ideal candidates should have experience working in a fast-paced defense firm and five or more years of experience. This is a full time position. The firm offers a competitive compensation and full benefits package, including Medical, Dental, Vision, 401K, PTO, Disability & Life Insurance. For consideration, please submit a cover letter and resume to: dmorris@grsm.com with Legal Secretary in the subject line. No Recruiter or telephone calls please. Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani is an equal opportunity employer. Qualifications: Candidates must be familiar with New Mexico State and Federal rules of civil procedure; Provide administrative support to multiple Attorneys; Work independently on pleadings, discovery, motion preparation and e-discovery; Experience and knowledge of e-filing in state and federal court, case management, docketing procedures, motion procedures, calendaring procedures, document review and exhibit preparation; Exceptional attention to detail and excellent organizational skills are required; Candidates must be proficient in Microsoft Office products; Compulaw experience is beneficial and a Plus; Candidates must have excellent analytical and written communication skills.

Equity in Justice Administrator

The State Bar of New Mexico seeks qualified applicants to join our team as a full-time (40 hours/week) Equity in Justice Administrator (Project Manager I or II). The successful applicant will provide support for State Bar committees, sections, and divisions implementing diversity, inclusion, and equity in justice projects/initiatives. The position works alongside various groups and State Bar members engaged in eliminating biases and inequalities within New Mexico's justice system and promoting participation by underrepresented communities in State Bar programs and activities. Project Manager I: \$45,000/year-\$52,000/year or Project Manager II: \$50,000/year-\$58,000/year depending on experience and qualifications. Generous benefits package included. This position qualifies for partial telecommuting. Qualified applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to HR@sbnm.org. Visit www.sbnm.org/SBNMjobs for full details and application instructions.

Legal Assistant

Stephen P. Curtis, Attorney at Law, P.C. (Civil litigation and business) seeks experienced legal assistant to do it all, since there are only two of us. Word processing, post time sheets, prepare bills, communicate with clients and Judges' TCAAs, file pleadings. Send resume to abqcurtis@gmail.com and fcmeltonabq@ gmail.com.

Paralegal

The Vigil Law Firm P.A. is looking for an experienced litigation paralegal for a fastpaced plaintiff's firm. The candidate must be highly motivated and well organized. Duties will include filing pleadings in State and Federal court; drafting and responding to discovery; and communicating with opposing counsel and the court. This is a wonderful opportunity to join an incredible team. This position offers a great working environment and a competitive salary. If interested, please email a resume to admin@ zlaws.com

City of Albuquerque 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 \$25.54 per hour during an initial, proscribed probationary period. Upon successful completion of the proscribed probationary period, the salary will increase to \$26.80 per hour. Competitive benefits provided and available on first day of employment. Please apply at https://www.governmentjobs.com/ careers/cabq.

Staff Accountant

The State Bar of New Mexico (SBNM) seeks qualified applicants to join our team as a full-time (40 hours/week) Staff Accountant. The successful applicant will perform general cost accounting functions in the accounting department, including bank reconciliations, accounts receivable, accounts payable, payroll, posting journal entries, performing month-end closing procedures, and producing financial reports. The Staff Accountant will also assist in the annual financial audit process and is responsible for maintaining accounting records and responding to inquiries received by the accounting department. \$50,000/year-\$60,000/year depending on experience and qualifications. Generous benefits package included. This position is eligible for partial telecommuting within NM. Qualified applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to hr@sbnm.org. Visit www.sbnm. org/SBNMjobs for full details and application instructions.

Executive Assistant

Wanted: Executive Assistant proficient in Google Workspace including managing a rapidly changing Google Calendar for a busy executive. Must have the know how to insert briefing materials for each meeting on the calendar. Must have the ability to calculate travel time and ensure that the executive can arrive on time for sequential meetings. Must be highly proficient regarding attention to detail. Must be willing to work with team members in different time zones which necessitates irregular hours and weekend work. Ability to organize and multi-task. Ability to work under pressure in a fast paced but highly rewarding environment. Compensation highly competitive. Please provide resume and cover letter of interest to mghoranburg@gmail.com

Office Space

Office Building in Uptown Albuquerque

2500 sq.ft. office building, uptown Albuquerque location - Indian School Rd. NE and San Pedro NE. Minimum 1-year lease, \$3,500 per month (NNN). Please call 505-239-2958 or email jesus11salazar@aol.com.

Two Furnished Office Spaces

Two furnished office spaces available. Excellent downtown location near courts. Monthly rent of \$550.00 includes utilities, internet, conference room with technology, and offstreet parking. 6 month or yearly lease options. Call (505) 242-6317 for an appointment.

Office Suites-No Lease-All Inclusive

Office Suites-NO LEASE-ALL INCLUSIVEvirtual mail, virtual telephone reception service, hourly offices and conference rooms available. Witness and notary services. Office Alternatives provides the infrastructure for attorney practices so you can lower your overhead in a professional environment. 2 convenient locations-Journal Center and Riverside Plaza. 505-796-9600/ officealternatives.com.

2024 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 marcia.ulibarri@sbnm.org

The publication schedule can be found at **www.sbnm.org.**





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The 13th Judicial District Attorney Has Positions Open for Trial Attorneys in Three Different Offices Bernalillo, Belen, and Grants, New Mexico

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"I have worked at a few different District Attorney Office's across the State from the North to the South and in between. The 13th allows for greater discretion and flexibility than any other office I have worked in. Further, it is an atmosphere with little contentiousness, especially compared to other offices. If you wish to be a career prosecutor, this is where you belong." John L. – Trial Attorney

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I'm not only committed to a fair judicial process, but also to the creation and practice of principled policies for the People of the 13th Judicial District

– District Attorney Barbara Romo



