

DIGITAL **BAR BULLETIN**

December 10, 2025 • Volume 64, No. 22



Fall in Prospect Park, by Deborah Gray (see page 4)

Inside This Issue

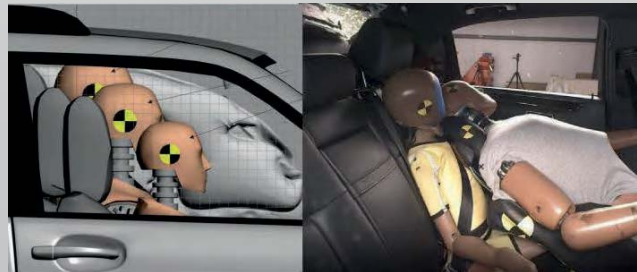
A Message from State Bar of New Mexico President Aja N. Brooks	8
Aja N. Brooks' Year as President of the State Bar of New Mexico.....	10
A Year-End Note on Pro Bono in New Mexico by Supreme Court Justice C. Shannon Bacon	11
Legal Education Calendar	12
Center for Legal Education Planner	13
SPECIAL SECTION: State Bar of New Mexico Young Lawyers Division Winter 2025 In Brief.....	17
The New Mexico Attorney In Memoriam Ceremony & Attorney Memorial Scholarship: A Legacy of Community, Connection and Commemoration.....	21
The 12th Annual New Mexico Attorney In Memoriam & Attorney Memorial Scholarship Presentation	23
Digital Resource Deskbook 2026-2027: Advertising Opportunities Now Available	25
National Conflict Resolution Day 2025.....	26
Clerk's Certificates	27
Hearsay & In Memoriam.....	33
New Mexico Supreme Court Opinion	40
New Mexico Court of Appeals Memorandum Opinions	49

IS YOUR CASE AT A RECOVERY DEAD-END?

Maybe not because you may have a **CRASHWORTHINESS** case.



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



If you have any questions about a potential case, please call Todd Tracy. Vehicle safety system defects may have caused your client's injury or death.



The TRACY law firm
A Nationwide Practice Dedicated to Vehicle Safety
4701 Bengal Street, Dallas, Texas 75235
214-324-9000
www.vehiclesafetyfirm.com

MORE THAN
\$1 BILLION
IN VERDICTS & SETTLEMENTS
SINCE 2023



Visit our website to see our results in New Mexico and across the nation in some of the toughest and most significant cases.

When the Result Means Everything: Partner With Us.

**LYONS
SIMMONS**

833 417 4117
Dallas, Texas
lyons-simmons.com

Wrongful Death | Personal Injury | Products Liability



DIGITAL BAR BULLETIN



State Bar of
New Mexico
Est. 1886

Officers, Board of Bar Commissioners

Aja N. Brooks, President
Allison H. Block-Chavez, President-Elect
Lucy H. Sinkular, Secretary-Treasurer
Erinna M. "Erin" Atkins, Immediate Past President

State Bar Staff

Executive Director, Richard Spinello
Director of Marketing & Communications, Celeste Valencia,
celeste.valencia@sbnm.org
Graphic Designer, Julie Sandoval, julie.sandoval@sbnm.org
Communications Manager, Brandon McIntyre,
brandon.mcintyre@sbnm.org
Digital Marketing & Communications Coordinator,
Virginia Chavers-Soto, virginia.chavers-soto@sbnm.org
Advertising and Sales
651-288-3422, marketing@sbnm.org

Communications Advisory Committee

Hon. James DeRossitt, Chair Dylan Lange
Hon. Carl J. Butkus Hope Pendleton
Gabrielle Dorian Matthew Ramirez
C. James Kalm

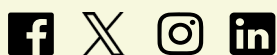
©2025, State Bar of New Mexico. No part of this publication may be reprinted or otherwise reproduced without the publisher's written permission. The State Bar of New Mexico has the authority to edit letters and materials submitted for publication pursuant to our policies located at <https://www.sbnm.org/News-Publications/Bar-Bulletin/Editorial-Policies>. Appearance of an article, editorial, feature, column, advertisement or photograph in the Bar Bulletin does not constitute an endorsement by the Bar Bulletin or the State Bar of New Mexico. The views expressed are those of the authors, who are solely responsible for the accuracy of their citations and quotations. State Bar of New Mexico licensees receive the Bar Bulletin as part of their annual licensing fees.

The Bar Bulletin (ISSN 1062-6611) is distributed digitally twice a month by the State Bar of New Mexico, 5121 Masthead St. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109-4367, including the second and fourth weeks of the month.

505-797-6000 • 800-876-6227
Fax: 505-828-3765 • address@sbnm.org

December 10, 2025 • Volume 64, No. 22

www.sbnm.org



► Table of Contents

- 05** Notices
- 08** A Message from State Bar of New Mexico President Aja N. Brooks
- 10** Aja N. Brooks' Year as President of the State Bar of New Mexico
- 11** A Year-End Note on Pro Bono in New Mexico
by Supreme Court Justice C. Shannon Bacon
- 12** Legal Education Calendar
- 13** Center for Legal Education Planner
- 17** **SPECIAL SECTION:** State Bar of New Mexico Young Lawyers
Division Winter 2025 In Brief
- 21** The New Mexico Attorney In Memoriam Ceremony & Attorney
Memorial Scholarship: A Legacy of Community, Connection and
Commemoration
- 23** The 12th Annual New Mexico Attorney In Memoriam
& Attorney Memorial Scholarship Presentation
- 24** New Mexico State Bar Foundation: Help Us Reach Our Goal
- 25** Digital Resource Deskbook 2026-2027: Advertising Opportunities
Now Available!
- 26** National Conflict Resolution Day 2025
- 27** Clerk's Certificates
- 31** An Inclusive Interview with Chrystian J. Gonzales, Esq.
- 33** Hearsay & In Memoriam
- 40** New Mexico Supreme Court Opinion
- 44** State Bar of New Mexico Section and Division
Meeting Occurrence Schedule
- 45** State Bar of New Mexico Alternative Methods of Dispute
Resolution Committee 2026 Meeting Schedule
- 49** New Mexico Court of Appeals Memorandum Opinions
- 51** Advertising

**Complete All Your CLE Credits On-Demand
Through The Center for Legal Education!**

Attend Anytime, Anywhere

Visit <https://bit.ly/CLE-On-Demand> to register today!



New Mexico State Bar Foundation
Center for Legal Education



About Cover Image and Artist: Deborah Gray has been a member of the State Bar of New Mexico since 1991.

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

COURT NEWS

New Mexico Supreme Court Rule-Making Activity

To view recent Supreme Court rule-making activity, visit the Court's website at <https://supremecourt.nmcourts.gov>. To view all New Mexico Rules Annotated, visit New Mexico OneSource at <https://bit.ly/NM-Rules>.

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 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>.

Administrative Office of the Courts

Notice of New Criminal Competency Case Types

The New Mexico Judiciary is announcing the planned Jan. 1, 2026, rollout of new criminal competency case types and statewide standard operating procedures for processing competency cases, including the below additions:

- The old "Lower Court Competency" (SI) civil case type will be disabled (although existing LCCSI cases will remain available to process).
- Two new criminal competency case types will be available for all District courts:
 - Competency – Felony (FI).
 - Competency – Misdemeanor (MI).
- The FI and MI case types will:
 - Not be automatically sealed, although specific documents and pleadings within the case will remain sealed, and a judge may still order the sealing of a case.
 - Be related to the underlying case.
 - Be available for subsequent e-filing through File & Serve, unless a judge's order has sealed the case.

Professionalism Tip

With respect to the public and to other persons involved in the legal system:

I will strive to set a high standard of professional conduct for others to follow.

◦ Be available online as a Tier 1 criminal case in re:SearchNM and Case Lookup.

- Those continuing to use Secured Odyssey Public Access (SOPA) will not be able to access these FI and MI cases. Please contact support@nmcourts.gov if you have any questions about a re:SearchNM account.

At this time, all other proceedings for competency evaluations and restoration activities will remain the same.

Second Judicial District Court Court Closure Notice

All Offices and Divisions of the Second Judicial District Court will be closed briefly on Dec. 12. The Children's Court will be closed from 11:15 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. (MT). The District Court downtown location will be closed from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (MT).

Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court Court Closure Notice

The Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court will close from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (MT) on Dec. 12 for the court's annual Holiday Staff Appreciation Lunch. Misdemeanor Custody Arraignments and Felony First Appearance Hearings will proceed at their regularly scheduled times. The court's outdoor walk-up window will remain open.

STATE BAR NEWS License Renewal and MCLE Compliance Due Feb. 2, 2026

State Bar of New Mexico annual license renewal and Minimum Continuing Legal Education requirements are due Feb. 2, 2026. For more information, visit www.sbnm.org/compliance. To complete your annual license renewal and verify your MCLE compliance, visit www.sbnm.org/mydashboard. For questions about license renewal

and MCLE compliance, email license@sbnm.org. For technical assistance accessing your account, email techsupport@sbnm.org.

Board of Bar Commissioners Meeting Summary

The Board of Bar Commissioners of the State Bar of New Mexico met on October 24 at the State Bar Center in Albuquerque, N.M. Action taken at the meeting follows:

- Approved the July 31, 2025 Meeting Minutes;
- Began review and discussion of Rule 24-101(A) NMRA, Rules Governing the NM Bar, Objective #6, Encourage and Assist in the Delivery of Legal Services to all in need of those services, and will continue discussion at the December meeting;
- Reported that the Strategic Plan Committee reviewed the 2026-2028 Strategic Plan and will be meeting again in November to finalize it for the Board's approval at the December meeting;
- Held an executive session to discuss a personnel item;
- Elected Commissioner Lucy H. Sinkular as President-Elect and Commissioner Tomas Garcia as Secretary-Treasurer by acclamation for 2026;
- Received the service and independent contractor agreements for the State Bar and approved the agreements and referred the contracts policy to the Policy and Bylaws Committee for review;
- Approved the 2026 State Bar Budget;
- Appointed Chelsey Pelzman to the Access to Justice Fund Grant Commission for a three-year term;
- Approved a request from the Federalist Society to become an accredited CLE provider;

(continued on page 7)



New Mexico Medical Review Commission Serve as a Hearing Panelist

The New Mexico Medical Review Commission invites State Bar of New Mexico licensees to volunteer as hearing panelists to review malpractice claims against qualified medical providers covered by the Medical Malpractice Act.

Volunteer panelists provide an important public service. The Commission relies exclusively on volunteer medical providers and attorneys to serve as hearing panelists.

Attorneys who volunteer for panel hearing are eligible for one (1) General Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit per panel, up to four (4) credits per year.

To view more information, visit <https://www.sbnm.org/Leadership/Committees/Medical-Review-Panel-Opportunities>. To sign up, visit <https://nmmedicalreview-commission.org/panelists/>



New Mexico
State Bar Foundation

Give Back Through the New Mexico State Bar Foundation During License Renewal Season

As you renew your license to practice this year, please consider donating to the New Mexico State Bar Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. 100% of your donations are tax deductible and support Bar Foundation programs that provide and promote access to civil legal services to underserved New Mexicans.

For more information about donating to the New Mexico State Bar Foundation, contact nmsbfdevelopment@sbnm.org.

Donations are gratefully accepted year-round at www.sbnm.org/donate.



U.S. District Court, District of New Mexico Service on Court Committee

Chief Judge Kenneth J. Gonzales and the Article III District Judges for the District of New Mexico would like to solicit interest from Federal Bar members for service on the Criminal Justice Act (CJA) Panel Committee. The Committee consists of Federal Bar members who are knowledgeable in federal criminal defense practice. This Committee recommends CJA Panel attorneys to the Court.

All interested Federal Bar members in good standing should submit a Letter of Interest no later than Wednesday, December 17, 2025, to the Clerk of Court, U. S. District Court, 333 Lomas Blvd. NW, Suite 270, Albuquerque, N.M. 87102; or by email to clerkofcourt@nmd.uscourts.gov to be considered for appointment to the Committee.

Featured Member Benefit



Clio is the world's leading provider of cloud-based legal technology, trusted by 150,000 legal professionals in 150+ countries. As the industry's only end-to-end software solution, Clio centralizes client intake, case management, document automation, payments, accounting and more—powered by AI on its unified platform. Recognized by 100+ bar associations and law societies globally, Clio has the most 5-star reviews of any legal practice management software.

Redeem your State Bar of New Mexico* discount below and schedule a demo to begin working in Clio today!

Redeem your discount at: https://www.clio.com/partnerships/bar-associations/nmbar/?utm_medium=bar_partner&utm_source=NMBAR&utm_campaign=NMBAR-Partner-Listing

*Clio is a legal technology solution recommended by the State Bar of New Mexico. Licensees of the State Bar of New Mexico receive a 10% discount on Clio products, excluding Clio Draft.

(continued from page 5)

- Received a report from the Executive Committee and ratified the action taken by the committee, which included approval of a sponsorship request in the amount of \$1,000 for the NM Women's Bar Association Annual Henrietta Pettijohn Awards Reception;
- Accepted the July and August 2025 Financials;
- Received a report from the Policy and Bylaws Committee and approved two recommendations to propose to the Supreme Court: 1) for the Board to have a voting member on the Board of Bar Examiners who would also serve as the liaison, and 2) allow the liaisons to all of the Supreme Court Committees and Boards to participate in meetings and be included in all discussions, be permitted to vote, and to report back to the board as appropriate, subject to confidentiality;
- Received a presentation on the Supreme Court's Alternative Pathways Committee;
- Received an update on the Board of Bar Commissioners Election; the Second Judicial District and the Third and Sixth Judicial Districts are contested and will have an election; no nomination petitions were received for the Seventh and Thirteenth, the Eleventh or the Twelfth Judicial Districts, so a notice was published and the Board will make those appointments at the Dec. meeting;
- Received the 2026 tentative Board meeting schedule as follows: February 27, May 8, August 13 (in conjunction with the Annual Meeting), October 23, and December 9;
- Distributed the Supreme Court Committee and Board Liaison list and internal board committees rosters and sign-up sheets for 2026;
- Received reports from the State Bar President, Bar Foundation President and Executive Director; and
- Received reports from the Senior Lawyers, Young Lawyers, and Paralegal Divisions, and Bar Commissioner Districts; received the ABA House of Delegates Annual Meeting Report.

Note: The minutes in their entirety will be available on the State Bar's website following approval by the Board at the Dec. 10 meeting.

Client Protection Fund Notice of Commissioner Vacancy

One Commissioner appointment for a three-year term for the Client Protection Fund will be made in accordance with Rule 17A-005 (B). The purpose of the Client Protection Fund 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 New Mexico. The new term will begin Jan. 1, 2026. Applicants must be active members of the State Bar of New Mexico. Anyone interested in serving on the Commission should send a letter of interest and brief résumé to kate.kennedy@sbnm.org.

New Mexico Lawyer Assistance Program The Other NM Bar Meeting

The New Mexico Lawyer Assistance Program proudly presents to you The Other NM Bar Meeting, which is a confidential traditional 12-step meeting for legal professionals. Open to all lawyers, law students, judges and other legal professionals, the meeting's purpose is to provide a safe space for people to support one another in their desire to stop drinking and using. The Other NM Bar Meeting meets in person every Thursday evening from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. (MT) at the First Unitarian Church, located at 3701 Carlisle Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, N.M. 87110. For those unable to make it in person, there will be an option to join telephonically in the future. For more information about The Other NM Bar Meeting, email NMLAP@sbnm.org.

Monday Night Attorney Support Group

The Monday Night Attorney Support Group meets at 5:30 p.m. (MT) on Mondays by Zoom. This group will be meeting every Monday night via Zoom. The intention of this support group is the sharing of anything

you are feeling, trying to manage or struggling with. It is intended as a way to connect with colleagues and to know you are not in this alone. Join the meeting via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/attorneysupportgroup>.

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. to 6 p.m. (MT) Monday through Friday. Though the Library no longer has community computers for visitors to use, if you bring your own device when you visit, you will be able to access many of our online resources. For more information, please see <https://lawlibrary.unm.edu/>.

OTHER NEWS Center for Civic Values Judges Needed for Gene Franchini High School Mock Trial Competition

The Gene Franchini New Mexico High School Mock Trial Competition is seeking volunteer judges for its qualifier rounds Feb. 20 - 21, 2026, in Albuquerque, N.M. This hands-on experience builds critical thinking, confidence and a deeper understanding of the justice system. Tentative participants may sign up at:

registration.civicvalues.org/mock-trial/registration.

The deadline for registration is Feb. 4, 2026. For questions, contact Kristen at the Center for Civic Values at 505-764-9417 or Kristen@civicvalues.org.

N.M. Legislative Council Service Legislative Research Library Hours

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

<https://bit.ly/NMLegisLibrary>.



A Message from **State Bar of New Mexico President**

Aja N. Brooks

Greetings Friends and Colleagues,

During this holiday season, as fall turns to winter and my time as President of the State Bar of New Mexico (“State Bar”) draws to a close, I am able to take a deep breath, pause and reflect on how meaningful this journey has truly been. I think about all I am grateful for: my list is long, but it includes family, health, community and life. I am profoundly thankful that this past year of service has given me irreplaceable memories rooted in each of these values.

Family: I could not have served with such dedication without the unwavering support of my family. I give thanks to my husband, Johnny, my son Emerson, and my parents, sister and in-laws for standing beside me through the many conferences, speech preparations, meetings and miles of travel.

In addition to my extended family, I am fortunate to call my colleagues on the Board of Bar Commissioners (“BBC”) and the State Bar staff “my family” as well. The relationships formed during my tenure on the Board—deepened and strengthened over this past year—have enriched my life beyond measure. Thank you to my fellow BBC members: with representation from all over the state, you guarantee that all voices within our vast borders are heard and respected.

I am delighted to have served alongside the first slate of all-women officers of the State Bar: Past President Erin Atkins, President-Elect Allison Block-Chavez and Secretary/Treasurer Lucy Sinkular. I am immensely proud of our achievements, as well as those of the New Mexico State Bar Foundation (“Bar Foundation”), led by President Stefanie Davis. I have had the pleasure of traveling, presenting and developing bonds with each of these phenomenal women, with the shared goal of building a stronger legal profession, supporting programs that assist the public, and demonstrating that no matter who you are or where you come from, you have the ability to lead and make a difference.

As Erin concludes her service on the Board, I want to express my gratitude for her contributions and leadership. Her love for our legal community is unmistakable, and I am thankful for her guidance, as well as for the mentorship of the many Past Presidents with whom I’ve been fortunate to serve.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the tireless work of my State Bar and Bar Foundation family. It has been an honor to work alongside Executive Director Richard Spinello, Board Administrator Kris Becker, General Counsel Stormy Ralstin, Bar Foundation Associate Executive Director Laura Bassein and their remarkable team. They ensure that we deliver on the promise embodied in New Mexico Supreme Court Rule 24-101 NMRA: to aid the courts, promote the interests of our profession, and ensure the full participation of all members. These are the principles that have guided us in promoting the organization’s values since its inception 139 years ago and will continue to direct our efforts into the future.

As the first Black president of this organization, I am deeply proud of our State Bar and New Mexico. In a year marked by efforts to stigmatize diversity and undermine the rule of law, we have risen to challenge this divisiveness, remaining steadfast in our values and our responsibilities. We stand up for each other and for what is right in New Mexico. We are family.

Health: We often think of health as purely physical, yet social and organizational health are equally essential to our wellbeing and longevity. Over the past year, we have worked to strengthen the health of the State Bar of New Mexico. 2025 was a unique year, situated between the conclusion of the 2023–2025 Three-Year Strategic Plan and the creation of the 2026–2028 Plan. From 2023 to 2025, I witnessed tremendous growth through initiatives such as the distribution of published Court of Appeals opinions, the continued independence and expansion of the New Mexico State Bar Foundation and the reimagining of our Annual Meeting.

Next year marks the beginning of our 2026–2028 Strategic Plan, which sets ambitious goals, including greater integration of technology and artificial intelligence in the legal profession, enhanced member engagement and support, a focus on civics education, and an expansion of resources on the rule of law. I look forward to seeing these efforts thrive under the leadership of my successor and dear friend, Allison Block-Chavez. She has my full confidence, and I am certain the coming years will be marked by continued growth and success.

Community: Our theme for 2025, “Together Towards Justice,” guided every initiative we pursued this year, bringing our community together in meaningful and lasting ways. On May 1, the State Bar hosted the Law Day Leadership Summit at the State Bar Center—an inclusive gathering of leaders from voluntary bar associations, legal organizations and State Bar Sections, Committees, and Divisions. It was an opportunity for a shared visioning process: a thoughtful discussion on how to most effectively serve New Mexico’s legal community and the ways in which the State Bar can best support those endeavors.

Additionally, 2025 marked our first Annual Meeting at the Sandia Resort & Casino in Albuquerque, featuring an unforgettable keynote address by Bryan Stevenson, a renowned public interest attorney and advocate for the wrongfully incarcerated and unjustly condemned. If you missed his presentation, I encourage you to view it through the New Mexico State Bar Foundation’s Center for Legal Education On-Demand library at <https://bit.ly/CLEOD-2025AMKeynote>. His inspiring message filled me with hope and renewed my sense of commitment to centering humanity in our concept of justice.

The Annual Meeting also included a number of sessions taught by members of the judiciary (including the New Mexico Supreme Court), and University of New Mexico School of Law faculty, highlighting the collaborative nature and cohesiveness of our legal community. In keeping with our “Together Towards Justice” theme, this year’s Annual Meeting was a powerful expression of the challenges faced by the legal profession, as well as the ways we can come together to overcome them.

Life: Life is not promised. We all know this, yet sometimes we forget, focused on the minutia of our day-to-day tasks. But sometimes, events happen that force us to remember the fragility of our lives. This past year, we suddenly lost our friend, David Powell, the State Bar of New Mexico’s Director of Finance. David’s passing was heartbreaking and a profound loss to us all. Anyone who met David quickly learned how deeply he cared about making the State Bar not just functional but exceptional. He strived for the best for both staff and members, and he played a vital role in helping us carry out our mission.

I kept David’s memory close as I attended the Senior Lawyer Division’s In Memoriam ceremony in November. The ceremony includes honoring the New Mexico attorneys that we have lost this past year, as well as providing scholarships to third-year University of New Mexico School of Law Students. Surrounded by the friends, families and loved ones of so many, I was reminded that although life eventually comes to an end, our charge is to help others while we are here, including paving the way for future legal professionals. People like David and the attorneys we celebrated understood that goal, and their contributions to our profession will never be forgotten. Thank you, for everything you gave us, and for the gift of your presence in our lives.

As we head into 2026 and beyond, I can say with certainty that leading the State Bar has been, and will remain, one of the greatest honors of my professional life. Thank you for allowing me to serve, and for showing me that our strength lies in our unity.

Together Towards Justice,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Aja Brooks". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "A" and "B".

Aja N. Brooks

Aja N. Brooks' Year as President of the State Bar of New Mexico

The President of the State Bar of New Mexico ("the State Bar") represents the State Bar at many events and conferences, both in-state and nationally, throughout the year. The following are a selection of photos captured at the many events President Brooks attended in 2025.

December



2025
February



April



July



August



September





A Year-End Note on Pro Bono in New Mexico by Supreme Court Justice C. Shannon Bacon



Dear Colleagues,

As the holidays approach, I am reminded of the needs of everyday New Mexicans who do not have the fortune that most of us do. In 2025, there are nearly 3,000 unhoused people in Albuquerque, over 300,000 New Mexicans face food insecurity and almost 20% of New Mexicans live below the poverty guidelines.

With these financial challenges, it is no wonder that a large percentage of New Mexicans cannot afford legal representation. Three out of four low-income households in New Mexico struggle with legal issues that impact housing, financial stability and access to social and medical benefits.

Adding to these pressures, the Federal House Appropriations Committee has recommended cutting the funding for the Legal Services Corporation (which in turn funds New Mexico Legal Aid, DNA People's Legal Services and the like) by an astonishing 46%. This would return funding levels for critical legal services for low-income New Mexicans to those available in 1999.

So, what can we, the members of the State Bar of New Mexico, do? We can serve, volunteer and give.

Rule 24-108 NMRA encourages 50 hours of pro bono public legal services per year or a \$500 financial contribution to organizations that provide legal services to low income New Mexicans.

As the year comes to an end, please take out your checkbooks (paper or electronic) and make a donation to the hard working organizations that provide civil legal services and commit time on your 2026 calendar to provide pro bono representation to those in need.

Information about how to volunteer your time or to give is easily found at accesstojustice.nmcourts.gov and www.sbnm.org.

The best way to express gratitude for what we have is to give to others.

Happy Holidays,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Shannon Bacon".

C. Shannon Bacon
Associate Justice

Legal Education Calendar

December

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>11 The Yellowstone CLE: Can the Dutton Family Get Away with Murder?
1.0 G
Webinar
NMSBF Center for Legal Education
https://bit.ly/CLE-12112025-A</p> | <p>16 AI, Explained: From Code to Courtroom and Beyond
3.0 G
Webinar
U.S. District Court, District of New Mexico
nmd.uscourts.gov</p> | <p>17 Discovering Implicit Biases in Jury Selection
1.0 EIJ
Webinar
NMSBF Center for Legal Education
https://bit.ly/CLE-12172025-C</p> |
| <p>11 Elimination of Bias-Combating Age Bias in the Legal Field
1.0 EIJ
Web Cast (Live Credits)
NMSBF Center for Legal Education
https://bit.ly/CLE-12112025-B</p> | <p>16 The Commander in Chief at High-Tide, Wherever That Line May Be (Live Replay)
1.0 G
Webinar
NMSBF Center for Legal Education
https://bit.ly/CLE-12162025-C</p> | <p>17 Practical Advice on Credit Reporting and Debt Collection for Lawyers and Their Clients (Live Replay)
1.0 G
Webinar
NMSBF Center for Legal Education
https://bit.ly/CLE-12172025</p> |
| <p>12 2025 Natural Resource, Energy and Environmental Law Institute
4.4 G, 1.0 EIJ, 1.0 EP
Webinar or In-Person
NMSBF Center for Legal Education
https://bit.ly/CLE-12122025-A</p> | <p>16 A New Federal Approach Towards Justice and Rehabilitation: RIO Reentry Court (Live Replay)
1.0 G
Webinar
NMSBF Center for Legal Education
https://bit.ly/CLE-12162025-D</p> | <p>18 The Wisdom Factor: Ethical Practice Beyond Compliance (Live Replay)
1.0 EP
Webinar
NMSBF Center for Legal Education
https://bit.ly/CLE-12182025-A</p> |
| <p>12 The AI Edge: Enhancing Legal Practice with ChatGPT
1.0 G
Web Cast (Live Credits)
NMSBF Center for Legal Education
https://bit.ly/CLE-12122025-B</p> | <p>16 eDiscovery for the Rest of Us: Introduction to Electronically Stored Information (ESI) - Part 1
1.0 G
Webinar
NMSBF Center for Legal Education
https://bit.ly/CLE-12162025-G</p> | <p>18 Part 3: Advance Cross-Examination - with Emphasis on Remote (Zoom) Cross
1.2 G
Webinar
NMSBF Center for Legal Education
https://bit.ly/CLE-12182025-E</p> |
| <p>12 Ethics in the Age of AI: Navigating the Legal Landscape with ChatGPT
1.0 EP
Webinar
NMSBF Center for Legal Education
https://bit.ly/CLE-12122025</p> | <p>16 Were the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct Modeled on Yoga's Ethics?
2.0 EP
Webinar
Presenter: Alysa B. Freeman, P.C.
https://balancedwarrior.net/ethics-cle-registration/</p> | <p>18 Prepare Your Client to Handle Cross Examination
1.0 G
Web Cast (Live Credits)
New Mexico Trial Lawyers Association & Foundation
https://www.nmtla.org</p> |
| <p>15 LIVE REPLAY: Internet Ethics: Navigating Lawyer Responsibilities Online
1.0 EP
Teleseminar
NMSBF Center for Legal Education
https://bit.ly/CLE-12152025-Tel</p> | <p>17 eDiscovery for the Rest of Us: Introduction to Electronically Stored Information (ESI) - Part 2
1.0 G
Webinar
NMSBF Center for Legal Education
https://bit.ly/CLE-12172025-F</p> | <p>19 Environmental Justice: Past, Present, and Near Future (Live Replay)
1.0 EIJ
Webinar
NMSBF Center for Legal Education
https://bit.ly/CLE-12192025-A</p> |

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. For a full list of MCLE-approved courses, visit <https://www.sbnm.org/Search-For-Courses>.



CLE PLANNER

Your Guide to Continuing Legal Education

Need to Know....

Center for Legal Education course registration fees go to support the important efforts of the **New Mexico State Bar Foundation**:

- Legal Resources for the Elderly Program
- Modest Means Helpline
- Legal Education for Attorneys
- *And more*



Inside this Issue

- ▶ National Speakers in January
- ▶ Refreshed On-Demand Library
- ▶ Upcoming CLE courses



New Mexico State Bar Foundation
Center for Legal Education

The Center for Legal Education is a non-profit New Mexico accredited CLE course provider dedicated to providing high-quality, affordable educational programs to the legal community. The Center offers a full range of educational services. For more information, contact us or visit us online.



LinkedIn

▶ Register online at <https://cle.sbnm.org> or call 505-797-6020
Email cleonline@sbnm.org with any questions

National Speakers *in January*



MARTY LATZ
Presenting
'Gain the Edge!®
Negotiation Strategies
for Lawyers'

Full-Day Seminar

January 16, 2026
at 9 a.m.



STUART TEICHER
Presenting On
Ethics, Equity in
Justice and
Practical Skills

Full-Day of Webinars

January 30, 2026



*Mark your calendar for both of our national speakers—
full details are coming soon!*



Our On-Demand/Self-Study Library is growing...

Newly Added On-Demand Courses Include:

AI for Transactional, Small Firm, and Other Lawyers: Ethics and Efficiency in Your Legal Practice
<https://bit.ly/CLEOD-AIEthicsEfficiency>

The Rule of Law, Federal Action and Balance of Powers
<https://bit.ly/CLEOD-RuleofLaw>

Race, Class and Gender-Conscious Mentoring
<https://bit.ly/CLEOD-RaceClassGender>

Breaking Barriers: Addressing Bias and Advancing Women in the Legal Profession
<https://bit.ly/CLEOD-2025AM-BreakingBarriers>

Navigating the New Frontier: Ethical Uses of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Legal Practice
<https://bit.ly/CLEOD-2025AM-NavigatingNewFrontier>

Tribal and State Court Collaborations – Sovereigns Working Together to Better One Another
<https://bit.ly/CLEOD-2025AM-TribalStateCourtCollaborations>



G General **EP** Ethics/Professionalism **EIJ** Equity in Justice

The Cap on Self-Study Credits is Lifted:

Now all 12 required MCLE credits may be Self-Study, Virtual or In-Person credits. There is no longer a 4.0-credit cap on Self-Study courses; however, only pre-approved Self-Study courses are allowed.

For more details, read Rule 18-204(C) NMRA.

For Center for Legal Education pre-approved Self-Study courses, visit our On-Demand/Self-Study library at: <https://cle.sbnm.org/courses/8102>

December/January Programs

December 11

The Yellowstone CLE: Can the Dutton Family Get Away With Murder?

1.0 G

11 a.m.–Noon

Webinar

<https://bit.ly/CLE-12112025-A>

December 11

Elimination of Bias–Combating Age Bias in the Legal Field

1.0 EIJ

1–2 p.m.

Webinar

<https://bit.ly/CLE-12112025-B>

December 12

2025 Natural Resource, Energy and Environmental Law Institute

4.4 G, 1.0 EIJ, 1.0 EP

8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

In-person and Webinar

<https://bit.ly/CLE-12122025-A>

December 12

The AI Edge: Enhancing Legal Practice with ChatGPT

1.0 G

11 a.m.–Noon

Webinar

<https://bit.ly/CLE-12122025-B>

December 12

Ethics in the Age of AI: Navigating the Legal Landscape with ChatGPT

1.0 EP

1–2 p.m.

Webinar

<https://bit.ly/CLE-12122025>

December 12

Noticing & Reacting to Red Flags: Under Duress & Undue Influence in Trust and Estate Planning

1.0 EP

11 a.m.–Noon

Teleseminar

<https://bit.ly/CLE-12122025-C>

December 15

Internet Ethics: Navigating Lawyer Responsibilities Online (Live Replay)

1.0 EP

11 a.m.–Noon

Teleseminar

<https://bit.ly/CLE-12152025-Tel>

December 16

True Crime Ethics: The Alec Baldwin Dismissal and the Karen Read Acquittal

2.0 EP

11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Webinar

<https://bit.ly/CLE-12162025-A>

December 16

eDiscovery for the Rest of Us: Introduction to Electronically Stored Information (ESI)–Part 1

1.0 G

1–2 p.m.

Webinar

<https://bit.ly/CLE-12162025-B>

December 16

The Commander in Chief at High-Tide, Wherever that Line May Be (Live Replay)

1.0 G

Noon–1 p.m.

Webinar

<https://bit.ly/CLE-12162025-C>

December 16

A New Federal Approach Towards Justice and Rehabilitation: RIO Reentry Court (Live Replay)

1.0 G

1:30–2:30 p.m.

Webinar

<https://bit.ly/CLE-12162025-D>

December 16

Brave New World: Lawyer Ethics & AI (Live Replay)

1.0 EP

11 a.m.–Noon

Teleseminar

<https://bit.ly/CLE-12162025-E>

December 17

Bryan Stevenson: 2025 Annual Meeting Keynote Address (Live Replay)

1.0 EIJ

Noon–1 p.m.

Webinar

<https://bit.ly/CLE-2025AMKeynote-2>

December 17

Practical Advice on Credit Reporting and Debt Collection for Lawyers and their Clients (Live Replay)

1.0 G

1:30–2:30 p.m.

Webinar

<https://bit.ly/CLE-12172025>

December 17

Discovering Implicit Biases in Jury Selection

1.0 EIJ

11 a.m.–Noon

Webinar

<https://bit.ly/CLE-12172025-C>

December 17

eDiscovery for the Rest of Us: Introduction to Electronically Stored Information (ESI)–Part 2

1.0 G

1–2 p.m.

Webinar

<https://bit.ly/CLE-12162025-F>

December 18

The Wisdom Factor: Ethical Practice Beyond Compliance (Live Replay)

1.0 EP

Noon–1 p.m.

Webinar

<https://bit.ly/CLE-12182025-A>

December 18

Justice by Design: Artificial Intelligence, Law, and the Future of Us (Live Replay)

1.5 EIJ

1:30–3 p.m.

Webinar

<https://bit.ly/CLE-12182025-B>

December 18

Part 3: Advanced Cross-Examination—with Emphasis on Remote (Zoom) Cross

1.2 G

11 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Webinar

<https://bit.ly/CLE-12182025-E>

December 18

Clarence Darrow: Crimes, Causes, and the Courtroom

3.0 EP

1–4:15 p.m.

Webinar

<https://bit.ly/CLE-12182025-D>

December 19

Environmental Justice: Past, Present, and Near Future (Live Replay)

1.0 EIJ

9–10 a.m.

Webinar

<https://bit.ly/CLE-12192025-A>

December 19

The Ethics and Bias of Legally Blonde

1.0 EIJ

11 a.m.–Noon

Webinar

<https://bit.ly/CLE-12192025-B>

December 19

2025 Basics of Trust Accounting: How to Comply with Disciplinary Board Rule 17-204 (Live Replay)

1.0 EP

Noon–1 p.m.

Webinar

<https://bit.ly/CLE-12192025-C>

December 23

Pee-wee Herman and the Criminal Justice System's History of Bias Against the Gay Community

1.0 EIJ

11 a.m.–Noon

Webinar

<https://bit.ly/CLE-12232025-A>

December 23

A Day in the Life: Practical Examples of Artificial Intelligence in Law Firms

1.0 G

1–2 p.m.

Webinar

<https://bit.ly/CLE-12232025-B>

December 30

Learning Legal Ethics from the Lincoln Lawyer: Season 1

1.0 EP

11 a.m.–Noon

Webinar

<https://bit.ly/CLE-12302025-A>

December 30

Learning Legal Ethics from the Lincoln Lawyer: Season 2

1.0 EP

1–2 p.m.

Webinar

<https://bit.ly/CLE-12302025-B>

December 31

Killers of the Flower Moon: the Osage Murders and How Attorneys Can Combat Bias

1.0 EIJ

11 a.m.–Noon

Webinar

<https://bit.ly/CLE-12312025>

January 9

Ethics with Stuart Teicher: Asking for Work and Using ChatGPT Ethically (Live Replay)

2.0 EP

9:30–11:30 a.m.

Webinar

<https://bit.ly/CLE-01092026-A>

January 9

Addressing Bias and Practical Writing Skills for Lawyers with Stuart Teicher

1.0 EIJ and 1.0 G

Noon–2 p.m.

Webinar

<https://bit.ly/CLE-01092026-B>

Register for both Stuart Teicher

Replays—and save 10% with this Bundle:

<https://bit.ly/CLE-StuartTeicherReplays>

January 15

Artificial Intelligence and Animals: Using Technology for Good

1.0 G

Noon–1 p.m.

Webinar

<https://bit.ly/CLE-01152026-A>

January 22

Appellate Basics for Attorneys: Navigating the New Mexico Court of Appeals

1.5 G

Noon–1:30 p.m.

Webinar

<https://bit.ly/CLE-01222026>

CLE Registration

Ways to Register:

📌 Online: <https://cle.sbnm.org> 📞 Phone: 505-797-6020 @ Email: cleonline@sbnm.org

REGISTER EARLY! Advance registration is recommended. Online registration closes one day ahead of each program. **CLE Cancellations & Refunds:** We understand that plans change. If you find you can no longer attend a program, please contact the Center for Legal Education. We are happy to assist you by transferring your registration to a future CLE event or providing a refund, subject to Center policy. **MCLE Credit Information:** The NM State Bar Foundation's Center for Legal Education is an accredited CLE course provider. **Note:** Programs subject to change without notice.

cleonline@sbnm.org • <https://cle.sbnm.org> • 505-797-6020
5121 Masthead NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109 • PO Box 92860, Albuquerque, NM 87199

 Check our website for more updates to our program schedule!



State Bar of New Mexico
Young Lawyers
Division

YLD BOARD

Lauren Riley, Chair

Taylor Duffney, Chair-Elect

Director-at-Large, Position 1, **Kenneth Shiau**

Director-at-Large, Position 2, **Taylor Duffney**

Director-at-Large, Position 3, **Laura Unklesbay**

Director-at-Large, Position 4, **Gretchen Wendlandt**

Director-at-Large, Position 5, **Ryan Sanchez**

Region 1 Director, **Sarah Kosso**

Region 2 Director, **Ben Burke**

Region 3 Director, **Taylor Larsen**

Region 4 Director, **George Kennedy**

Region 5 Director, **Lauren Riley**

Immediate Past Chair, **Randy Taylor**

YLD LIAISONS

Animal Law, Samantha Catalano

Appellate Practice, Emma Easom

Bankruptcy Law, Daniel Grunow

Business Law, Maria Trujillo

Cannabis Law, Victoria Cvitanovic

Elder Law, Shasta Inman

Employment & Labor Law, Alyx Callison

Family Law, Pamela Faris

Health Law, James Bradley

Immigration Law, Ari Burks

Intellectual Property Law, Billy Trabaudo

Natural Resources, Energy & Environmental Law,

Benjamin Rossi

Real Property, Trusts & Estate, Ryan Sanchez

Solo & Small Firm, Ron King

Tax, Janette Duran

2025 PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS

Wills for Heroes,

Laura Unklesbay, Ryan Sanchez, Taylor Larsen, Sarah Kosso

Legal Clinics,

Taylor Duffney, Gretchen Wendlandt

"Ask-a-Lawyer" Law Day Call-In,

Sarah Kosso, Ken Shiau

Service Project in Outlying Areas, Randy Taylor

ABA/YLD Disaster Legal Services,

Mara Christine

Constitution Day, Ben Burke, Taylor Larsen

NMHBA/UNM Summer Law Camp,

Taylor Duffney

Law Day Essay Contest, Ben Burke

Judicial Clerkship Selections,

Lauren Riley

Summer Fellowship Selections,

Lauren Riley, George Kennedy

UNMSOL & Mentorship Programming,

Randy Taylor, Lauren Riley

Member Outreach,

Laura Unklesbay, George Kennedy, Sarah Kosso, Taylor Duffney

Lunch with Judges,

Ryan Sanchez, George Kennedy, Taylor Larsen

Fit2Practice, Ken Shiau

Networking Events,

Laura Unklesbay, Taylor Duffney

Bar Bulletin "In Brief", Lauren Riley

CLE Liaison (Article VIII), Lauren Riley

YLD Bylaws Review, Randy Taylor

YLD *in brief*

WINTER
2025

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

Message from Outgoing Chair



As we close out another remarkable year, I want to take a moment to reflect on all that the Young Lawyers Division has accomplished and to express my deep gratitude for the extraordinary work of our Board. Serving as your Chair has been a privilege, and I could not be prouder of what this team has achieved together.

This year, our Board showed what it truly means to serve the legal community with purpose and heart. From organizing impactful pro bono initiatives across the state hosting dynamic networking events, to providing meaningful CLE and professional development opportunities, each member of this Board gave their time, energy and creativity to ensure that our Division continued to grow, connect and lead. Their dedication – often behind the scenes and always above and beyond – made every program stronger and every opportunity more accessible to our members and to those needing access to pro bono legal services.

We also expanded our mentorship efforts, strengthened relationships with UNM School of Law students, and continued to foster a sense of community among young lawyers who are juggling demanding careers and personal lives. Whether through service, education or camaraderie, the YLD once again demonstrated the power of showing up for each other.

As my term comes to an end, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to every Board member and every volunteer who contributed to this year's success. Your dedication is what gives us the ability to offer these programs and reach so many in our community.

Looking ahead, I could not be more excited for the leadership of our 2026 incoming Chair, Taylor Duffney. Taylor is an exceptional attorney, a thoughtful leader, and someone whose passion for service is inspiring. Our Division is in excellent hands, and I am eager to see the incredible work that will take shape under her guidance.

Thank you for being part of this community, for supporting one another and for making this year truly exceptional.

With gratitude,

Lauren E. Riley

2025 Chair, Young Lawyers Division



Program Updates



Wills for Heroes

The Young Lawyers Division organized three Wills for Heroes events this past year, drafting and executing wills, powers of attorney and healthcare directives for over 100 first responders and their spouses. In February, we held an event in Las Cruces, providing estate planning documents for over 40 first responders. Then, in April, we hosted a successful event at the San Juan County Fire and Rescue in Aztec, with over 30 first responders helped. Our last event of the year was in November with the Sandoval County Fire & Rescue, again providing documents to over 40 first responders and their spouses. Overall, it has been an incredibly successful year, with some of our largest events to date. We are already working on 2026 - we hope you'll join us!

Thank you to all of our volunteers who have made this program a success – we are so appreciative of your hard work. We would also like to extend a special thank you to the Paralegal Division for their support and help throughout the year!

— *Laura Unklesbay and Ryan Sanchez,*
Wills For Heroes Committee Co-Chairs



Ask-a-Lawyer Call in Day

The Young Lawyers Division hosted a state-wide Ask-a-Lawyer Call-In Day on June 21, from 9 a.m. to noon (MT). Attorneys throughout the state appeared both in person at the State Bar of New Mexico and remotely by phone to offer free legal advice to those who called in. With close to 20 volunteer attorneys, callers received quality care – each phone call lasting on average 45 minutes. There were around 30 phone calls received total with some calls lasting well over an hour. Calls ranged in legal issue type including consumer, custody, employment and labor, estate planning, family law, immigration, landlord and tenant, personal injury, real estate and wills and trusts. Family law, landlord and tenant and wills were the three highest categories of calls received. We are incredibly thankful for all our volunteer attorneys, Paralegal Division team and staff at the State Bar for all their assistance in bringing this event together.

— *Sarah Kosso, George Kennedy and Ken Shiau,*
Ask-a-Lawyer Call in Day Co-Chairs

Ask-a-Lawyer **Call-in Program**



Veteran's Legal Clinic



The YLD partnered with the Veterans Justice Outreach Program in Albuquerque and Las Cruces to hold four Veteran's Legal Clinics throughout 2025, including clinics in March, May, July and November. During the clinics, veterans met one-on-one with experienced attorneys in a wide variety of civil law practice areas for consultations on a variety of civil legal issues. Our Veteran's Legal Clinics connect

veterans with attorneys in the areas of Family Law, Consumer Rights Law, Bankruptcy Law, Landlord-Tenant Law, Foreclosure Law, Employment Law, Tax Law, Probate as well as other General Civil Law. Not only are these clinics a valuable experience for the Veterans in attendance, but we also match UNM School of Law students with attorney volunteers so the students can shadow and learn from attorneys with experience in areas of interest to the student. The YLD is grateful to the dedicated volunteer attorneys, paralegals and UNM Veteran Law Society, all of whom made this year's Clinics possible. Please look out for future Veterans Clinics and consider volunteering in 2026!

— Taylor Duffney, Sarah Kosso & Gretchen Wendlandt,
Veteran's Legal Clinic Committee



#Fit2Practice

The Fit2Practice Committee started the year with the Chocolate and Coffee 5k. In the Spring, the young lawyers participated in a sand volleyball league at Stoneface Courts. In April, Fit2Practice helped fundraise for the UNM Sports Lawyer Association by participating in a grass volleyball tournament.

The Committee sponsored young lawyers and law students to attend the

Harvest Festival at the ABQ BioPark at the start of Fall. 2025 will be closed out with the Thanksgiving Turkey Trot 5K and a hot yoga session in December.

— Ken Shiao and Gretchen Wendlandt, Fit2Practice Committee





Networking

Networking occurs at all of our YLD events and meetings throughout the year, including our pro bono events. However, the Networking Committee and Membership Benefits Committee worked hard to organize special events for our members in 2025.

For the third year in a row, we had a Law Clerk Networking Event in July for law students working in New Mexico to socialize with young lawyers. This Networking Event followed a free Appellate Process CLE offered by YLD to our members. It was a great event with attendance of students and young lawyers working in both the private and public sectors.

Our committee also hosted young lawyers at an Isotopes game, where young lawyers and their families got to socialize and enjoy the game from the Tecate Terrace.

YLD hosted a trivia night as part of the State Bar of New Mexico Annual Meeting with one lucky team winning YLD Swag Bags for their efforts.

YLD again hosted a reception following the swearing-in of our new New Mexico lawyers. It was a fun night, celebrating with new lawyers and board members from our sponsor State Bar Sections and local bar associations.

Throughout the year, our committee helped sponsor events with different bar associations across the state, including events in Las Cruces and Santa Fe.

Lastly, the Networking Committee hosted two tables at the Distinguished Achievement Awards Dinner to celebrate our own YLD Chair, Lauren Riley, when she was honored with the 2025 Alumni Promise Award for her hard work and dedication supporting UNM School of Law and the pipeline from the law school into practice.

We are looking forward to another year of connecting our YLD members with each other and other lawyers across the state!

— Taylor Duffney and Laura Unklesbay, YLD Networking Committee and Membership Benefits Committee



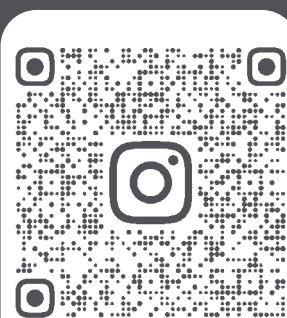
STAY CONNECTED WITH YLD – *Thanks to Laura Unklesbay!*

If you've enjoyed staying plugged in to everything happening with the Young Lawyers Division this year – whether it was a pro bono clinic, a networking event, a CLE or a behind-the-scenes moment – you can thank one person in particular: Laura Unklesbay!

Laura has done an incredible job managing our social media and keeping our community informed, engaged and connected. From capturing the fun at our events to highlighting the incredible work being done by young lawyers across the state, she has made sure the YLD's story is told with heart, energy and a whole lot of style. We are so grateful for her creativity, consistency and dedication.

If you haven't already, make sure you're following along so you don't miss a thing!

Find us on Facebook and Instagram – your next YLD update is only a scroll away.

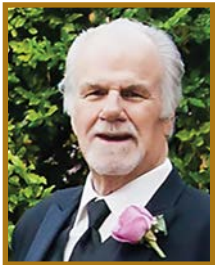


@NEWMEXICOYLD

The New Mexico Attorney In Memoriam Ceremony & Attorney Memorial Scholarship: *A Legacy of Community, Connection and Commemoration*

The New Mexico Attorney In Memoriam ceremony and Attorney Memorial Scholarship, facilitated by the State Bar of New Mexico Senior Lawyers Division (“Senior Lawyers Division”), is an initiative marked by a notable diversity of tones and themes. It simultaneously commemorates connection, love and reverence as an expression of respect through the In Memoriam ceremony while the Attorney Memorial Scholarship acknowledges and celebrates the future. Both are interconnected by a single theme: community.

The In Memoriam Ceremony: Sentimental Beginnings



The idea for the Senior Lawyers Division’s In Memoriam ceremony, which began in 2014, was first conceived by Bradford (“Brad”) Zeikus. A highly active member of New Mexico’s legal community, he served as the Chair of the Senior Lawyers Division as well as a member of the State Bar of New Mexico’s Board of Bar Commissioners (“BBC”). He also served as the University of New Mexico (“UNM”) School of Law’s Alumni Association President for multiple years.

Terrence (“Terry”) Revo, a retired attorney who previously practiced as an attorney for Second Judicial District Attorney Ira Robinson and whose practice included work in personal injury and real estate, spoke of Brad’s legacy: “[He] probably had more social [and] personal contacts than most people,” Terry stated. “And I’m sure he was the one who said, ‘We need to honor these guys.’” Having passed away on April 1, 2023, Brad’s legacy lives on through the In Memoriam ceremony, held each year at the State Bar Center in Albuquerque, N.M.

A Gathering for Respect and Reflection

The Senior Lawyers Division’s goals are primarily to “improve the administration of justice, to promote the interests of the legal profession in the State of New Mexico, and to promote and support the needs of all members,” have developed a steady and stable process for preparing the ceremony itself. “I don’t think the event has changed an awful lot,” Terry elaborated. “The process of the event is still pretty much the same.” For the most part, the ceremony is coordinated by the Chair of the Attorney Memorial Scholarship Committee (“the Committee”).

Terry confirmed that organizing the event does not present overwhelming challenges, and that the Chair conducts the majority of the setup through collaboration with other members of the Attorney Memorial Scholarship Committee and Senior Lawyers Division Board of Directors. 2025’s Senior Lawyers Division Board of Directors have included Jocelyn M. Torres (Chair), Peter Chestnut (Chair-Elect), Daniel J. Behles (Secretary-

Treasurer and BBC Delegate). Other Directors include Kari Brandenburg, Richard Kraft, Hon. Freddy Romero, Hon. Michael Bustamante, Deborah Seligman, Kathryn Rubi, Terry and Charles Gurd.

Once the preparation is complete, members of New Mexico’s legal community and relatives of the deceased attorneys and judges honored during the ceremony gather at the State Bar Center. The Committee members provide heartfelt remarks at the beginning of the ceremony to set a reflective and warm tone that give weight to the event’s purpose. A Committee member then cites the names of each attorney, judge and legal professional who passed away over the last year as provided to the Senior Lawyers Division over the course of a presentation that includes pictures of the deceased.

A Consistent Process and an Expression of Gratitude

The In Memoriam ceremony has evolved in small ways, including the addition of a gong. After the announcement of each of the honorees’ names, a Committee member will use a brass singing bowl as a gong for effect. Terry’s assessment is that the process of planning the ceremony is effective, despite one particularly difficult challenge in reaching the families of those that have been lost. That challenge is one the Committee encounters each year, Terry notes. In an era where legal practice has become dispersed and attorneys move states or retire from public view, reaching relatives can be unexpectedly difficult. Nevertheless, the Committee continues pursuing every lead because, as Terry emphasizes, having families present completes the ceremony.

More than that, the ceremony is a tribute to the perseverance and grit to members now in the loving memory of New Mexico’s tightly knit legal community.

“These attorneys gave their lifeblood and their energy to the practice of law for the benefit of the legal community,” Terry says with passion. “The legal community has a responsibility to [act on] it – to say ‘thank you’ in some way.”

As deceased members of the legal community endured the challenges associated with the profession, “the families lived through all of that,” Terry firmly states. “So really, the event is a ‘thank-you’ to the attorneys and to the families. That’s what it stands for.”

As the ceremony honors the members of the community’s past, it simultaneously recognizes and elevates its future through the Attorney Memorial Scholarship.

Bridging a Generational Gap

Each In Memoriam ceremony is followed directly by a presentation of the Attorney Memorial Scholarship to three distinguished third-year (3L) law students. After 500-word essays

covering a topic created by the Attorney Memorial Scholarship Committee are submitted by law students at the UNM School of Law, law school administrators will remove all “identifying characteristic[s],” confirms Terry, to ensure anonymity among the students. The committee will then deliberate on the quality of each essay and eventually decide on three winners to receive the scholarship in the amount of \$5,000.

This process is strongly supported by UNM School of Law staff including Serge Martinez, an Associate Dean and Professor at the UNM School of Law, who runs the law school’s Economic Justice Clinic. Joining the State Bar of New Mexico in 2016, Serge acknowledges he is relatively new to New Mexico’s legal community. Having recently become a member of the Senior Lawyers Division, Serge points out the warmth and closeness of New Mexico’s legal community.

“This is a relatively small community where you see the same people in the courthouse,” Serge notices. “You know who you’re going to be dealing with. There’s a sense of, ‘We’re all here together.’”

His ties to the Senior Lawyers Division’s In Memoriam ceremony and Attorney Memorial Scholarship begin with his experience leading the Economic Justice Clinic. Teaching half of the 3L law students at UNM School of Law each year, his introduction to the In Memoriam ceremony “came when members of the Senior Lawyers Division reached out and asked if they could talk to my students about the scholarship. Since I tend to teach half the third-year class each year, that seemed like a natural audience.”

Serge says that, when the Senior Lawyers Division members, including Terry and Jocelyn, come to speak to his class, the students “get to see that they’re part of a larger profession they’re joining. It’s not just the law school – it’s the whole legal community.”

A Broader Celebration of the Past, Present and Future

As the In Memoriam ceremony reflects on the past members of New Mexico’s legal community, the presentation of the Attorney Memorial Scholarship is forward-looking and uplifting.

“[The law students] see that this community cares about them, and they’re part of something with history,” Terry says of the full event’s perspective of continuity. “They’re going to be the ones carrying that forward.”

“They’re entering a profession with history and people who’ve come before them,” Serge iterates. “The ceremony shows that you’re part of something bigger. You’re part of this lineage, this community that stretches back decades. You’re the newest brick in a wall built by the people before you.”

These Values We Cherish

Although law practice has changed in the modern era, the spirit that holds the legal community together remains strong and intact. While Terry notes that law practice now entails more responsibilities and that the community isn’t as connected as it once was, the In Memoriam ceremony is nonetheless a timeless tradition celebrating the values of community and connection that underpin the foundation of New Mexico’s population of legal professionals.



“The practice of law is tougher and the responsibilities are greater,” Terry frankly states.

Nevertheless, the In Memoriam ceremony and Attorney Memorial Scholarship are intrinsically values-based through its roots in the legal profession. Terry emphasizes the importance of professionalism and reputation in the legal field, which he says “is what follows you.”

As an example of these two pillars of excellence in the legal field, Serge discusses one of his role models, Justice Pamela B. Minzner, as an “ideal combination of professionalism, humanity and compassion.” As a tribute to her demonstration of these values, the State Bar of New Mexico’s Annual Awards include the Justice Pamela B. Minzner Award, which “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.” Both Terry and Serge’s sentiments highlight professionalism’s significance as a bedrock for legal professionals joining and being a part of New Mexico’s legal community as built by the hard-working and resilient members of that community’s past.

The values that bind the community are not abstract to New Mexico’s legal professionals. They are also lived and revered across generations, from the attorneys honored in the ceremony to the students stepping forward through the scholarship.

A Timeless Tradition of Memory, Honor and Community

The Senior Lawyers Division’s In Memoriam ceremony and Attorney Memorial Scholarship Presentation, on its surface, commemorates the legacy of the legal professionals of New Mexico’s past while importantly tilting its hat to the makeup of the profession’s future. Connected by values of respect, professionalism and responsibility, the legal community and families of those in the legal community are offered a nostalgic and sentimental opportunity through the In Memoriam ceremony and Attorney Scholarship Presentation to remember the very legal professionals who shaped the community into what it is today. ✨

The 12th Annual New Mexico Attorney In Memoriam & 2025 Attorney Memorial Scholarship Presentation

On Nov. 18, 2025, the State Bar of New Mexico Senior Lawyers Division (“Senior Lawyers Division”) held their annual New Mexico Attorney In Memoriam ceremony at the State Bar Center. Many members of New Mexico’s legal community, including State Bar President Aja N. Brooks, as well as relatives of those who were recognized during the In Memoriam ceremony, attended the event to honor members of New Mexico’s legal community who passed away during the past year.

The New Mexico Attorney In Memoriam ceremony’s speakers included Senior Lawyers Division Chair Jocelyn Torres and fellow Board members Peter Chestnut and Terrance (“Terry”) Revo, as well as University of New Mexico School of Law Associate Dean Serge Martinez. Each gave remarks both honoring the memories of the deceased and expressing their legacies as legal professionals in New Mexico.

The In Memoriam ceremony was followed by speeches from 2024 Attorney Memorial Scholarship winner Hakim Bellamy as well as acceptance remarks by third-year law students Fouad Rtaimate-Lagdani, Victor Reyes and Katherine (“Kate”) Leung for the 2025 Attorney Memorial Scholarships. Terry Revo praised each of the award recipients for their unique and insightful arguments in their essay submissions before the recipients provided heartfelt remarks upon their receipt of the prestigious scholarship.

The event concluded with a warm reception, during which the Senior Lawyers Division Board members spoke with numerous attendees and others present connected with peers and relatives of the deceased. It was a quiet and respectful affair that was equal parts somber and heartwarming, looking back and highlighting the lives of those who are no longer with us while celebrating the work of law students who have many accomplishments ahead of them. ✨



1. Senior Lawyers Division Chair Jocelyn Torres gives remarks before the Attorney In Memoriam ceremony.
2. University of New Mexico School of Law Associate Dean Serge Martinez remarks on the significance of the New Mexico Attorney In Memoriam ceremony and his experience working with the Senior Lawyers Division to facilitate this event.
3. 2024 Attorney Memorial Scholarship recipient Hakim Bellamy speaks to his experience as law student and being a part of the legal community.
4. Senior Lawyers Division Board member Terry Revo discusses each of the award recipients and the arguments presented in each of their essays.
5. From left to right: Fouad Rtaimate-Lagdani, Katherine (“Kate”) Leung and Victor Reyes.
6. Attendees enjoy the reception following the New Mexico Attorney In Memoriam ceremony and 2025 Attorney Memorial Scholarship Presentation.



Help Us Reach Our Goal! **10% MORE** In Donations This Year During License Renewal Season

Donating to the New Mexico State Bar Foundation is **EASY!** State Bar of New Mexico licensees can donate during license renewal by visiting

www.sbnm.org/licensing



100% of your donation to the New Mexico State Bar Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is tax deductible and supports Bar Foundation programs that provide and promote access to civil legal services to underserved New Mexicans:

- ★ Each of the Bar Foundation's two legal helplines/referral programs have assisted in **over 3,400 cases** in fiscal year 2025, for a grand total of **over 6,800 cases** where assistance was provided! The two helplines are the **Modest Means Helpline** (MMH) for New Mexicans of limited financial means and the **Legal Resources for the Elderly Program** (LREP) for senior citizens in New Mexico.
- ★ **FREE Divorce Options** and **Consumer Debt/Bankruptcy Workshops** are monthly virtual legal workshops open to the public and presented by volunteer attorneys.

Have you met your pro bono obligation for the year?

Sign up to volunteer for MMH and LREP at <https://bit.ly/AttorneyVolunteerSignUp> or contact caitlin.carcerano@sbnm.org. Alternatively, donating to the State Bar Foundation will help you fulfill your pro bono obligation.

Other ways to support the New Mexico State Bar Foundation's programs:

- ★ Attend New Mexico State Bar Foundation Center for Legal Education's high quality, affordable educational programs for the legal community at cle.sbnm.org
- ★ Donations to the New Mexico State Bar Foundation are gratefully accepted year-round at www.sbnm.org/donate

For more information about donating to the New Mexico State Bar Foundation, contact nmsbfdevelopment@sbnm.org.



New Mexico
State Bar Foundation

DIGITAL RESOURCE DESKBOOK 2026-2027

Coming
March
2026!

► *Your Direct Connection to New Mexico's Legal Community*

Showcase your firm, business or services to **over 9,000** attorneys, judges and legal professionals by securing premium ad space in the Digital Resource Deskbook 2026-2027! This essential digital reference is downloaded, bookmarked and used throughout the year - making it one of the most impactful places to promote your brand to the New Mexico legal community.

Why Advertise in the Digital Resource Deskbook?



Unmatched visibility to thousands of State Bar of New Mexico licensees.



Year-round exposure in a resource professionals rely on daily.



Targeted reach to decision-makers in the legal field and affiliated industries.

Advertising Opportunities



Choose a placement that fits your goals and budget:

- Full, Half or Quarter Page Display Ads
- Premium Placement Full Pages: Inside Front Cover or Section Dividers
- Firm Listings
- Services for the Legal Community Listings

**Special discounts on advertising are available
for State Bar of New Mexico licensees!**

Reserve Your Space Today

Contact Tom Ende at 651-288-3422 or
marketing@sbnm.org for more advertising information.

www.sbnm.org



State Bar of
New Mexico

Est. 1886



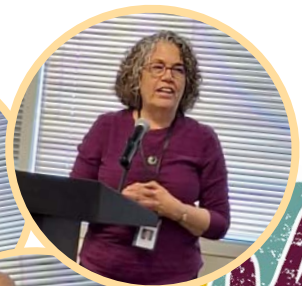
State Bar of New Mexico
Alternative Methods of
Dispute Resolution

NATIONAL CONFLICT *Resolution* DAY 2025

On Oct. 20, the **State Bar of New Mexico Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)** Committee gathered at the State Bar Center to recognize Conflict Resolution Day. Conflict Resolution Day is a global observance on the third Thursday of October, founded in 2005 by the Association for Conflict Resolution (ACR) to promote peaceful conflict resolution methods in all areas of life. The day encourages awareness and the practical use of conflict resolution skills in schools, homes, workplaces and the legal system by recognizing the contributions of peaceful conflict resolvers.

Attendees heard from several prominent voices in the ADR Community, including, Justice C. Shannon Bacon of the New Mexico Supreme Court; Aja N. Brooks, President of the State Bar of New Mexico; Nicholas Enoch, Chair, Arizona State Bar Alternative Dispute Resolution Division and Tamara Couture and Rachel Donovan, co-chairs of the New Mexico State Bar ADR Committee, among others.

The Alternative Methods of Dispute Resolution Committee of State Bar of New Mexico's mission is to expand use of alternative methods for the resolution of conflict and support the development and enhancement of processes founded upon integrity, respect and empowerment of the participants, acceptance of responsibility, consideration of the impact of the resolution on the disputants and their community and appreciation of diversity. The committee accomplishes this mission through educating the public and legal profession regarding the availability and benefits of various methods of alternative dispute resolution. The committee further supports community-wide training in alternative methods of dispute resolution throughout the State of New Mexico and expanded practical access to such methods. For more information, contact adrsteering@sbnm.org.



Clerk's Certificates

► From the Clerk of the New Mexico Supreme Court

<http://nmsupremecourt.nmcourts.gov>

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



To view Clerk's Certificates in full, visit www.sbnm.org/Clerks-Certificates.

► In Memoriam

Bertrand E. Allen
Julie N. Altwies
Tobin K. Ando
Steven Bennett Berlin
Dick A. Blenden
David Gerard E Brown

Charles H. Coll
Albert Costales
Jay L. Faurot II
Elizabeth A. Floersheim
Kent Peterson
Ricky D. Purcell

L. John Russo
C. Gene Samberson
George M. Scarborough
Bernadette Sedillo
Don J. Svet

► Clerk's Certificates Of Name Change As Of August 2025

Alysandra E. Blanco f/k/a
Alysandra E. Martinez
Julie Marie DeWeese Curtis f/k/a
Julie Marie DeWeese

Stacy H. FitzPatrick f/k/a
Stacy H. Sutherland

Lauren D. Wooten f/k/a
Lauren D. Gallaway

► Clerk's Certificates Of Limited Admission As Of August 2025

Ruby Ann Crews
Christopher Paul Forsyth
Joan Le Ann Gillham
John Stuart Lohmeyer

Kenneth Edward Mack
Kerrigan Lynn Owens
Carlos Ricardo Ramirez Perez
Celeste Marie Robertson

► Clerk's Certificates Of Reinstatement to Active Status As Of August 2025

Lauri A. Ebel
Joseph Eggleston Johnson V

Hajra Imtiaz Malik
Kari A. Ramos

► Clerk's Certificates Of Change to Withdrawn Status As Of August 2025

James C. McKay
Mary A. Woodward

► Clerk's Certificates Of Change to Inactive Status As Of July 2025

Hillary R. Bernhardt
Olivia Cheri Lambert-Tucker

Jayme LeAnn Leadmon
Darryl Millet

Ethan D. Nissani
Jeffery L. Thomason

► Clerk's Certificates Of Change to Inactive Status As Of August 2025

Deborah Gray
Ruben Jorge Krisztal

Trevor A. Rigler

Gloria Valencia-Weber

Clerk's Certificates

► From the Clerk of the New Mexico Supreme Court

<http://nmsupremecourt.nmcourts.gov>

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



To view Clerk's Certificates in full, visit www.sbnm.org/Clerks-Certificates.

► Clerk's Certificates Of Reinstatement to Active Status As Of September 2025

Michael Clayton Bristow
Michelle Fontenot

Athena Pearl Riley

Michael L. Timm Jr.

► Clerk's Certificates Of Indefinite Suspension From Membership In The State Bar of New Mexico As Of September 2025

Amber Monique Castro

Michael F. Menicucci

Dawn M. Page

► Clerk's Certificates Of Limited Admission As of September 2025

Jeanine Orinza Cornwell
Olivia den Dulk

Allison Marie Johnson
Garet Drew Kartchner

Nicholas Tyler Hirsch McDonald
Anna Elizabeth Raykovics
Merle Wilson Richman III

► Clerk's Certificates Of Change to Inactive Status As Of September 2025

Brent W. Chapman

Diane M. Garrity

Dave Ford Leister Gravely

► Clerk's Certificates Of Admission As Of October 2025

Melba T. Aguilar
Sall Ryan Ahmadian
Marco J. Alarid White
Taylor Chanel Allen
Chad William Alvis
Quentin Ampersand
Brent P. Armbruster
Nicholas P. Baca
Timothy Haskell Baker II
Ezra Miguel Baldwin Geilin
Scott William Bell
John William Lash Bower
Angela Maria Broderick
Michelle Brodersen
Carlos Marquez Bruzual
Danielle M. Bryant
Mario Antonio Burgarello
Jessica G. Burns
Jack Findley Cahill
Ian S. Carrillo
Maria T. Catalano
Griffin Chambers

Wilbur Randolph Charles
Kevin Kai Chun
Carol Mayo Cochran
Jasper Takenori Tsuchiya Cook
Jordan Corliss
Laura Creech
Anton Saleem Dababneh
Aneesah Elizabeth Dalal
Ashton Alixandra Danneels
Shaniya Eachenagee Decker
Madeline Dawn DeHerrera
Teralyn Jo Diethrich
Amy Jo Feagans
Sophie Caroline Fields
Stephanie Flores
Gil Gordian
Phillip T. Gray
Emma Therese Green
Angela Cecilia Griego
Wu Cheng Guo
Dante Reyes Gurule
Nicholas Ferguson Guttenberg

Fetsum Debessai Habtemariam
Zahraa Hamka
Kevin Randall Hart
Jonathon Taylor Hawthorne
Elliott Beck Heater-Brown
Jeffrey Joseph Hebert
Emiline E. Heisler
Brittany Marie Herrera
Lauren Marie Hewitt
Lorne G. Hiller
Leigh Anne Hodge
Drew Hoffman
Kaleb Troy Hudson
Daniel M. Hurren
Mah Noor Imran
Stefanie Nicole Jock
Alexis Javon Jones
Nicole Leigh Jones
Anthony Raymond Juzaitis
Abigail Kathryn Katkov
Harry J. Katz
Ty Kiatahikom

Clerk's Certificates

► From the Clerk of the New Mexico Supreme Court

<http://nmsupremecourt.nmcourts.gov>

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



To view Clerk's Certificates in full, visit www.sbnm.org/Clerks-Certificates.

► Clerk's Certificates Of Admission As Of October 2025 (cont.)

Charles Hall Kip	Parker Mathias Murphy	Alyabha Sosa Aguirre
David S. Kirmse	Rebecca Rusek Myers	Vanessa L. Springer
Mark Kramer	Damon Mariano Jesus Nieto	Cameron Squires
Andrew James Ladenheim	Melody Nikmaram	Madelyn Dee St. Clair
Edward C. Lange	Jennifer Guadalupe Nunez	Maxwell Burns Stahl
Elijah Shane Parkinson Larson	Katherine M. O'Donnell	Jeromia Stinson
Jesse David Leaneagh	Dorothy Onikute	Laurissa Lynn Stokes
Celia Ruth Lee	Emma Kathleen Palmer	Rebekah S. Taylor
Danielle Renea Lopez	Alec J. Paradowski	Jordyn Rose Terrazas
Michael Lopez	Ryan Gabriel Parra	Hunter W. Tucker
Odalys M. Lopez	April Joy Magadia Payumo	Tyler James Tuminski
Owen Lopez	Lauren Colleen Perry	Adam W. Turner
Elena Luna	Joshua D. Pierce	Scott Lee Turner
Marina Christina Malak	Crestencia I. Pihlaja	Lauren Natasia Vasquez
Matthew Alexander Mallary	Graciela Poore	Jesse Walker
John Harker Mangum	Dakota Ellis Reynolds	Emma Taylor Walters
Almin Lopez Manlucu	Michel David Rivera Ramirez	John Anthony Wasilowski V
Zachary Manning	Phoebe J.W. Roderick	Daniel G. Weeks
Aridssa Natacha Martinez	Odalys Aylin Rodriguez	Shelby E. White
Justin Lawrence McCarthy	Christopher J. Rog	Maximillian Xavier Whittaker
Leonard T. McCroan	Genevieve Barbara Romero	Ursula R. Wilkinson
Mary Lou Merxbauer	Luisa Sanchez-Carrera	Emily J. Windsor
Marcus I. Miller-Moore	Elizabeth Kathleen Sanderson	Trevor Alan Wommack
Chance O'Neal Mitchell	Cassiopia C. Scarborough	Ashleigh A. Wootton
Shruti A. Modi	Ceryndipity Asian Schoel	Jordan Yawn
Ashley Montoya	Anna Fay Seningen	Charles Wesley Young
Vincent David Montoya	Thomas S. Silva	Petro Zinchenko
Troy Michael Moore	Heath Noah Skroch	

► Clerk's Certificates Of Reinstatement to Active Status As Of October 2025

Tiffany E. Alberty	Stacy H. FitzPatrick	Ryan Hunter McKelvey
Sarah C. Backus	MacDonnell Gordon	Raymond Meza Jr.
Mark Dalton Dore	Melissa Kristina McDonough	Benjamin Silva Jr.
		R. E. Thompson

► Clerk's Certificates Of Limited Admission As Of October 2025

Carol Rene Camp	Daniel E. Holmes	Francisco Valcarcel
Janet Franklin	Tyler Anthony To	Christina Spink Yehle

Clerk's Certificates

► From the Clerk of the New Mexico Supreme Court

<http://nmsupremecourt.nmcourts.gov>

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



To view Clerk's Certificates in full, visit www.sbnm.org/Clerks-Certificates.

► Clerk's Certificates Of Name Change As Of October 2025

Hope Thomas f/k/a
Hope Pendleton

Amanda L. Barros f/k/a
Amanda L. Rigal

Elyse Schneider f/k/a
Elyse Bataller-Schneider

► Clerk's Certificates Of Indefinite Suspension From Membership In The State Bar of New Mexico As Of October 2025

James Wolff

► Clerk's Certificates Of Change to Withdrawn Status As Of October 2025

Boyd L. Earl
J.L. Jay

Shannon Renee Rose
Allison L.E. Tungate Mikulecky

Anna C. Swain
Monica Jean Vigil

► Clerk's Certificates Of Change to Inactive Status As Of October 2025

Denise Hosay
Albert J. Mitchell Jr.

Steven C. Yarbrough
Harry Ira Zimmerman

An INCLUSIVE INTERVIEW



with Chrystian J. Gonzalez, Esq.



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

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

This Inclusive Interview is with Chrystian J. Gonzalez, Esq. Chrystian has been practicing law for five years and is a Children's Court Attorney for the New Mexico Children, Youth, and Families Department. He also currently serves as a Bar Commissioner for the 3rd and 6th Judicial Districts on the State Bar of New Mexico Board of Bar Commissioners.

Q: What is your background?

A: I am a first generation Mexican American, born in El Paso, Texas. My parents are originally from El Paso's sister city, Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico. I am also a veteran of the United States Air Force, where I served as an active-duty enlisted member for six years, earning the rank of Staff Sergeant. During my service, I trained and supervised incoming airmen and participated in deployments supporting pre and post-9/11 missions, such as Operations Northern Watch, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom.

Q: What made you want to become a lawyer?

A: The idea of pursuing a career as an attorney had not occurred to me until one of my college philosophy professors talked to me about law school and becoming an attorney. Had he not planted this seed of possibility, I might not have considered it an achievable path. But my curiosity and desire for success motivated me to try; so, I went for it. And that meeting having made all the difference, I now try to plant the same seed every chance I get. While I have always been drawn to serving my community, I am beyond captivated with the combination of analytical thinking with advocacy, and with using knowledge to empower others and create fairness out of a legal dispute.

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

A: To put it simply, I am most proud of reaching my clients' goals in a case. The most satisfying moment for me as an attorney is when a judge grants the final order, my client and I share a final handshake, and the case is successfully concluded. Helping a client finalize a legal process that has caused them significant stress truly brings profound fulfillment.



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

A: My biggest challenges come from my current position as a Children's Court Attorney. Collaborating with social workers and investigators to assess a family's situation can be heartbreaking when we find that legal limitations prevent us from assisting them. The law tends to be reactive rather than proactive by design, which is usually quite effective, but also disappointing when it fails, especially in cases of abuse or neglect of children.

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

A: Dismissing a case, particularly when children are reunified with their parents, is a joyous occasion in the courtroom that everyone that is present cannot help but celebrate. Also, completing a child or sibling adoption, especially when they have been waiting a long time to finalize. It is wonderful to witness these moments.

Q: What is your advice for other veterans who want to become lawyers?

A: If any fellow veteran is considering this path, I would assume that they may feel as I did: unprepared for new territory and doubting the probabilities of success. The Air Force had three tenets that I still hold to: integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do. These are ingrained as we set out to learn the many useful skills needed to thrive in the military, from hospital corners to strategic thinking, and experiences in a world much bigger than the one we came from. In my experience, many people join the military because they want to be a part of something bigger, and because they want to make something of themselves. I believe I was better prepared as a veteran than I ever would have been as a recent graduate. Joining the legal community is no different. What's more, the fundamental rules are the same, except the armory is in the law books and the fight is the courtroom. So, I would encourage others to just go for it and not look back.

Q: If you could have one superpower, what would it be, and why?

A: The Flash, of course! If every time I were headed to Court, I could familiarize myself with the entire Code, relevant caselaw, pleadings, and evidence in a matter of seconds, I would be unstoppable. But it also wouldn't hurt to have Barry Allen's metabolism and enjoy seconds and even dessert after every meal.

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

A: I think the New Mexico Bar is actively advancing inclusivity consciously and continuously. This very project is creating space and opportunities for veterans, and other individuals from diverse backgrounds, to feel more welcomed and supported within the legal profession. Still, there is always more that can be done. One meaningful way the legal community can become even more inclusive is by expanding outreach and support for aspiring legal professionals from rural, Indigenous, and Hispanic communities. These groups represent a significant portion of our state's population yet remain underrepresented in the legal field. I believe that nothing is more important than this effort and taking active steps to make these goals a reality creates a legal profession that would better serve both its members and its community.

Interested in being the subject of an Inclusive Interview?

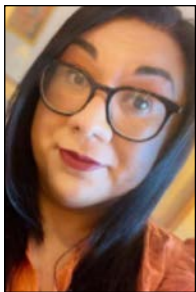
Contact SBNM Equity in Justice Attorney Abby Lewis at abby.lewis@sbnm.org.





Modrall Sperling is pleased to announce that **Emmalee Johnston** has joined the firm as an associate in the Litigation Department. Her focus is predominantly on medical malpractice, torts/personal injury and appeals. Emmalee earned her Juris Doctor at the UNM School of Law. Prior to joining Modrall Sperling, Emmalee served a two-year term as Judicial Law Clerk to the Hon. Gerald E. Baca at the New Mexico Court of Appeals.

Former University of New Mexico School of Law Dean **Kevin Washburn** stepped down as dean of the University of Iowa College of Law at the end of 2024. After a short sabbatical, he joined the faculty at the University of California Berkeley School of Law as a law professor.



Attorney **Zach Cook** of Ruidoso and community advocate **Yvonne Gallegos-Schobel** of Albuquerque took their seats Friday on the New Mexico Public Defender Commission, which provides guidance on the administration of the New Mexico Law Offices of the Public Defender and selects the state's chief public defender.



Modrall Sperling shareholder **Jennifer Noya** received the 2025 Outstanding Civil Defense Lawyer of the Year Award at the New Mexico Defense Lawyers Association's Annual Meeting on Sept. 19. The Outstanding Civil Defense Lawyer of the Year is awarded to an attorney who has, by their ethical, personal, and professional conduct exemplified for their fellow attorneys the epitome of professionalism and ability.



Gallagher & Kennedy is pleased to announce that attorney **Jonathan Litster** has been appointed to the board of directors of the Arizona Association for Justice (AzAJ). In this leadership role, Jonathan will help to promote a fair, effective, and impartial justice system, ensuring that those injured by the misconduct or negligence of others have meaningful access to justice in Arizona's courts.



New Mexico Court of Appeals **Judge Kristopher "Kris" Houghton** was appointed to the New Mexico Court of Appeals by Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham. Judge Houghton fulfills the vacancy created by the retirement of retired Judge Kristina Bogardus. Before joining the Court of Appeals, Judge Houghton was an attorney in the U.S. Department of Justice for over a decade. Judge Houghton previously served as a law clerk for Court of Appeals Judge J. Miles Hanisee from 2011 to 2012.



Modrall Sperling is pleased to announce that **Jack Cahill, Jeff Goodwin, Damon Nieto, Emma Palmer** and **Emily Windsor** have joined the firm as associate attorneys.



Gallagher & Kennedy is pleased to announce that the 2026 edition of Benchmark Litigation has named it a "Highly Recommended Arizona Litigation Firm." In addition, three shareholders have been named "Litigation Stars," including **Mark A. Fuller, Donald Peder Johnsen**, and managing shareholder **Kevin E. O'Malley**. The list of "Litigation Stars" includes only local lawyers who have been consistently recommended by clients and peers as reputable and effective litigators.

In Memoriam

Liberante John Russo died in Denver, Colorado, on December 3, 2024, following a battle with Lewy body dementia. John was born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he lived for most of his life. John was kind, loyal, generous, and intelligent. His laugh was a huge burst of mirth and joy. As an immigration lawyer, he devoted his life to helping immigrants make their homes here in the United States because he understood that our country is stronger because of their contributions. John was a talented trumpet player and passed on his love of music, history, and politics to his daughters. John is survived by his daughter Sonia Russo and her husband Don McGinnis, his daughter Shawna Russo, his grandson Charlie Vidmar, and his siblings Nancy (Frank), Carmine (Jackie), Al, and Emmerson and their children. John was preceded in death by his parents Lily and Carmine Russo.

Frank Murray III was born in El Paso, Texas but grew up entirely in Clovis, New Mexico with a two year younger brother, George, to parents Frank and Velma Murray. Both parents were generational residents of Curry County, NM. Frank began learning a strong work ethic beginning at age 12. He was put to work in his father's bowling alley in Clovis. In high school, he also worked for White's Automotive store. He acquired a private plane flying license at age 17. At age 18, he began insurance adjusting during the summer school breaks. He followed the storms in Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas. He married Minnie Anderson in February 1970. He acquired a BS degree in social studies with a teaching degree in secondary education from Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU) in 1973. A professor at ENMU encouraged him to pursue a law degree. He attended Gonzaga Law School in Spokane, Washington in which he earned a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree in 1976. Frank and Minnie bought a small farm close to Spokane and adopted a baby girl, Rainbow Leigh. However, his native state of New Mexico drew him home. He accepted the position of Assistant Attorney General in 1979. He and Minnie adopted a baby boy naming him Frank the same year. As a master attorney for the state, he also held the position of counsel for the NM National Guard and ended his career working with Child Support Enforcement. After retirement, he became a bill analyzer for the NM Legislature until the cancer, he fought courageously for 16 years, left him unable to do so. Frank was an excellent woodworker, artist and craftsman. He built his own home, much of it hands on, as well as a workshop, barn and terrace. His other activities were volleyball refereeing for 21 years, lifelong fishing and hunting activities, sporting clays, white water kayaking and horseshoes. Since he was a child he read several books a week including the entire World Book encyclopedia set, often reading with one or more cats in his lap and dogs at his feet. Several of his friends have said he was the smartest man they ever knew. Daughter Rainbow and husband, Billy Tinsley, were his and Minnie's support system during the last two years of his life as he grew weaker. He treasured his three grandsons, Alexander Murray, Hunter and Riley Higgins (sons of Rainbow) and later Kaylea and Brayden Tinsley (children of Billy). He owned numerous dogs and cats all of whom loved him to the same degree as he loved them. A special thank you during this difficult time goes to the Alberto Martinez family, close friend Larry Bair, and neighbor Christopher Warren. A mid-March Memorial service is planned.

Patrick "Pat" W. Hurley of Albuquerque, NM died on June 25, 2025. Born in Amarillo, TX in 1937, and raised in Tucumcari, NM, he first discovered the rhythm of life on the drums with the Tucumcari Rattler Band, graduating from Tucumcari High School in 1955. Pat went on to study Mechanical Engineering at Stanford University, where he met Nannette, the love of his life, at a Phi Gamma Delta mixer. Following graduation in 1959, he served in the U.S. Army at Fort Ord in Salinas. Pat and Nannette married in La Jolla in August 1960, before returning to Albuquerque to begin what would become a remarkable career. Pat's professional journey began as an engineer at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque. While at Sandia, he earned a Master's in Engineering at the University of New Mexico. Driven by a deep passion for learning and helping others, Pat later shifted to law, enrolling in UNM's Law School. He graduated at the top of his class in 1968 and passed the New Mexico Bar shortly thereafter. Pat specialized in real estate transactions and estate planning. Starting his legal career at Keleher and McLeod, Pat went on to found The Hurley Law Firm in 1997. Perhaps his most lasting legacy is the countless clients he served and counseled through the years. He valued his partners and staff, always fostering an environment of mutual respect and collaboration. Pat loved being a lawyer. He retired in 2018; but greatly missed being in the office helping his clients. Pat loved the intellectual challenge of practicing law. Over the course of his career, Pat received numerous accolades and professional recognition. In 1983, he was elected to the American College of Real Estate Lawyers. Pat was recognized as being a top New Mexico real estate lawyer by Chambers and Partners, Super Lawyers and Best Lawyers in America. An avid lover of the mountains, Pat treasured his time at the family cabin in Taos Ski Valley. He built bridges, felled trees, and tackled projects big and small. He enjoyed the company of family and friends on the porch afterwards, often with a cold beverage in hand. Pat and Nannette traveled extensively, both in the US and abroad. His love for the arts, particularly New Mexico artists, led him to contribute many years of service to the Capitol Arts Foundation. He listened to music of all types and enjoyed attending live concerts with loved ones. In retirement, he stayed active, walking over 10,000 steps daily, and honing his creativity by making punched tin frames and decorative items, which he generously gifted to family and friends. Pat is survived by his wife of sixty five years, Nannette, three children: Suzanne, Patrick and Davis, and five grandchildren.

Thor Emblem Sr. passed on Nov. 4, 2018, in a car accident. He is preceded in death by his father, Olav; mother, Vivian; and his brother, Erik. He is survived by his brothers, Gary, Kurt and Olaf; his wife of 33 years, Tracy; daughters, Lillian, Vivian and Erin; his sons, Steven, Thor Jr., Bryan and Olav; by 15 grandchildren; 6 great grandchildren; many nieces; nephews; cousins; and countless friends. He worked as a contractor/developer for almost 20 years and became an attorney and practiced law for the last 30 years. In his spare time, he spent it with family, working as a political activist and being an enigmatologist.

In Memoriam

Jay L. Faurot, II passed away peacefully at home on August 9, 2025, surrounded by loved ones. He is survived by his wife, Laurelle “Squeak” Faurot; children Dr. Jay L. Faurot, III (Melissa), Leslie Faurot, Soni Faurot (Miles), and Michael D. Faurot (Susanna); grandchildren and great-grandchildren Jay L. Faurot, IV and wife Kelly their daughter Kaysea Faurot; Jared Faurot; Kyrie Faurot-Euler and husband Matt Euler; Jesse Faurot and fiancé Paige Mandy Faurot and Jacob (J.T.) Faurot; Virginia Sue Seabrook and husband Isaac Pena and her children Lana Gentry, Lanie Seabrook, McKinsie Seabrook and Ashlynn Perkins. Wendy Faurot and fiancé Alex Spalding of Spring, Texas; Mason Brennan and wife Adel and his child Ronin David Brennan; Bryson M Brennan and Westin M. Brennan and Lydia Faurot; and his sister, Priscilla “Penny” Bailey (Steve). He was preceded in death by his first wife, Virginia, his parents, Jay L. Faurot and Helen Mason, stepfather Walter Mason, and sister Judith Sanger. Born in Missouri in 1939, Jay grew up in various areas throughout Missouri including during the war when they were in Kirksville, where his family ran a funeral home. Despite the early loss of his father and his mother’s illness, Jay pursued education with determination, earning his law degree from the University of Missouri in 1965. That same year, he moved to Farmington, New Mexico, where he began a lifelong legal career. A proud Mizzou Law alumnus, Jay supported the Law Society and Jefferson Club, and he actively recruited graduates to join the San Juan County Bar. Beyond law, Jay was known for his love of the outdoors, particularly hunting. His deep knowledge of firearms, reloading, and ballistics was widely respected and generously shared. Friends and family also remember his cooking, hospitality, and the many gatherings he hosted at his home, where his swimming pool welcomed generations of children.

Jay’s hallmark was his respect for people from all walks of life. Whether judge, client, colleague, or neighbor, he treated everyone with kindness and honesty, leaving a legacy of integrity and friendship.

Bertrand Edward Allen died peacefully in his sleep at his home in Palm Springs, CA on March 2, 2025. He is survived by his children Amanda Celine Allen, Theodore Mark Allen and Elliot Ian Allen, all of Sacramento, CA; his sister Celine Marie Allen, of Hackettstown, NJ; and his dear long-time friend Michelle Hellmann, of Palm Springs. Bert was born in Newark, NJ on July 3, 1946. His family’s travels in his early years and his school attendance took him to Venezuela, Miami, Canada and various places in the Northeastern United States as he grew up. He graduated from Marquette University in 1968. His studies at Washington University Law School were interrupted when he was drafted into the U.S. Army in June 1969. After his tour in Germany, he completed law school, in 1973, and subsequently received an honorable discharge in 1975. He practiced law in St. Louis, MO and worked as an attorney for the State of New Mexico before moving to Portland, OR. Bert developed a passion for tennis-playing and moved to the Palm Springs area to take advantage of the great tennis-playing weather there. He lived at the Tennis Court Apartments his last 20 years with his parrot Snowflake. He was an avid reader, with interests ranging from all aspects of science to sports and history; he also read widely among the great writers of English literature and appreciated other fiction. He loved to laugh and was always ready to engage in a lively argument.

Dick Arthur Blenden, “The Legend,” passed away peacefully in the comfort of his home on July 23, 2025. He was 90 years old. Born on February 17, 1935, in Spur, Texas, to Harry Elton Blenden and Ruth Elizabeth Blenden, Dick spent his formative years in Lockney, Texas, and later graduated from Andrews High School. He went on to earn a B.A. from Texas Technological College (now Texas Tech University) in 1957 and a law degree from the University of Texas in 1961. After being admitted to the bar in Texas (1961) and New Mexico (1962), he moved to Carlsbad, New Mexico, where he established a celebrated legal career that spanned more than six decades. A tireless advocate for justice, Dick earned widespread respect as both a formidable trial lawyer and a principled human being. He was known not only for the significant verdicts and settlements he secured but for the way he practiced law with deep integrity, fairness, and a steadfast commitment to ethical conduct. He believed that a lawyer’s word mattered, that justice required honesty, and that doing right by one’s clients and community was paramount. In Sept. 2022, the City of Carlsbad formally recognized his lifelong contributions by proclaiming September 15, 2022, as Dick Blenden Day. He had a masterful sense of humor and was known for spinning vivid stories and telling jokes—often ones you’d already heard, and often ones that made you laugh in spite of yourself. Dick was preceded in death by his brother Harry Easton Blenden, his sister Sue Thornton, his infant brother James Platter Blenden, his nephew Kenneth Blenden, and his grandsons J.T. Shelton and Brandon Blenden. He is survived by his wife, Sara Beth “Betty” Blenden; his children: Phil Blenden (Carlsbad, NM), Sandi Blenden (Hollywood, CA), and Robin Shelton (Tacoma, WA); and four stepchildren from previous marriages, whom he loved as his own: Wendy Humphrey (Lubbock, TX), Johnse Humphrey (West Palm Beach, FL), Ben Etcheverry (Deming, NM), and Tai Pettigrew (Tatum, NM). He is also survived by six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Felix Briones, Jr. passed away peacefully in his sleep on Monday, May 19, surrounded by family and lifted up in prayer. Felix was born on July 14, 1933 in Carlsbad, NM to Felix and Tomasa Pompa Briones, the oldest of six children and big brother to his three close cousins. An early advocate for justice, as the Carlsbad High School student government president, he petitioned the Carlsbad School Board to integrate the public high school, resulting in the first racially integrated graduation class in 1951 – three years prior to *Brown v. Board of Education*. This experience influenced his desire to enter the legal profession. He graduated from the University of New Mexico with a bachelor’s degree in business administration and a Juris Doctor in 1957. He served two years as a JAG Officer in the US Air Force. Upon discharge, he moved to Farmington to begin the practice of law with Jim Cooney and Kendal Schlenker on October 1, 1959. A year later, he met the love of his life, Viola Sandoval, at a breakfast hosted by the St. Joseph Altar Society for the Knights of Columbus. He proposed on Valentine’s Day, 1961, and they were married at that same St. Joseph Catholic Church on July 17, 1961. Vi and Felix had five children: Felix, III, Giré, Paul, Tom, and Ramona. They were Grandma and Grandpa to eleven grandchildren: Francine, David, Anthony, Carmen, Monica, Felicia, Vivienne, Tomasa, Anna, Isabella, and Charles. Felix lived a life dedicated to God, family and service. An esteemed attorney for 67 years, Felix served on many boards, organizations, committees

The In Memoriam section honors deceased attorneys. Submit obituaries and photos for consideration of inclusion in the In Memoriam section to notices@sbnm.org along with your contact information. The Bar Bulletin reserves the right to edit submissions for length and style.

In Memoriam

and campaigns. To list a few: The University of New Mexico Foundation, San Juan College Foundation, New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority, New Mexico Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission, New Mexico State Bar Association and Disciplinary Board, Farmington Public Utilities Commission, Four Corners Community Bank, and Knights of Columbus. Felix was endlessly involved in his children and grandchildren's activities, frequently attending games, recitals, and graduations, even if attending meant traveling many miles to do so. And Felix loved to travel! Vi and Felix have visited nearly every town in New Mexico, along with most of the 50 states and many foreign countries. Family lore would have it that despite the destination, all roads led through Vegas! Never a man to be far from a deck of cards, Felix was complimented at age 90 by a seasoned casino pit boss as being the best blackjack player she had ever seen. Felix had a zest for life. He loved to laugh, was quick with a joke, liable to break out into song, and enjoyed dancing with Vi. Felix's adroitness at the ping-pong table translated well into his new-found hobby of playing pickleball through Christmas of last year. Felix's generosity was boundless – pro-bono legal work, philanthropic contributions, a pillar of St. Mary's Parish, and always the first to reach for the dinner check or slip a little something into a birthday card. Felix may have been born to wear Carlsbad Caveman blue, but his wardrobe became heavy on the Farmington Scorpion Kelly green, and you better believe his blood ran UNM Lobo cherry red! Perhaps Felix's defining characteristic was his love of God, abiding faith in the Catholic Church, and a reverence for the Blessed Virgin Mary. Vi and Felix maintained a holy hour at the St. Mary's Adoration Chapel for over 30 years. Vi and Felix traveled with Terry and Paul to France in 2019 and were able to pray the rosary at the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes. All travel roads may have led through Vegas, but it did not matter in what city they were, on Sunday morning, they found a Mass. Felix profoundly influenced the spirituality of his children, grandchildren, siblings, nieces, nephews, and many others. We, his family and friends, take solace in knowing that Dad, Grandpa, FB, Junior/JR, Mr. B walked this life knowing God, loving God, and serving God. He was preceded in death by his son Paul, his parents Tomasa and Felix Briones, sister Betty Ortiz, and brother Joe Briones. He is survived by his wife Viola Briones; children Felix Briones, III (Kathi), Giré Dragun (Michael), Tom Briones (Stephanie), and Ramona Moseley (Mark); daughter-in-law Terry Briones; grandchildren Francine Briones, David Briones, Anthony Dragun, Carmen Dragun, Monica Briones (Miguel Sabol), Felicia Moseley, Vivienne Dragun, Tomasa Moseley, Anna Briones, Isabella Moseley, and Charles Briones; and sisters Patsy Rodriguez, Rosie Gonzalez and Cristina Briones. Honorary pallbearers are David Briones, Anthony Dragun, Charles Briones, Kris Chavez, Marnie Saiz, and Sheila Mathews.

District Judge **Ricky Dale Purcell**, age 76, won his battle with cancer on September 5, 2025, at home surrounded by family and was welcomed to his heavenly home by many friends and family. Ricky was born June 14, 1949, to Hermann and Leona Faye (Gates) Purcell and he grew up in the Porter community. Ricky attended all 12 years in San Jon Schools and graduated in 1967. He became interested in music, mostly the guitar at the age of twelve and later added the steel guitar. In 8th grade he formed his first band and in later years you could find him playing dances in Eastern New Mexico with his bands "The Rain" in college, The Mesquite Band in the 1980's and in recent years his band the "Rocker Riders". While in high school

he excelled at sports and had the opportunity to play with the San Jon Coyotes in 2 State Basketball tournaments, 2 State Baseball tournaments winning the State Baseball Championship in 1966, and 3 State High School Championship rodeos. His talents and love of basketball and calf roping has been passed down to his sons and now his grandsons. He loved to retell these stories to his grandkids, and they often got exaggerated every time he told them, and his grandkids loved to give him a hard time about these "facts". In 1967 Ricky graduated from San Jon High School and enrolled in Eastern New Mexico University in the fall of 1967. Ricky met his wife of 54 years Peggy (Malone) Purcell on the campus of ENMU in 1970 and they married a year later on April 10, 1971. They both continued their education at ENMU where Ricky received his Bachelor of Science in History in 1971. In January of 1972, Ricky and Peggy moved to Houston where Ricky was accepted at South Texas College of Law. In August of 1974, Ricky graduated with the American Jurisprudence Award in Equity and his Juris Doctorate degree. After passing the state bar exams in both Texas and New Mexico they packed their belongings and eagerly headed back to the plains of Eastern New Mexico settling close to home in Tucumcari. In March of 1975, Ricky became Partner in the law firm of Rowley, Bowen and Purcell. During this time, he was actively engaged in farming, ranching and the raising and racing of Quarter Horses with his dad. Also during this time Ricky was a member and President of Kiwanis Club, The Tucumcari Bar Association and was named "Outstanding Young Men of America" in 1982. Ricky served as Tucumcari City Attorney from 1975 to 1992 while also growing his private practice. Ricky and family were members of the First Baptist Church of Tucumcari where he was blessed to see all three of his kids saved and baptized. In 1992 Ricky was appointed as District Judge of the 10th Judicial District of New Mexico by Governor Bruce King. He served as District Judge of the 10th Judicial District which encompassed Quay, Harding, and De Baca counties for 17 years until his retirement in 2007. Throughout his legal career, Ricky surrounded himself with the best, most qualified friends and employees who became like family. "Judge Purcell" was referred to by his peers as one of the most impartial, fair, honest, ethical, and moral attorneys, and later Judge to serve on the bench for the State of New Mexico. Together Ricky and Peggy had three children Payton, Lance, and Chris. His greatest enjoyment besides music, horses, and sports was whatever activities his kids were participating in- whether it was soccer, basketball, rodeos, horse shows, or pig shows you would find him there supporting his family. He took great pride in his kid's successes and now in their successes as adults. Ricky was blessed by 9 grandkids who were his pride and joy and who have inherited his love of music, horses, calf roping, and all sports. You could usually find him following his grandkids watching rodeos, basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball, football, golf, and stock shows. He enjoyed reading, drinking coffee with his friends, continuing to run cattle and playing guitars with his band. His family is proud of the legacy he leaves behind both personally and professionally and have received multiple heart felt comments in the past few weeks regarding the lives he has touched. Ricky is preceded in death by his parents Hermann and Leona Faye Purcell. Survivors include his wife of 54 years Peggy Purcell, daughter Payton Purcell Darrow and husband Justin of Wellington TX, son Lance Purcell and wife Johnna of Bushland TX, son Chris Purcell and wife Jessica of Artesia NM. Six Grandsons Cole Purcell, Tripp Purcell, Luke Purcell, Jake Purcell, Ryder Purcell and Jace Darrow. Three granddaughters

The In Memoriam section honors deceased attorneys. Submit obituaries and photos for consideration of inclusion in the In Memoriam section to notices@sbnm.org along with your contact information. The Bar Bulletin reserves the right to edit submissions for length and style.

In Memoriam

Kenna Darrow Smith and husband Tyler, Bailey Purcell, and Harlow Purcell. Two sisters Debi Ware and husband Jimmy of Grady NM, and Tonya Cornett and husband Jay of Gardendale TX, Uncle Donnie Purcell and wife Patty and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.



Carol Leach, passed away on Tuesday, July 29, 2025, in Albuquerque, NM. She is survived by her husband; brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Kevin David Lynch Hockmuth, Sr. of Los Lunas; nephew, Mr. Andrew Leach of Carthage, Illinois; nieces: Mrs. Erich Bergman of Carthage, Illinois, Mrs. Rafael Olguin of Albuquerque, New Mexico; and nephew, Mr. Kevin David Lynch Hockmuth, Jr. of Los Lunas. A longtime resident of Santa Fe, Ms. Leach was born on August 11, 1949, and raised

in Lubbock, Texas. She received her undergraduate degree from Texas Tech University, an M.A. in Journalism from the University of Wyoming, and her law degree from Texas Tech University (Order of the Coif). She began practicing law in Santa Fe in 1978 with Brown, Bain and Bingham, becoming a partner. In 1984, she became General Counsel for the Corrections Department of the State of New Mexico. In 1988, she became General Counsel for the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department of the State of New Mexico. She returned to private practice, joining Beatty and Wozniak P. A. in 2010 and, in 2012, Concho Resources (acquired by ConocoPhillips). She retired in 2021. She married Donald E. Hockmuth, Jr., on April 20, 1996. She was a parishioner of Santa Maria de la Paz Catholic Community for the past thirty years.

Ronald R. Walker was born in Pittsburgh PA on February 1, 1942, to Harry R. Walker and Alice Walker who preceded him in death. Also preceding him in death was his sister, Karen S. Lefcakis (Walker), and her husband Nicholas Lefcakis. Ron was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and would spend the rest of his life rooting for the Steelers and Pitt. Being from Pittsburgh Ron was loyal to Heinz Ketchup and would not touch the “other” stuff. He also was famous for his complete avoidance of mayonnaise, quizzing every waitress, server and chef as to ensure no mayo came close to his food, much to the entertainment of his lunch guest. He famously told his nieces and nephews that, “Mayonnaise was the only condiment that can kill you.” Ron loved to travel and spend many months circling the globe on a cruise ship, plane, or train. He was widely regarded as an expert in travel, hotels, and things to do, holding regular infotainment sessions with friends planning trips. Ron’s travels took him to some of the most remote places on the planet, but his favorite destination would always be when he visited his family out East. After finishing high school Ron joined the U.S. Army and was stationed in West Germany. It was in Germany that he served in a “Davy Crockett Unit.” The Davy Crockett was a small nuclear weapon launched from the back of a jeep and despite being such a serious assignment, Ron was always quick to tell jokes about his time carrying a nuclear bomb on his back. Ron was a veteran storyteller and often talked about his first “cruise” to Germany aboard a troop ship. Years later he would famously compare the food on said ship to a Princess Cruise he took in 2015, writing a classic letter to the cruise line comparing and contrasting the quality of the trip as only Ron

could do. After his time in the service Ron’s travels took him far and wide, working in California and Detroit, Michigan (where he worked for General Motors). From there he would end up in New Mexico, where he would obtain his bachelor’s degree at New Mexico Western. After getting his BA he continued his studies at the University of New Mexico School of Law. After law school Ron worked as an Attorney for the city of Albuquerque before heading south to take a job working for the 5th Judicial District Attorney’s Office in Roswell. Ron moved to Hobbs in 1983 and would serve in the role of Deputy District Attorney. He was renowned for his skills as an attorney, possessing not only a knack for arguing a case before a jury but also possessing a brilliant knowledge of the law. Over his career as a prosecutor, he tried many of the most important cases in New Mexico over his tenure in Lea County. After retiring from the District Attorney’s Office over 20 years ago he found he was unable to resist the call of the courtroom and returned for a second stint as Deputy District Attorney in Lea County. As an attorney he mentored many young lawyers over the years and when he retired from the District Attorney’s Office a second time he continued to excel as an attorney, practicing law for the remainder of his life. Despite being “retired” for over 15 years Ron spent his last week of life in the courtrooms of Lea and Eddy County, arguing over a dozen cases and demonstrating his acute knowledge of the law. Ron made many friends from many different walks of life. He was a dedicated friend and a person who would not let you down. His most outstanding trait was his generosity. Not only was he generous with his time, but he always made sure to visit his friends and family on birthdays and during holidays. He would always start his Christmas shopping in June and would have his gifts selected by July. And to those friends with children, he was always a favorite “uncle,” bringing presents and his infectious laughter. Ron is survived by two nephews, James R. Lefcakis and his wife Leigh Ann of Pittsburgh, PA as well as Nicholas Lefcakis and his wife Rose Walther. Cousin Shirley Fascetti and her husband Al Fascetti of Peabody, MA. Also surviving Ron are his great nephew Riley Lefcakis as well as nieces Sabrina Walther and Alexandria, Nicolette, and Alexa Lefcakis. Ron was above all a loyal family man and friend. He was a loyal friend to all who were blessed to have him in their lives, and a loyal mentor to so many young lawyers in this community. He was full of life, knowledge, passion and was truly “the smartest and most skilled attorney in the room” throughout his 50-year legal career. No attorney will ever fill the shoes of Ron, he was simply the best...a friend to many. “And in the end” his service and generosity stand as a testament to his character and how much he influenced his community.

The In Memoriam section honors deceased attorneys. Submit obituaries and photos for consideration of inclusion in the In Memoriam section to notices@sbnm.org along with your contact information. The Bar Bulletin reserves the right to edit submissions for length and style.

In Memoriam

Susan Tomita moved on to her next adventure upon passing on October 25, 2024. Not surprisingly she approached this transition with the utmost strength and grace and faith. She was born January 10, 1954 to Kazuo and Helen Tomita. Her professional credentials were exemplary having completed college at Stanford University and law school at Santa Clara law school. After clerking for the California Court of Appeals, she immediately embarked upon a life of service working for the National Indian Youth Council and then as an associate and then partner with Luebben, Hughes, Tomita and Borg practicing Indian Law. She then focused on Elder Law as a shareholder with Tomita & Simpson and in her solo practice. Her professional accolades are many including former Chairperson of the Elder Law Section of the NM Bar Association, the NM Bar Association Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services to Persons with Disabilities, a member of the Special Needs Alliance, the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, and the NM Estate Planning Council. Susan was on the Board of Directors of the Legal Aid Society and the Indian Pueblo Legal Services and she served as Chairperson of the Indian Law Section of the NM Bar Association. She is a co-author of the Handbook for Guardians and Conservators and Alternatives to Guardianships and Conservatorships. She is listed in Best Lawyers in America in practice areas Trusts and Estates and Elder Law, in Martindale Hubbell's Directory of Preeminent Attorneys and was named by Best Lawyers as Lawyer of the Year for 2015 for Elder Law and 2016 for Trusts and Estates. As remarkable as her professional career was, Susan was equally devoted to her work within the Catholic church. She was a member of the Parish of St. Joseph's on the Rio Grande and served three terms on the Pastoral Council. She also worked in the Ministry of Loaves and Fish and St. Vincent de Paul. She was a frequent facilitator for programs in Faith and Engaging Spirituality. She served on several committees for the Archdiocese including the Archdiocese Campaign for Human Development Local Advisory Committee. She was a pilot member of the Just Faith program and served as a program facilitator for that program's Crossing Borders, Faith and Immigration Justice. She served in the Shrine of St. Bernadette's Social Concerns Ministry and most recently served on the Archdiocese Social Concerns Ministry with the Justice, Peace and Life Commission. She received the Archdiocese of Santa Fe's St. Francis award in 2006 and the Bernadette Institute's Mother Teresa Award in 2005. Susan connected with her Native religion as well on her spiritual journey participating in Native sweat lodge ceremonies and studying and following the teachings of Native leaders such as Black Elk. Consistent with her strong conviction that faith called upon her to serve those less fortunate, she was selfless in her commitment to organizations that served those less fortunate. She served on the Board of Directors and as President of St. Joseph's Community Health and in that role was instrumental in the passage of the NM Constitutional Amendment making early childhood education a constitutional right. She also served on the boards of the Alzheimers Association and Friends in Time. She also worked with Francis House and Casa de Comunidad providing leadership, legal services, and street outreach. She was co-founder of Crossroads for Women serving women with co-occurring mental health and substance disorders in the criminal justice system and their children. Susan's professional and charitable activities are an inspiration to us all. But

to her friends and family, Susan will also be known as a devoted friend, a wonderful story teller, an engaging conversationalist, a source of endless funny stories, a steel trap memory, and a fiercely devoted mom. She was empathetic, caring, ethical, hardworking, unassuming, modest, generous in every way, and welcoming to all. Susan is survived by her son Tony Tomita, her sister, Lisa Oshiro, and her brother Roy Tomita, and a countless number of friends who will miss her dearly.

Donald Richard House, a devoted husband, father, son, brother, and friend, peacefully departed this life on April 4, 2024, at the Desert Banner Hospital in Mesa, Arizona. He was 59 years old. Born on August 24, 1964, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Don was the cherished son of Jackie Smith and the late Robert House. In his early years he lived in Pennsylvania, New York, California, and Florida before moving to Arizona at the age of eight. After graduating high school, Don joined The Russ Morgan Orchestra and toured the entire country playing Big Band music. After two years on the tour bus, Don joined the Coast Guard and served as a radio man, carrying out water rescue missions, and law enforcement duties, stationed in California, Alaska, Louisiana, and Florida. After serving his country for five years, he enrolled at Arizona State University, earning his undergraduate degree in Political Science and his Juris Doctorate in 1995. Don worked at various law firms, both local and national, before founding The House Law Firm in 2006 during which time he encountered many colleagues who later became lifelong friends. Don married his true love Leslie in 2003 and was blessed in 2007 when he became a father with the birth of his daughter Lauren, followed by twin sons Christian and Derek, who were all his pride and joy. In addition to his dedication to the law, Don enjoyed collecting and listening to vintage Big Band music, reading, spending time at the family cabin in the mountains, and traveling with his family. Don left an impression upon everyone with his intelligence, extraordinary sense of humor, and compassion. Don's memory will forever be treasured in the heart of his wife, Leslie. He will live on through his children, Lauren, Christian, and Derek. He will forever be missed by his mother Jackie, along with his siblings, Susan Grim (Dale), Christopher House (Lauri), Alan House (Jackie), and Gretchen House. Don is also survived by Step-Siblings Mike Smith (Gabriela) and Lynne Litjen (Bob); Mother-in-Law Donna Becker (Denny); Sister-in Law Angela Redmond (Jim); and many nieces and nephews. Don was preceded in death by his father, Robert House; Stepfather Al Smith; and Brother-in-Law Mike Rothery.

The In Memoriam section honors deceased attorneys. Submit obituaries and photos for consideration of inclusion in the In Memoriam section to notices@sbnm.org along with your contact information. The Bar Bulletin reserves the right to edit submissions for length and style.

In Memoriam

Kathleen A. Miller, a beloved resident of Albuquerque, New Mexico, passed away peacefully on March 29, 2025, at the age of 74. Born on March 18th, 1951, in Gainesville, Texas, Kathleen, known as Kitty to her family and friends, led a life marked by dedication to her profession, community, and family. Kitty earned her law degree from the University of Washington, setting the foundation for an illustrious career in law. She served with distinction as an attorney for the Department of Veteran's Affairs and later as a solicitor for the Department of the Interior. Her professional life was characterized by a deep commitment to justice and advocacy, values she carried into her retirement when health challenges prompted her to step back from her formal career. In retirement, Kitty's passion for helping others found new expression as she became a guardian ad litem for children in need, ensuring their voices were heard and their rights protected. She also dedicated her time to tutoring school children, imparting not only knowledge but also her contagious enthusiasm for learning. Kitty's life was a testament to resilience and optimism. Despite facing numerous health issues, she remained upbeat and positive. Her family and friends can attest that she was always there to help them through rough spots. Kitty is survived by her husband of 38 years, Frank Jones, her sister Candace Blashak, nephew Ted Blashak, his wife Dawn Yount-Blashak, her brother Kevin Miller, his wife Sue, nieces Tommasina Miller and CK Miller, her brother Robert Miller, his wife Anita, her son and daughter-in-law Zachariah and Rebekah Zinn, grandchildren Dahlia Zinn and Oren Zinn, her stepchildren Mike and Jake Jones, and grandchildren, Mariel Jones, Michaela Jones, Frankie Jones, and Silas Jones. A celebration of life will be announced later this summer. As a transplant recipient, Kitty was passionate about promoting organ donations. In her memory, please consider registering with your state as an organ donor so that a heart or other symbol appears on your driver's license, or donate to the New Mexico Donor Services at <https://donatelifenm.org>.

On Sept. 21, a day in which the Sun and Moon found equal balance during the Equinox transition from Summer to Fall, **James Alton Askew** (a.k.a. Jim, Jimbo) passed away peacefully in his sleep at his home in Albuquerque, New Mexico; he was 64 years old. Jim was born January 28th, 1960, in Fayetteville, North Carolina. After completing high school in Asheboro, NC Jim went on to attend North Carolina State University (as the men in the Askew family did), where he graduated with his Bachelors in 1982 and went on to finish Law School at the University of Denver in 1986. As proud member of the Wolf Pack he never had a kind word about Tar Heels. *Esse quam videri*, "To be rather than to seem." Jim is survived by his Mother, Mary, siblings Rebecca, Mary, John and Joe as well as many friends around the world. He is preceded by his father Eddie, as well as his beloved dogs Colter, Fremont, Tim Stray Dog and Sea Biscuit. As an Eagle Scout, Jim visited Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, NM. It was there Jim's fondness for the West was born and where he would spend the rest of this life exploring the vast landscapes and high mountains. During college summers, Jim worked at Philmont as a Ranger, Rayado Trek Coordinator, Associate Chief Ranger and eventually the Manager of Logistics. As Manager of Logistics, he oversaw thousands of participants on the ranch. Jim loved to plan, and he found that few things made him happier than a plan well executed. After Working at Philmont and getting his law license, Jim moved to Albuquerque, NM, which he called home, for the rest of his life. He started his law career as a Clerk for Judge Stewart Rose in Federal Bankruptcy Court. Jim then went on to specialize in Bankruptcy. He worked for various law firms in Albuquerque until finally establishing his own practice, The Askew Law Firm. Jim was also listed in the Best Lawyers in America and the Southwest Super Lawyers 2010-2024 for his expertise and experience in Bankruptcy & Creditor/Debtor Rights Law. "*Esse quam videri*," is found in Cicero's essay, "On Friendship," and Jim definitely had many friends from all around the world and all walks of life. He loved sharing adventures around the western United States with his vast network of comrades. Jim climbed all the fourteen-thousand-foot-high mountain peaks in Colorado (twice) and was a few peaks short of all of them three times. It is estimated that around 3,000 people have climbed all 54-peaks once, so twice put Jim in rare company. He also climbed Wheeler Peak, the highest point in New Mexico over 50-times. Jim also took a copy of Lonesome Dove to the top of Denali Peak in Alaska, the highest mountain in the United States. Finally, Jimbo loved the outdoors, Jerry Jeff Walker, the study of history, camping, rye whiskey ("provided it got here quick, Larry McMurtry"), and steam engines (in particular, the 473 out of Durango, Colorado). Perhaps, he must have heard a steam whistle blow and the call, "All Aboard," as he passed on. The only healthy way to live life is, "to learn to like all the little everyday things - like a sip of good whiskey in the evening, a soft bed, a glass of buttermilk, or a feisty gentleman, Larry McMurtry," like Jimbo. You will be missed by all the lives you touched. While we have lost Jim he still lives on, just in another part of our heart. "Uva Uvam Vivendo Varia Fit, The grape changes ripens by looking at another grape" a memorial service is being planned for Jan. 2025.

The In Memoriam section honors deceased attorneys. Submit obituaries and photos for consideration of inclusion in the In Memoriam section to notices@sbnm.org along with your contact information. The Bar Bulletin reserves the right to edit submissions for length and style.

► From the New Mexico Supreme Court

From the New Mexico Supreme Court

Opinion Number: 2025-NMSC-017

No. S-1-SC-40109 (filed February 20, 2025)

**LIANA TRUJILLO, individually and as the Personal Representative
of the Wrongful Death Estate of SEVERO ORTEGA,**

Plaintiff-Petitioner,

v.

**PRESBYTERIAN HEALTHCARE SERVICES, INC., d/b/a
PRESBYTERIAN ESPAÑOLA HOSPITAL, JAMES J. MONTESINOS, M.D.,
and SAMUEL SOUTHAM, M.D.,**

Defendants-Respondents,

and

PATRICK R. MONTOYA, M.D., VICTOR L. SHERMAN, M.D.,

WILLIAM MURRY RYAN, M.D., MELISSA SUGAR, M.D.,

SALVEDEESWALAKSHMI-NARAYANAN, M.D.,

and EUGENIO RIVERA, JR., M.D.,

Defendants.

ORIGINAL PROCEEDING ON CERTIORARI

Francis J. Mathew, District Judge

Law Office of James H. Wood, P.C.

Arslanbek S. Umarov

James H. Wood

Zacary E. Wilson-Fetrow

Albuquerque, NM

for Plaintiff-Petitioner

Rodey, Dickason, Sloan, Akin

& Robb, P.A.

Edward Ricco

Albuquerque, NM

Hinkle Shanor, LLP

Dana S. Hardy

David B. Lawrenz

Benjamin L. Lammons

Santa Fe, NM

for Defendants-Respondents

OPINION

THOMSON, Chief Justice.

{1} “[A] valid release or exoneration of the servant releases the master.” *Downer v. S. Union Gas Co.*, 1949-NMSC-045, ¶ 7, 53 N.M. 354, 208 P.2d 815. We articulate this rule as the Extinguishment Rule, a means to cut the vicarious liability of

principals off at its source: the agent. Liana Trujillo (Plaintiff) asks this Court to reverse the Court of Appeals and district court’s conclusion that her vicarious liability claims against Presbyterian Healthcare Services, Inc. (Presbyterian) were extinguished when she stipulated to the dismissal with prejudice of several of the treating radiologists (the Radiologists).

<https://www.nmcompcomm.us>

{2} In this opinion, we hold that vicarious liability claims are only extinguished through (1) a release of claims arising out of an agent’s conduct or (2) the exoneration of an agent through a disposition on the merits. Because the stipulated dismissal with prejudice in this case served as neither, we reverse the district court and Court of Appeals and remand for reinstatement of Plaintiff’s vicarious liability claims against Presbyterian.¹ In clarifying the requirements of the extinguishment rule, we overrule *Kinetics, Inc. v. El Paso Products Co.*, 1982-NMCA-160, 99 N.M. 22, 653 P.2d 522, in so far as it treated a dismissal with prejudice as a release.

I. BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

{3} Severo Ortega died of pneumonia while in Presbyterian’s care. Following his death, Plaintiff, Mr. Ortega’s daughter, sought and obtained appointment as the personal representative of Mr. Ortega’s wrongful death estate under the Wrongful Death Act, NMSA 1978, §§ 41-2-1 to -4 (1882, as amended through 2001). Plaintiff then brought, on behalf of herself and as the personal representative of Mr. Ortega’s wrongful death estate, direct negligence claims against Presbyterian and the physicians who treated Mr. Ortega, as well as vicarious liability claims against Presbyterian, alleging that those treating physicians were acting as Presbyterian’s agents.

{4} Several of the alleged agents who treated Mr. Ortega were radiologists. One of the radiologists, James J. Montesinos, M.D., sought to stay the case as required by the New Mexico Medical Malpractice Act until the New Mexico Medical Review Commission reviewed the matter and rendered a decision. *See* NMSA 1978, § 41-5-15 (1976). Plaintiff did not oppose the motion, and the district court entered a stipulated order staying the case pending the panel’s decision.

¹ Plaintiff also raised statutory arguments and challenged the district court’s conclusion that her motion for reconsideration of the stipulated dismissal was deficient. Because reversing the district court’s grant of summary judgment eliminates the need to address those issues, we decline to do so.

► From the New Mexico Supreme Court

<https://www.nmcompcomm.us>

{5} Roughly three months into the stay, the district court entered a stipulated order dismissing the Radiologists from the case and lifting the stay. The stipulated order provided:

This matter having come before the [c]ourt upon stipulation of the parties: Plaintiff, Liana Trujillo, individually and as the Personal Representative of the Wrongful Death Estate of Severo Ortega . . . and the Defendants, James J. Montesinos, M.D., Samuel Southam, M.D., and Eugenio Rivera, Jr., M.D. . . . pursuant to Rule 1-041 NMRA, hereby stipulate to a dismissal of James J. Montesinos, M.D., Samuel Southam, M.D., and Eugenio Rivera, Jr., M.D. The [c]ourt, having reviewed the parties' stipulation and being otherwise apprised of the matters, finds:

1. James J. Montesinos, M.D., Samuel Southam, M.D., and Eugenio Rivera, Jr., M.D. are hereby dismissed from this action with prejudice.
2. Each party shall bear its own attorney's fees and costs.
3. The stay of proceedings entered December 13, 2018 is hereby lifted.

(Emphasis added.)

{6} The "parties' stipulation" referenced in the order was not docketed, suggesting that the stipulated order was a proposed order. This is also indicated by the fact that the stipulated order included an additional signature block titled "Submitted and Approved By" below the district court judge's

signature. Counsel for both Plaintiff and the Radiologists signed the stipulated order.

{7} Plaintiff, through her new counsel, moved for partial summary judgment on Presbyterian's vicarious liability for the alleged negligence of Dr. Montesinos, one of the Radiologists dismissed in the stipulated order with prejudice. In her motion, Plaintiff requested a determination as a matter of law that Presbyterian would be vicariously liable for Dr. Montesinos' conduct. Plaintiff argued that dismissing her direct claims against Dr. Montesinos "does not affect Plaintiff's vicarious liability claims against [Presbyterian]. Unless there is an explicit release or dismissal of Plaintiff's vicarious liability claims . . . [those claims] should stand." The district court denied the motion, finding genuine issues of material fact and stating that the question of vicarious liability was "going to go to the jury."

{8} Presbyterian then sought summary judgment on the same issue, arguing that Plaintiff dismissing Dr. Montesinos—Presbyterian's alleged agent—with prejudice had, in fact, extinguished her vicarious liability claims. In response, Plaintiff maintained that, absent a release of the Radiologists, her claims were not extinguished.² The district court granted Presbyterian's motion, reasoning that "Plaintiff dismissed the radiology defendants from this case with prejudice . . . and therefore, vicarious liability claims against [Presbyterian] for the radiologists' negligence premised on an agency theory were extinguished as a matter of law."

{9} Following the district court's denial of a motion for reconsideration regarding its summary judgment orders and stipu-

lated order dismissing the Radiologists,³ Plaintiff dismissed her remaining claims without prejudice and appealed. The Court of Appeals affirmed, concluding that by dismissing the Radiologists with prejudice, Plaintiff also "extinguish[ed] the derivative claim against [Presbyterian]." *Trujillo v. Presbyterian Healthcare Servs., Inc.*, 2024-NMCA-004, ¶ 15, 539 P.3d 1216 (quoting *Valdez v. R-Way, LLC*, 2010-NMCA-068, ¶ 14, 148 N.M. 477, 237 P.3d 1289).⁴

II. DISCUSSION

A. Standard of Review

{10} The Court reviews orders granting or denying summary judgment and the legal question of whether a dismissal with prejudice may serve as a release de novo. *Zamora v. St. Vincent Hosp.*, 2014-NMSC-035, ¶ 9, 335 P.3d 1243.

B. The Extinguishment Rule Does Not Bar Plaintiff's Vicarious Liability Claims Against Presbyterian

{11} The Court of Appeals erred in concluding that voluntarily dismissing an agent with prejudice extinguishes vicarious liability claims against the principal absent an underlying release. While such a dismissal may bar claims against the agent, it does not go to the source of a principal's liability in vicarious liability: the agent's tortious conduct. To clarify that key distinction and provide guidance on the proper application of the Extinguishment Rule, this opinion first lays out the core principles underlying vicarious liability and the Extinguishment Rule. It then situates a stipulated dismissal with prejudice within the Extinguishment Rule.

² Plaintiff has since asserted that she did not authorize her counsel to dismiss the Radiologists and that she was not even aware of the dismissal until she switched counsel.

³ In her motion for reconsideration, Plaintiff included a request for the district court to reverse the stipulated order dismissing with prejudice the Radiologists, the denial of which she appealed in the Court of Appeals and in this Court. Because we conclude that the stipulated dismissal did not extinguish Plaintiff's vicarious liability claims, there is no need to reverse the stipulated dismissal for those claims to proceed.

⁴ In a special concurrence, Judge Bustamante observed that the Extinguishment Rule has "strayed beyond its doctrinal roots," creating a web of procedural traps for tort claimants. *Trujillo*, 2024-NMCA-004, ¶ 31 (Bustamante, J., specially concurring). To correct course, he suggested adopting a rule limiting extinguishment to circumstances in which the claims against the agent are adjudicated on their merits. *Id.* ¶ 32 (citing *Laurence v. Salt River Project Agric. Improvement & Power Dist.*, 255 Ariz. 95, 528 P.3d 139, 141 (2023)). This Court need not reach Judge Bustamante's suggestion because the law in New Mexico is actually quite clear: a voluntary dismissal with prejudice is not a release and does not extinguish vicarious liability claims.

► From the New Mexico Supreme Court

1. Vicarious liability

{12} Vicarious liability is a common-law theory of liability rooted in agency through which a principal may be held liable for their agent's tortious conduct. See *Monett v. Dona Ana Cnty. Sheriff's Posse*, 1992-NMCA-096, ¶ 10, 114 N.M. 452, 840 P.2d 599 ("Under the doctrine of respondeat superior, the master is liable for the negligent acts of the servant when committed during the course and scope of the servant's employment or agency."); see also *Baer v. Regents of Univ. of Cal.*, 1994-NMCA-124, ¶ 18, 118 N.M. 685, 884 P.2d 841 ("The law in New Mexico is well settled that, under the doctrine of respondeat superior, an employer can be held vicariously liable for the negligent acts of an employee when committed during the course and scope of the employee's employment."). There are multiple avenues for establishing vicarious liability, but all routes (1) depend on an agency relationship between the principal and the tortfeasor and (2) impute liability to the principal for the agent's tortious conduct. See *Spurlock v. Townes*, 2016-NMSC-014, ¶ 14, 368 P.3d 1213 (comparing traditional principles of respondeat superior with an aided-in-agency theory for establishing vicarious liability).

{13} Here, Plaintiff has alleged that the Radiologists were Presbyterian's apparent agents. Under that theory, Plaintiff may establish an agency relationship even though Presbyterian did not employ the Radiologists by demonstrating Presbyterian held the Radiologists out as its agents by allowing them to provide care in the hospital and that there was reasonable reliance on that representation. See *Houghland v. Grant*, 1995-NMCA-005, ¶ 22, 119 N.M. 422, 891 P.2d 563 (finding apparent agency where independent physicians provide services in a hospital emergency department, reasoning that "[w]hen members of the public seek care at a modern hospital emergency room, they reasonably assume that the hospital is responsible for their care"); see also *Zamora*, 2014-NMSC-035, ¶ 18 ("[A] malpractice claim arising from care in a hospital emergency room implicates the hospital in the actions of any employees or agents—known or unknown to the plaintiff—who took part in that care."). Because

of that apparent agency relationship, Plaintiff argues, Presbyterian is vicariously liable for the Radiologists' negligence during Mr. Ortega's emergency care.

2. The Extinguishment Rule

{14} The Extinguishment Rule provides that one cannot hold the principal vicariously liable if the agent was not negligent or where there exists a valid release of claims arising from the agent's conduct. Both "extinguish" the principal's liability. Absent exoneration or release, however, the Extinguishment Rule does not apply and the principal remains vicariously liable for the agent's malfeasance. *Downer*, 1949-NMSC-045, ¶ 7 ("The escape of [the principal], however, is predicated upon the existence of a valid and subsisting release of the [agent]."); see also *Harrison v. Lucero*, 1974-NMCA-085, ¶ 12, 86 N.M. 581, 525 P.2d 941 ("[A]bsent any delict of the master other than through the servant, the exoneration of the servant removes the foundation upon which to impute negligence to the master." (internal quotation marks and citation omitted)).

{15} Neither predicate for extinguishing Plaintiff's vicarious liability claims is present in this case. Plaintiff's vicarious liability claims were disposed of in a summary judgment order which concluded, without citation, that the stipulated dismissal with prejudice of the Radiologists extinguished Plaintiff's vicarious liability claims against Presbyterian "as a matter of law." That can only be true, however, if the stipulated dismissal itself served as either an adjudication on the merits, such that it exonerated the Radiologists, or a valid release. We conclude that the stipulated order dismissing the Radiologists with prejudice acted as neither and, therefore, did not extinguish Plaintiff's vicarious liability claims.

a. A voluntary dismissal with prejudice does not serve as exoneration

{16} "Exoneration" for purposes of extinguishment is commonly understood as requiring adjudication of the agent's tortious conduct on the merits. *Juarez v. Nelson*, 2003-NMCA-011, ¶ 28, 133 N.M. 168, 61 P.3d 877 (surveying other jurisdictions' application of the term "exoneration" in the context of extinguishment), *overruled*

<https://www.nmcompcomm.us>

on other grounds by Tomlinson v. George, 2005-NMSC-020, ¶ 18, 138 N.M. 34, 116 P.3d 105. Here, the voluntary dismissal with prejudice did not address the merits of Petitioner's negligence claims against the Radiologists, and, by itself, the order does not serve as an adjudication on the merits. {17} In New Mexico, a dismissal with prejudice is only an adjudication on the merits for purposes of res judicata. *Kirby v. Guardian Life Ins. Co. of Am.*, 2010-NMSC-014, ¶ 66, 148 N.M. 106, 231 P.3d 87 ("A dismissal with prejudice is an adjudication on the merits only to the extent that when a claim has been dismissed with prejudice, the fourth element of *res judicata* (a final valid judgment *on the merits*) will be presumed so as to bar a subsequent suit against the same defendant by the same plaintiff based on the same transaction."). Thus, while the voluntary dismissal with prejudice precludes Plaintiff from bringing negligence claims against the Radiologists arising from their treatment of Mr. Ortega, it did not determine the merits of the negligence claims or exonerate the Radiologists, and thereby extinguish Plaintiff's vicarious liability claims.

b. A voluntary dismissal with prejudice is not a release

{18} New Mexico law is clear that "[r]eleases are contractual in nature and thus are governed by traditional principles of contract law." *McNeill v. Rice Eng'g & Operating, Inc.*, 2003-NMCA-078, ¶ 13, 133 N.M. 804, 70 P.3d 794; see also *Perea v. Snyder*, 1994-NMCA-064, ¶ 20, 117 N.M. 774, 877 P.2d 58 ("Releases, because they are contractual in nature, are governed by the laws of contract."), *overruled on other grounds by Spectron Dev. Lab'y v. Am. Hollow Boring Co.*, 1997-NMCA-025, ¶ 31, 123 N.M. 170, 936 P.2d 852; Restatement (Second) of Torts § 900 cmt. b (Am. Law Inst. 1979) (defining a release as "a writing either under seal or supported by consideration, stating that the claim against the tortfeasor is discharged" and directing the reader to the Restatement (Second) of Contracts for additional information on releases). In *Downer*, the case that first articulated the Extinguishment Rule in New Mexico, the core issue was the validity of the underlying release. 1949-NMSC-045, ¶ 7. The *Downer* Court

► From the New Mexico Supreme Court

<https://www.nmcompcomm.us>

applied traditional concepts of contract formation to conclude that “if the release is invalid because of mutual mistake, fraud, etc. it is not available as a defense to either the master or the servant.” *Id.* ¶ 8 (citation omitted). Clear is the requirement of “a valid release” for the master to be relieved of the servant’s liability. *Id.* ¶ 7.

{19} Here, it is undisputed that Plaintiff did not sign a release. There is no contract that arguably extinguished Plaintiff’s vicarious liability claims. Nor does the stipulated dismissal order itself include any release language or language dismissing claims.

{20} Instead, Presbyterian argues that a voluntary dismissal with prejudice acts as a release not because the order serves as a contract but because it involves a voluntary relinquishment of claims against the Radiologists and is, therefore, tantamount to a release. The Court of Appeals adopted Presbyterian’s reasoning and concluded that “[b]y permanently barring any claim she might have against Dr. Montesinos, Plaintiff not only relinquished her negligence cause of action against him but additionally ‘extinguish[ed] the derivative claim against Presbyterian.’” *Trujillo*, 2024-NMCA-004, ¶ 15 (quoting *Valdez*, 2010-NMCA-068, ¶ 14). That conclusion is flawed for two reasons: first, it is premised on a misreading of the case law and second, it misunderstands the source of liability in vicarious liability claims.

{21} First, to support its holding, the Court of Appeals relied on language from its opinion in *Valdez*, which describes releases in exceedingly broad terms. *Trujillo*, 2024-NMCA-004, ¶ 15 (citing *Valdez*, 2010-NMCA-068, ¶ 14). In relevant part, *Valdez* compiled cases from other jurisdictions defining releases, including California law describing a release as an “abandonment, relinquishment or giving up of a right or claim to the person against whom it might have been demanded or enforced . . . and its effect is to extinguish the cause of action,” and Idaho law defining a release as “a surrender of the cause of action, which may be gratuitous, or given for inadequate consideration” and “a complete abandon-

ment of the cause of action.” *Valdez* 2010-NMCA-068, ¶ 14 (internal quotation marks and citations omitted).

{22} At face value, these descriptions seem to mirror the effect of a voluntary dismissal with prejudice, suggesting that such a dismissal might operate as a release for purposes of extinguishment. However, a closer look reveals that *Valdez* and all of the cases that *Valdez* relies upon to define “release” involved an actual contract effectuating the release at issue. *See id.* So, while the language appears to encompass dismissals with prejudice, once in context, it reinforces the conclusion that a release is, in fact, a creature of contract.

{23} Second, in concluding that the dismissal with prejudice was a release, the Court of Appeals confused the source of liability under a vicarious liability theory. The Court of Appeals concluded that Plaintiff, by forfeiting her right to bring negligence claims against the Radiologists, also forfeited her right to bring vicarious liability claims against Presbyterian based on the Radiologists’ conduct. *Trujillo*, 2024-NMCA-004, ¶¶ 15-16. That is not how vicarious liability operates in New Mexico.

{24} Vicarious liability does not hold the principal liable for an agent’s adjudicated liability, but rather for the agent’s *tortious conduct*. *See Zamora*, 2014-NMSC-035, ¶¶ 18, 20 (discussing St. Vincent Hospital as vicariously liable for its agents’ actions); *see also* NMSA 1978, § 41-3A-1(C)(2) (1987) (preserving joint and several liability for “persons whose relationship to each other would make one person vicariously liable for the acts of the other” (emphasis added)). Accordingly, Plaintiff’s ability to sue the Radiologists for negligence is immaterial to the question of whether Presbyterian is liable for their conduct based on an agency relationship. Indeed, Plaintiff was never required to name the Radiologists as defendants in her lawsuit or levy direct negligence claims against them in order to bring vicarious liability claims against Presbyterian based on their conduct. *See Zamora*, 2014-NMSC-035, ¶¶ 14-19 (holding that a complaint adequately

pled vicarious liability and apparent agency even though it did not recite the theories and the alleged agents were not parties to the case); *see also Baer*, 1994-NMCA-124, ¶ 20 (rejecting the proposition that vicarious liability claims require joining the alleged agent and explaining that “we know of no authority for the proposition that, in order to prove agency, the agent must be joined as a party to the action”). Nor do Plaintiff’s vicarious liability claims against Presbyterian require a determination that the Radiologists themselves were liable—only that their actions were negligent and that they were Presbyterian’s agents.

{25} Only one New Mexico Court of Appeals case has treated a dismissal with prejudice as a release: *Kinetics*, 1982-NMCA-160, ¶ 25. In *Kinetics*, the Court of Appeals, without analyzing the topic or providing any legal support, held that the dismissal with prejudice in that case extinguished the plaintiff’s vicarious liability claims. *See id.* ¶ 31. Because *Kinetics* does not provide any support for the proposition that a dismissal with prejudice is a release, and because it stands alone for that proposition in our case law, we overrule *Kinetics* on that issue and expressly hold that voluntarily dismissing an agent with prejudice, without more, is not a release for purposes of extinguishment.

III. CONCLUSION

{26} We hold that the Extinguishment Rule requires either (1) a release of claims arising out of an agent’s conduct or (2) the exoneration of an agent through a disposition on the merits. Under that Rule, a stipulated dismissal of the agent is insufficient to extinguish vicarious liability claims. We reverse the district court and Court of Appeals and remand for reinstatement of Plaintiff’s vicarious liability claims against Presbyterian.

{27} **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

DAVID K. THOMSON, Chief Justice

WE CONCUR:

MICHAEL E. VIGIL, Justice

C. SHANNON BACON, Justice

JULIE J. VARGAS, Justice

BRIANA H. ZAMORA, Justice



State Bar of
New Mexico
Est. 1886

Section and Division Meeting Occurrence Schedule

Sections	Occurrence (Month, Day of Week)	Time, Venue of Occurrence
Animal Law	Monthly / Second Wednesday	Noon (MT) / Virtual
Appellate Law	Monthly / First Tuesday	Noon (MT) / Virtual
Bankruptcy Law	Monthly / Second Tuesday	Noon (MT) / Bankruptcy Court & Virtual
Business Law	Monthly / Second Tuesday	11 a.m. (MT) / Virtual
Cannabis Law	Monthly / Second Friday	9 a.m. (MT) / Virtual
Children's Law	Monthly / Third Monday	Noon (MT) / Virtual
Elder Law	Monthly / First Friday	Noon (MT) / Virtual
Employment and Labor Law	Monthly / First Wednesday	12:30 p.m. (MT) / Virtual
Family Law	Monthly / Third Friday	9 a.m. (MT) / Virtual
Health Law	Monthly / First Tuesday	9 a.m. (MT) / Virtual
Immigration Law	Monthly / Last Friday	Noon (MT) / Virtual
Indian Law	Every Other Month / Third Friday	Noon (MT) / Virtual
Intellectual Property Law	Monthly / Fourth Tuesday	Noon (MT) / Virtual
NREEL Law	Monthly / Fourth Tuesday	Noon (MT) / Virtual
Prosecutors	Every Other Month / Second Friday	Noon (MT) / Virtual
Public Law	Monthly / Third Wednesday	Noon (MT) / Virtual
Real Property, Trust and Estate	Every Other Month / Second Tuesday	Noon (MT) / Virtual
Trust and Estate Division	Every Other Month / Second Tuesday	Noon (MT) / Virtual
Real Property Division	Every Other Month / First Tuesday	Noon (MT) / Virtual
Solo and Small Firm Law	Monthly / Third Tuesday	9 a.m. (MT) / Virtual
Tax Law	Monday / Second Tuesday	9 a.m. (MT) / Virtual

Divisions	Occurrence (Month, Day of Week)	Time, Venue of Occurrence
Senior Lawyers Division	Every Other Month / Third Tuesday	3:30 p.m. (MT) / Virtual
Young Lawyers Division	Varies / Saturdays	10 a.m. (MT) / Virtual



State Bar of New Mexico Alternative Methods of Dispute Resolution

Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee 2026 Meeting Schedule:

Feb. 12, 2026	Noon–1 p.m. (MT)
May 14, 2026	Noon–1 p.m. (MT)
Aug. 13, 2026	Noon–1 p.m. (MT)
Nov. 12, 2026	Noon–1 p.m. (MT)

Alternative Dispute Resolution Community 2026 Meeting Schedule:

Feb. 19, 2026	Noon–1 p.m. (MT)
May 21, 2026	Noon–1 p.m. (MT)
Aug. 20, 2026	Noon–1 p.m. (MT)
Nov. 19, 2026	Noon–1 p.m. (MT)

Please email memberservices@sbnm.org for details on how to join each meeting.

**The ADR Committee is an appointed body responsible for planning events and activities.*

**The ADR Community is an informal gathering of attorneys and non-attorneys encouraging discourse among both groups covering topics pertinent to ADR practitioners.*

FREE Services Are Available To ALL Legal Professionals, Including Judges, Attorneys, Paralegals, Law Students and Law Office Staff!



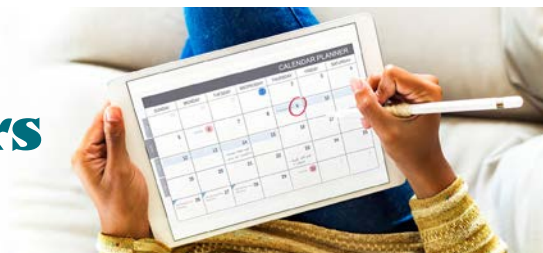
Employee Assistance Program

*Get help and support for yourself, your family and your employees.
FREE service offered by NM LAP.*

Services include up to four **FREE** counseling sessions/issue/year for ANY mental health, addiction, relationship conflict, anxiety and/or depression issue. Counseling sessions are with a professionally licensed therapist. Other **FREE** services include management consultation, stress management education, critical incident stress debriefing, video counseling, and 24X7 call center. Providers are located throughout the state.

To access this service call 505-254-3555 and identify with NM LAP. All calls are **CONFIDENTIAL**.
Brought to you by the New Mexico Lawyer Assistance Program www.sbnm.org/NMLAP

Stay Up-to-Date with the Statewide Legal Fairs and Clinics Calendar!



Our online Statewide Legal Fairs and Clinics Calendar includes:

Pro Bono Opportunities

- Legal fairs and clinics around New Mexico
- Virtual statewide teleclinics

Resources for the Public

- Webinars and in-person presentations hosted by the New Mexico State Bar Foundation
- Workshops held by New Mexico's legal service providers on a variety of topics

Fri 12	1:15 PM 2:15 PM MST	Metro Telephone Legal Clinic (civil, no family) virtual
Thu 18	9:00 AM 3:00 PM MST	Las Vegas Legal Fair - Hosted by NMLA VAP & t... 1000 Redstone Avenue, Las Vegas, NV, USA
Fri 19	10:00 AM 2:00 PM MST	Taos Legal Fair - Hosted by NMLA VAP & the El... 100 Abilene Street, Taos, NM, USA
Wed 24	6:00 PM 8:00 PM MST	Consumer Debt/Bankruptcy Workshop - Hosted...

Visit <https://www.sbnm.org/Statewide-Legal-Fairs-and-Clinics-Calendar> to see upcoming opportunities to fulfill your pro bono requirements or gain insight in crucial areas of law and legal issues.



New Mexico
State Bar Foundation

Join a State Bar Practice Section

Benefits of Section Membership include:

- Practice area-targeted resources
- Public service opportunities
- Networking
- Leadership experience

And so much more!

Browse Sections and join today at www.sbnm.org/Leadership/Sections.





CALLING ON NEW MEXICO ATTORNEYS!

Volunteer for the Bar Exam Coaching Program!



The **State Bar of New Mexico's Committee on Diversity in the Legal Profession** is proud to offer an inclusive coaching program for applicants from all diverse backgrounds taking the New Mexico Bar Exam. The program is designed to match an applicant with a committed attorney volunteer who will serve as a resource for the applicant.

Coaches and applicants will communicate in person, via phone, e-mail, and/or virtual meeting during the applicant's bar preparation. *Attorney volunteers will not be expected to teach applicants substantive law.*

**To volunteer or to learn more,
contact State Bar of New Mexico
Equity in Justice Attorney Abby Lewis
at abby.lewis@sbnm.org.**

State Bar of New Mexico Diversity Statement:

The State Bar of New Mexico is committed to fulfilling Rule 24-101(A) NMRA, and ensuring that the legal profession and the legal system reflect the community we serve in all its social, economic, and geographical diversity. We are focused on expansion of pathways to and within the legal profession and the judiciary. We acknowledge the strengths historically excluded groups bring to the legal profession and will cultivate those strengths for the advancement of justice for all.



State Bar of New Mexico
Committee on Diversity
in the Legal Profession

A Guide to



State Bar of
New Mexico

Est. 1886

The State Bar of New Mexico's Digital Communications

As part of our mission to serve New Mexico's legal community, the State Bar of New Mexico is dedicated to ensuring that licensees are up-to-date with the latest information and announcements via regular digital e-newsletters and email communications. From news pertinent to New Mexico courts to pro bono opportunities, our emails cover a variety of legal information.



Bar Bulletin

The State Bar of New Mexico's official publication, the Bar Bulletin, is published on our website on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. The day that the *Bar Bulletin* is published online, an email is distributed to State Bar of New Mexico licensees that links to the new issue. To publish your notices, announcements, classifieds or articles in the *Bar Bulletin*, contact notices@sbnm.org.

eNews

Sent out each Friday morning, our weekly eNews e-newsletter is a comprehensive email containing a variety of information and announcements from the State Bar of New Mexico, the New Mexico State Bar Foundation, New Mexico courts, legal organizations and more. To advertise in eNews, please email marketing@sbnm.org. To have your organization's announcements or events published in eNews, please contact enews@sbnm.org.



Member Services Spotlight

Emailed each Tuesday morning, our weekly Member Services Spotlight e-newsletter contains announcements and events from each of the State Bar's Sections, Committees and Divisions. To highlight your Section, Committee or Division's latest news, email memberservices@sbnm.org.

CLE Weekly Roundup

Distributed each Wednesday morning, the CLE Weekly Roundup provides a highlight of the New Mexico State Bar Foundation Center for Legal Education's upcoming CLE courses with information regarding the date and time of the course, credits earned and link to register. For more information regarding the CLE Weekly Roundup, please contact cleonline@sbnm.org.



New Mexico Court of Appeals Opinions

As a licensee benefit, the State Bar of New Mexico distributes introductions to the New Mexico Court of Appeals' published opinions with links to the full opinions the day they are published. For more information regarding the Court of Appeals opinions distribution, please contact opinions@sbnm.org.

Pro Bono Quarterly Newsletter

Disseminated quarterly, the State Bar of New Mexico's Pro Bono Quarterly e-newsletter provides the New Mexico legal community with an overview of initiatives to provide pro bono legal services for New Mexican residents in need. For more information on the newsletter or to advertise your pro bono or volunteer opportunity, contact probono@sbnm.org.



MEMORANDUM OPINION

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

No. A-1-CA-41850
State of New Mexico
v.
Ramon Segura

Introduction of Opinion

Following a bench trial in metropolitan court, Defendant Ramon Segura was convicted of first offense aggravated driving while under the influence of alcohol (aggravated DWI), contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 66-8-102(D) (3) (2016). For the reasons that follow, we affirm Defendant's conviction.

Gerald E. Baca, Judge
WE CONCUR:
J. Miles Hanisee, Judge
Katherine A. Wray, Judge

To read the entire opinion,
please visit:
<https://bit.ly/A-1-CA-41850>

No. A-1-CA-41921
State of New Mexico
v.
P.J. Fitzwater

Introduction of Opinion

A jury found Defendant P.J. Fitzwater guilty of one count of burglary, contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 30-16-3(B) (1971), and one count of criminal damage to property (over \$1,000), contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 30-15-1 (1963). Defendant appeals, arguing that (1) his convictions violate his right to be free from double jeopardy; (2) the State presented insufficient evidence to support his convictions; (3) the district court committed fundamental instructional error; (4) the district court abused its discretion by denying Defendant's request for a continuance; and (5) Defendant received ineffective assistance of counsel. We affirm.

Megan P. Duffy, Judge
WE CONCUR:
J. Miles Hanisee, Judge
Shammara H. Henderson, Judge

To read the entire opinion,
please visit:
<https://bit.ly/A-1-CA-41921>

No. A-1-CA-35724
State of New Mexico
v.
Jeremiah John Gurule

Introduction of Opinion

This case returns to our Court after our Supreme Court overturned our memorandum opinion from 2019 wherein we reversed Defendant Jeremiah Gurule's conviction on a speedy trial violation. See State v. Gurule, No. A-1-CA-35724, mem. op. (N.M. Ct. App. July 31, 2019) (nonprecedential), rev'd and remanded, 2025-NMSC-010, 563 P.3d 775. We now address the issues not reached the first time, namely, the voluntariness of Defendant's waiver of his Miranda rights and his ensuing confession, asserted discovery violations, denial of Defendant's requested self-defense jury instruction, and sufficiency of the evidence supporting Defendant's conviction. We affirm the jury verdict.

J. Miles Hanisee, Judge
WE CONCUR:
Zachary A. Ives, Judge
Katherine A. Wray, Judge

To read the entire opinion,
please visit:
<https://bit.ly/A-1-CA-35724>

MEMORANDUM OPINION

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

No. A-1-CA-41629
State of New Mexico

v.

Marqui Nikole Armstrong

Introduction of Opinion

A jury convicted Defendant of (1) possession of a controlled substance, (methamphetamine), contrary to NMSA 1978 Section 30-31-23(A), (E) (2021); and (2) trafficking a controlled substance (fentanyl), contrary to NMSA 1978 Section 30-31-20 (2006). Defendant makes three arguments on appeal. We conclude the following: (1) assuming that the investigating officer provided expert testimony, the foundation for the officer's qualifications was sufficient under the circumstances to avoid plain error and permitting the testimony was not otherwise error; (2) fundamental error did not arise from the State's reference in closing argument to the general intent jury instruction; and (3) the search warrant affidavit established probable cause to search Defendant's residence. We therefore affirm.

Katherine A. Wray, Judge
WE CONCUR:

Jane B. Yohalem, Judge

Kristopher N. Houghton, Judge

To read the entire opinion,
please visit:
<https://bit.ly/A-1-CA-41629>

No. A-1-CA-40117
State of New Mexico

v.

Jeremy Sandoval

Introduction of Opinion

Defendant Jeremy Sandoval appeals his convictions for two counts of criminal sexual penetration of a child under thirteen years of age (CSPM) in the first degree, contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 30-9-11(D)(1) (2009); and one count of criminal sexual contact of a minor (CSCM) in the second degree, contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 30-9-13(B)(1) (2003). On appeal, Defendant alleges that his convictions violate his right to be free from double jeopardy and that the district court erred in admitting certain un-Mirandized statements at trial. For the following reasons, we affirm.

Shammara H. Henderson, Judge
WE CONCUR:

Gerald E. Baca, Judge

Katherine A. Wray, Judge

To read the entire opinion,
please visit:
<https://bit.ly/A-1-CA-40117>

No. A-1-CA-42103
Board of Trustees of the Chilili
Land Grant-Merced

v.

Board of County
Commissioners of Torrance
County

Introduction of Opinion

Before us is a dispute between Plaintiff Board of Trustees of the Chilili Land Grant-Merced (Chilili) and Defendant Board of Commissioners of Torrance County (the County). The dispute arose when Chilili requested that the County register addresses for subdivided lots of Chilili's common lands so that those properties might benefit from the County's provision of emergency and utility services. The County denied the request, directing Chilili first to submit plats that conform with the County's regulations. See Torrance County, N.M., Torrance County Subdivision Regulations (1996, amended 2008) (the Subdivision Regulations); **View full PDF online.**

Kristopher Houghton, Judge
WE CONCUR:

J. Miles Hanisee, Judge

Katherine A. Wray, Judge

To read the entire opinion,
please visit:
<https://bit.ly/A-1-CA-42103>

New Mexico Hispanic Bar Association Holiday Fundraiser

GENERAL ADMISSION: \$150 (ADMITS TWO)

**CONTACT US FOR TIERED SPONSORSHIP INFO:
INCLUDES VIP HOUR W/ OPEN BAR**

FOR SPONSORSHIP DETAILS:
EMAIL ABOGADA@VICTORIALUCEROLAW.COM OR CONTACT A BOARD MEMBER

Friday, 12 December 2025

VIP: 5:30-6:30 PM

GENERAL: 6:30 PM

iSilent
Auction
is
Back!

Each entry
purchase
comes with a
raffle ticket -
giving you a chance
to win big \$\$\$!
As always-
Door Prizes!

HORS D'OEUVRES * MARIACHIS * RAFFLE

Damacios Bar & Tapas

722 Central Ave SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102

SCAN WITH YOUR PHONE FOR TICKETS OR MORE DETAILS →



BE PART OF THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC DEFENSE AT KING COUNTY DPD

47 lawyers from 23 law schools across 14 states and 1 shared mission.

At King County DPD, we're working to transform public defense into a sustainable career. We are committed to recruiting the best new and experienced public defenders. This year, DPD began a phased-in reduction of caseload limits grounded in the landmark 2023 National Public Defense Workload Study.



Benefits of Working at DPD

- Client-centered representation, including skilled, in-house mitigation specialists and investigators
- Criminal and dependency caseload limits
- Robust funding for expert services
- Ongoing training and development
- ✓ Salary range: \$103,272 - \$163,621
- ✓ Comprehensive medical benefits
- ✓ Strong union workplace
- ✓ Well-funded and secure pension
- ✓ Supportive and inclusive workplace

CONSIDERING RELOCATING TO THE PROGRESSIVE PACIFIC NORTHWEST?



Join a mission-driven, forward-thinking community



Generous leave to help support work-life balance



Incorporating modern advances in technology to support defense teams

DPD is committed to high hiring standards. Candidates should have at least two years of experience in criminal practice, civil litigation, or a judicial clerkship. The strongest candidates will have completed jury trials through verdict.



BE A PART OF THE CHANGE

Visit kingcounty.gov/dpd/jobs or email dpd-hr@kingcounty.gov
Equal opportunity employer



King County

Department of
**PUBLIC
DEFENSE**



FitzPatrick Law, ^{LLC.}



STANDING UP FOR NEW MEXICANS

Don't be a Dummy!

Leave the Physics to Us



BioRec[®]

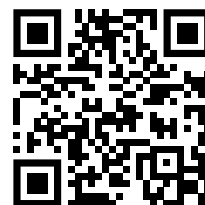
480-966-0143

BioRec.com/dummy

- ✓ Accident Reconstruction
- ✓ Injury Biomechanics
- ✓ Data Preservation
- ✓ Video Analysis

30+ Years of Experience

SCAN





THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DISTINGUISHED NEUTRALS

2025 NEW MEXICO CHAPTER MEMBERS



Hon. Tim Garcia
Santa Fe



John Hughes
Red River



Mark Jammie
Albuquerque



Andrew Lehrman
Santa Fe



Hon. William Lynch
Albuquerque



Hon. Alan Malott
Albuquerque



Bruce McDonald
Albuquerque



Dirk Murchison
Taos



Hon. Nan Nash
Albuquerque



Raynard Struck
Albuquerque



Denise Torres
Albuquerque



Matt Vance
Albuquerque



Peter Wirth
Santa Fe



Hon. Wendy York
Albuquerque

The State's Top-Rated Mediators now posting Available Dates Calendars free at

www.NMMediators.org

For more information on the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals, please visit www.NADN.org/about

In celebration of 30 years as a division of the State Bar of New Mexico in August 2025, the Paralegal Division recognizes all current and past members for their contribution to the profession and extends special appreciation to the following members who have served as Chair.

Peggy B. Jones, CLAS
1995-1996

Cynthia S. Gilbert, CLAS
1996-1997

Timothy Reardon
1997-1998

Kathleen F. Campbell, ACP
1998-1999

Jennifer L. Schouman
1999-2000

Christiane I. Wilson
2001

Sandra B. Byer, CP
2002

Linda C. Stocky, CP
2003

Kay L. Homan, CP
2004

Linda A. Murphy
2005

Bonita Ortiz, ACP
2006

Carolyn L. Cochran
2007

Robin Gomez
2008

Tina L. Kelbe, CP
2009

Deborah R. Tope, RP, CP
2010

Ruby Silva
2011

Evonne Sanchez
2012

Krista Giances
2013

Andrew Polnett, ACP
2014

Eileen Casadevall, CLA
2015

Yolanda R. Ortega
2016

Barbara C. Lucero, CP
2017

Christina Babcock
2018

Lynette Rocheleau
2019

Yolanda K. Hernandez
2020

Angela Minefee
2021

Linda Sanders
2022-2023

Meryl Barbere-Sutton
2024-2025

2025 Officers

Meryl Barbere-Sutton, Chair
Ellice Goldstein, Chair-elect
Kay L. Homan, CP, Past Chair
Vacant, Secretary
Andrea Pompeo, Treasurer

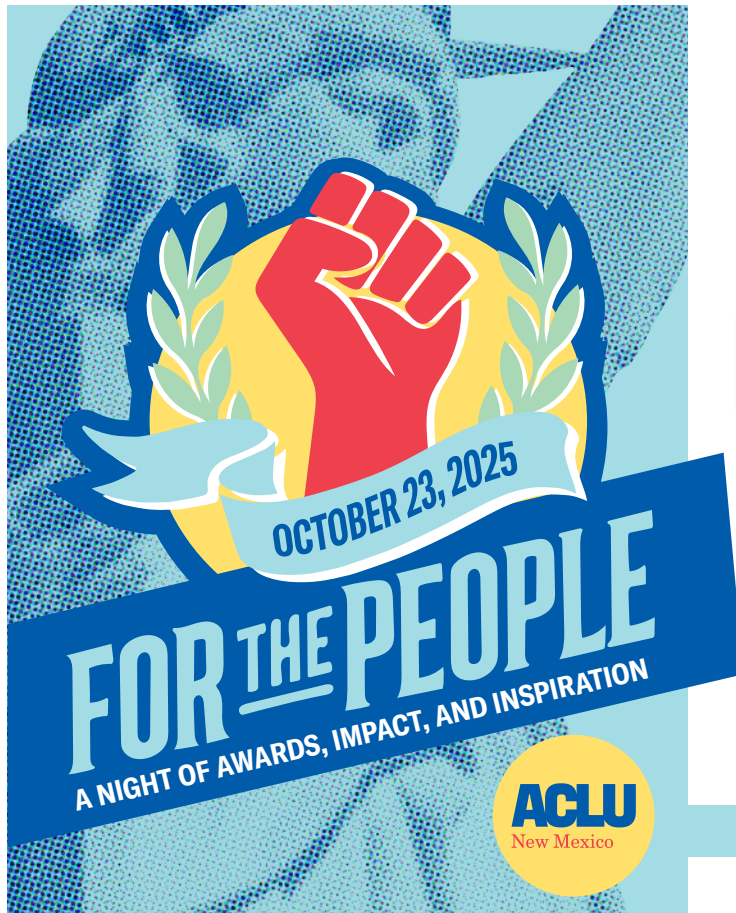


State Bar of New Mexico
Paralegal Division
Est. 1995

Directors

Christina Babcock (2025-2026)
Michelle Jaramillo, CP (2024-2025)
Madeline Lovato (2025)
John Roberts, ACP (2025-2026)
Christy L. Shije (2024-2025)
Ruby Silva (2025)

To learn more about the Paralegal Division and to see the qualifications to join, visit our webpage: www.sbnm.org/paralegals



THANK YOU TO OUR
**For The People and the
Legal Community Fund Sponsors**

FREEDMANBOYDHOLLANDER
GOLDBERG P.A.


MARTINEZ | HART | SANCHEZ | ROMERO
A Personal Injury Law Firm


**SINGLETON
SCHREIBER**
INJURY ATTORNEYS

Rights Defenders

Dominguez Law
Laura Gomez
Law Office of Ryan J. Villa

Constitutional Advocates

The Law Office of Jamison Barkley
Ives & Flores
The Law Office of Alexandra Freedman Smith
Kennedy Law Firm
Smith & Marjanovic Law, LLC
David Stout and Mary Malwitz

Donate to our Legal Community Fund



At the New Mexico Black Leadership Council, we believe every community benefits when the legal profession is part of the conversation.

NMBLC's ECOSYS Initiative is convening a statewide coalition of changemakers committed to ensuring equal access to justice for all.

We hope you'll join us—your working knowledge of law and legislation could make a world of difference!

Will you scan this QR code to RSVP, learn more and get involved?




info@nmblc.org


nmblc.org


505-407-6784



NEW MEXICO
BLACK LEADERSHIP
COUNCIL





Michael Duran
PARTNER

Rooted in New Mexico. Driven by Justice.

A lifelong New Mexican and seasoned trial attorney, Michael Duran has spent **over two decades** fighting for those injured across our state. Now a Partner at Singleton Schreiber, he continues to strengthen our mission of **standing up for individuals, families, and communities** throughout New Mexico.

Call Singleton Schreiber for a free consultation today.

*Personal Injury
Wrongful Death
Fire Litigation
Public Entity
Civil Rights*

*Medical Malpractice
Mass Tort & Class Action
Bad Faith Insurance
Sexual Assault
Tribal Litigation*



(505) 587-3473

6501 Americas Parkway NE #670 Albuquerque, NM 87110 www.SingletonSchreiber.com

**Thank you for your
support and
referrals.**

Pieroni Family Law, L.L.C.
Helping Families and Children

Allison P. Pieroni
Attorney at Law

3200 Carlisle Blvd NE, Suite 219
Albuquerque, NM 87110
app@apfamilylaw.com

v (505) 830-6032
f (505) 830-6033
www.apfamilylaw.com

ATTENTION BANKRUPTCY ATTORNEYS:

*Let us help your clients
re-establish their credit by getting
approved for an auto loan.*

- ▶ No games, no gimmicks
- ▶ Upfront approvals.
- ▶ Meet some basic requirements.
- ▶ Large selection of affordable new, Certified Pre-Owned, and pre-owned.
- ▶ 16 years experience working with tough credit, open and discharged bankruptcies.

*Call, text or email with
any questions before
sending your clients.*

RICHARD LIMA, PITRE KIA
505-899-4848 ext. 302
or cell 505-379-9896
rlima@pitrekia.com



Zia Trust, Inc.
The Advisors' Trust Company®

INDEPENDENT CORPORATE TRUSTEE

- Estate Settlement and Distributing Trusts.
- Special Needs and General Support Trust Administration.
- Serve as Financial Agent Under Power of Attorney.
- Charitable Trust Administration.

ALBUQUERQUE • SANTA FE • LAS CRUCES • PHOENIX • TUCSON

6301 Indian School Rd NE Suite 800 Albuquerque, NM 87110

eNews

Get Your Business Noticed!

Advertise in our e-newsletter,
delivered to your inbox every Friday.

Benefits of advertising in eNews:

- Circulation to 8,000+ members of the New Mexico legal community
- Premium "above the fold" placement
- Link your advertisement to your webpage of choice
- High open/click rates
- Schedule flexibility
- Affordable pricing for any budget



Winner of
the 2016 NABE
Luminary Award
for Excellence in
Electronic Media



**State Bar of
New Mexico**
Est. 1886

Please contact Tom Ende at
651-288-3422 or
marketing@sbnm.org for more
information and current ad rates.

"Alongside a good trial lawyer is..."

DP&S

DURHAM, PITTARD & SPALDING, L.L.P.

Appeals & Strategic Litigation Support

Justin R. Kaufman
Caren I. Friedman
Rosalind B. Bienvenu
Philip M. Kovnat
Molly Samsell

125 Lincoln Avenue, Suite 402
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
(505) 986-0600

www.dpslawgroup.com



We are pleased to announce the promotion of
Nels D. Orell as a **Partner** with the firm.

A UNM graduate, Mr. Orell earned his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with honors in 2005 and his Juris Doctor, also with honors, in 2010. Since then, he has built a career defined by integrity, resilience, and a deep commitment to his clients and colleagues.

Nels brings to his work a rare combination of skill, perspective, and compassion—qualities honed through years of experience litigating on behalf of both plaintiffs and defendants. His insight and determination have earned him the respect of his peers and the trust of those he serves.

At deGraauw Law Firm, Mr. Orell focuses on insurance defense, including coverage and bad faith, personal injury and wrongful death litigation, products liability, and premises liability. His promotion to Partner recognizes not only his legal excellence, but also his journey of growth and the steady leadership he brings to the firm.



www.dglawfirmpc.com (505) 322-2144

FREE SERVICE FOR MEMBERS!

Employee Assistance Program

Get help and support for yourself, your family and your employees.

FREE service offered by NM LAP.

To access this service call 505-254-3555 and identify with NM LAP. All calls are **CONFIDENTIAL.**



The Solutions Group



State Bar of New Mexico
Lawyer Assistance Program

www.sbnm.org/NMLAP

We shop up to 22 professional liability insurance companies to find the right price and fit for your law firm.

Make sure your insurance policy has:

- Prior acts coverage, to cover your past work.
- Claim expenses outside the limit of liability, no PacMan.
- "A" rating from A.M. Best, important, some companies are NOT!



833-263-0300

Come see us at our new location!

9 5501 Eagle Rock Ave NE a2, Albuquerque, NM 87113



BAR BULLETIN

Call for Cover Art

Make your artwork visible to more than 8,000 attorneys, judges, paralegals and other members of the legal community!

We are soliciting for artists and galleries to submit artwork to be displayed on future covers of the *Bar Bulletin*.

For more information and submission guidelines, visit www.sbnm.org/coverart



Changed Lives... Changing Lives

Free, confidential assistance
to help identify and address problems
with alcohol, drugs, depression, and
other mental health issues.

A healthier, happier future
is a phone call away.

Confidential assistance –

**Statewide Helpline for Lawyers,
Law Students and Legal
Professionals:** 505-228-1948

Judges Helpline: 505-797-6097

www.sbnm.org/NMLAP



State Bar of New Mexico
Lawyer Assistance Program



VALUATION AND CONSULTING, LLC

John R. Battle

CPA, CVA, MAFF, CMAA

Economic Damages Consulting/Litigation Support

Commercial Lost Profits * Employment Economic Damages
Contractual Economic Damages * Complex Damage Claims
Permanent Injury and Wrongful Death Economic Damages

Business Valuations

Estate, Trust and Gifting * Shareholder Disputes * Marital Dissolution
Buying or Selling Business

P.O. Box 189 La Luz, NM 88337

575.488.3410 (Office) 575.921.7578 (Cell)

jrbattlecpa.com

WRITE ARTICLES for the Bar Bulletin!

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

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



State Bar of
New Mexico
Est. 1886

MEDIATION SERVICES

— Zoom Statewide —

Hon. William A. Sanchez, Ret.

44 years Legal Experience

21 years District Judge

Sanchez Settlement & Legal Services

sanchezsettled@gmail.com • (505) 720-1904



2025 Bar Bulletin Publishing and Submission Schedule

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

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

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

**New &
Improved**



State Bar *of*
New Mexico
Est. 1886

Online Classifieds **COMING SOON!**



Classifieds Readers:

- More up-to-date job opportunities and service listings
- Search and filter listings by category and type of job posting or service
- Reader-friendly digital format with a new and improved user interface
- Easier navigation to apply for job postings or visit listing webpages for more information



Classifieds Advertisers:

- Submit your listings more efficiently using our brand-new platform
- Online payment option
- Enhanced digital experience
- Listings link to your website
- Include your company logo on your online listing
- Classifieds approved and posted within 48 hours

More information coming soon!

Please contact Tom Ende at marketing@sbnm.org or 651-288-3422 with any questions.

Classified

Positions

Attorneys Professional and Products/General Liability Litigation Groups

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

Attorney or Law School Graduate Positions

Legislative office in Santa Fe is seeking attorneys or recent law school graduates for full-time employment from January to February, 2026 during the upcoming legislative session. Strong legal research and writing skills required. Salary DOE. For application and more details: <https://www.nmlegis.gov/Entity/Senate/Employment>

Entry Level and Experienced Attorneys

The Thirteenth Judicial District Attorney's Office is seeking both entry level and experienced attorneys. Positions available in Sandoval County which is in Bernalillo, Valencia in Belen and Cibola in Grants. Enjoy the convenience of working near a metropolitan area while gaining valuable trial experience in a smaller office, providing the opportunity to advance more quickly than is afforded in larger offices. The 13th Judicial District offers flex schedules in a family friendly environment. Competitive salary starting @ 83,000+ depending on experience. Contact Krissy Fajardo @ kfajardo@da.state.nm.us or visit our website for an application @ <https://www.13th.nmdas.com/> Apply as soon as possible. These positions fill fast!

Associate Attorney Sought

Description: Our top-rated regional litigation defense firm is seeking an associate to join our busy practice in our Albuquerque office. We have opportunities for associates who want to hit the ground running with interesting cases and strong mentors. The ideal candidate will have civil litigation experience, a strong background in legal research and writing, and will be comfortable working in a fast-paced environment. The successful candidate will be responsible for providing legal advice to clients, preparing legal documents, and representing clients in court proceedings, including trial. This is an excellent opportunity for a motivated individual to join a highly respected AV-rated law firm and gain valuable experience in the legal field. Salary for this role is competitive with a full benefits package, straightforward partner/shareholder track and a casual work environment. If you join us, you will be well supported with the infrastructure of a multi-state firm and a group of professionals that want you to succeed. Apply by sending your resume and writing sample to the contact listed in this ad. Additional info: Full time, indefinite. Competitive salaries based on experience. Contact: Paula palvarez@raylaw.com

Litigation Attorney

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

Licensed New Mexico Attorney

Jay Goodman and Associates, Law Firm PC is dedicated to assisting clients in the areas of family law, divorce, legal separations, paternity, parental rights, adoptions, guardianships, custody issues, domestic violence, child support, spousal support, qualified domestic relations orders, estate planning and probate. Our mission is to timely and effectively respond to our clients' goals and concerns with creative consideration and seek results designed to minimize or resolve future legal problems. This includes timely court filings, attention to details, and comprehensive representation. In serving our clients we also provide special attention to the relationships within the family dynamic, and to the best interest of our clients within the larger context of the life they are leading and the life they wish to pursue. We are in the process of hiring Full Time Attorneys licensed and in good standing in New Mexico with 2 years' experience in Family Law, and/or Probate Law. Successful applicants should have court room experience and have provided client relations with empathy and compassion. We offer excellent compensation and a comfortable team working environment with flexible hours. Please feel welcome to visit our website at www.jaygoodman.com to find out more about us. All inquiries are maintained as confidential. Please send your resume and cover letter to: es@jaygoodman.com. Thank you for your interest.

**Request for Proposals (RFP):
Legal Services – Liability and
Workers Compensation
RFP Number: 26-350-4905-0001**

The Risk Management Division (RMD) of the General Services Department invites the submission of Proposals for Legal Services, specifically related to liability and workers compensation. RFP Details: The full Request for Proposals (RFP) may be obtained from the RMD website at: www.generalservices.state.nm.us/risk-management/solicitations/. Navigate to the “RMD Solicitations” tab and locate RFP Number: 26-350-4905-0001. Proposal Submission Deadline: Proposals must be prepared in accordance with the RFP’s submittal requirements. All proposals must be received by RMD no later than 3:00 p.m. MST on Friday, January 16, 2025. Questions: Please direct all inquiries regarding this RFP to: Gerardo Ruelas, Finance Bureau Chief; Phone: (505) 819-7815; Email: Gerardo.Ruelas@gsd.nm.gov

**Contract Attorneys
NM Office of Guardianship**

The NM Office of Guardianship seeks contract attorneys to serve as Petitioning Attorney and Guardian ad Litem in probate guardianship cases throughout New Mexico. OOG provides legal services to income-eligible adults with disabilities in New Mexico who need decision-making support. Contract attorneys are assigned on a case-by-case basis and play a critical role in protecting the civil rights of vulnerable individuals. Training and mentoring provided. Interested attorneys, please submit a letter of interest and resume to Joe.Turk@ddc.nm.gov.

Supervisor Attorney

The Office of Family Representation and Advocacy, a State of New Mexico Executive Branch adjunct agency, is seeking applicants for a Supervisor Attorney. Our agency represents children and indigent adults in abuse and neglect cases brought by Children, Youth and Families Department. All State benefits included. For more information and to apply, please visit <https://www.ofra.nm.gov>, <https://www.spo.state.nm.us/>, or contact Chynna Comer 505-640-4369. JOBID #157970

Prosecuting Attorney

Job Title: Prosecuting Attorney (NMMB #10117851); Job ID: 156775; Posting End Date: 01/02/2026; Location: Santa Fe; Full/Part Time: Full-Time; Agency: Medical Examiners Board; Salary: \$39.11 - \$62.58 Hourly; \$81,349 - \$130,159 Annually; Posting Details: The New Mexico Medical Board (NMMB) is the state agency responsible for the regulation over 10,000 licensees including medical doctors (physicians), physician assistants, anesthesiologist assistants, genetic counselors, polysomnographic technologists, naturopaths, naprapaths and podiatrists. Why does the job exist? The Prosecutor position at the New Mexico Medical Board exists to enforce the Medical Practice Act by prosecuting medical professionals who engage in misconduct, litigating contested applications for licensure, and otherwise ensuring compliance with professional and legal standards. By reviewing complaints, collaborating with investigators, conducting legal research, and prosecuting cases, this role safeguards public health and maintains the integrity of the medical profession. The position also involves drafting legal documents, negotiating settlements, advising Board staff, and handling appeals, all of which contribute to an effective disciplinary process. Through these responsibilities, the prosecutor plays a key role in protecting citizens from unqualified or unethical healthcare providers while upholding regulatory compliance. How does it get done? Duties for this position include: Review complaints and investigative reports to assess potential violations; Collaborate with investigators to develop case strategies and gather evidence; Conduct legal research on relevant laws, regulations, and case precedents; Draft legal documents, including pleadings, motions, and settlement agreements; Negotiate settlements with licensees and their legal representatives; Prosecute cases at administrative hearings by presenting evidence and examining witnesses; Advise Board staff on legal matters related to investigations and disciplinary actions; Handle appeals and post-hearing processes, including preparing briefs and responding to motions; Contribute to policy and regulatory development to enhance disciplinary procedures. Ideal Candidate The ideal candidate will: Be licensed

and in good standing to practice law in New Mexico for a minimum of three (3) years; Have litigation experience in administrative, regulatory or health law, or prosecutorial (experience required); Have a strong background in administrative, health, or regulatory law; Have the ability to assess complaints, review evidence, and build strong cases; Understand the Medical Practice Act and other relevant laws; Have capability to provide legal guidance to Board staff on investigations and disciplinary actions; Have willingness to contribute to improving regulatory and disciplinary processes. Minimum Qualification: Juris Doctorate degree from an accredited school of law. Must be licensed as an attorney by the Supreme Court of New Mexico or qualified to apply for limited practice license (Rules 15-301.1 and 15-301.2 NMRA). For more information on limited practice licenses, please visit <http://nmexam.org/limited-license/>. Employment Requirements: All Attorney classifications must be and remain licensed as an attorney, in good standing, by the Supreme Court of New Mexico, or licensed as an attorney and in good standing by the highest court of another state and eligible pursuant to the limited license provisions (See Rules 15-301.1 and 15-301.2 NMRA). Supplemental Information: Agency Contact Information: Monique Parks (505) 476-7226 or MoniqueM.Parks@nmmb.nm.gov.

**City of Albuquerque
Litigation Attorney**

The City of Albuquerque is seeking attorneys of all levels to join its litigation team. The City’s Litigation Division handles tort claims, public records claims, and civil rights matters. Many cases involve complex constitutional issues. We are seeking candidates for various roles, which may include: litigating tort and public records cases; overseeing outside counsel; preparing appellate briefs, amicus briefs and other key briefs on pending matters; litigating use of force and critical incident claims. Salary and position will be determined based on the skills and experience of the candidate. Hybrid in person/remote work schedule available. For more information or to apply please send a resume and writing sample to Angela Aragon at amaragon@cabq.gov.

Assistant District Attorney

The Fifth Judicial District Attorney's office has immediate positions open for new and/or experienced attorneys. Salary will be based upon the New Mexico District Attorney's Salary Schedule with salary range of an Assistant Trial Attorney (\$ 80,218.00) to a Senior Trial Attorney (\$100,272.00), based upon experience. Must be licensed in the United States. This position is located in the Carlsbad, NM office. The office will pay for your New Mexico Bar Dues as well as the National District Attorney's Association membership. Please send resume to Dianna Luce, District Attorney, 102 N. Canal, Suite 200, Carlsbad, NM 88220 or email to nshreve@da.state.nm.us

Managing City Attorney

City of Albuquerque Managing Attorney The City of Albuquerque Legal Department is hiring a Managing City Attorney for its Labor and Employment. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, supervision of administrative and civil litigation; representing the City in front of the City's Labor Board and Personnel Board; drafting of City rules, regulations and policies; union negotiations and bargaining; and general employment and labor advice to City Departments. Five years' experience including at least one year of management experience is preferred. Applicants must be an active member of the State Bar of New Mexico in good standing. Hybrid in person/remote work schedule available. For more information or to apply please send a resume and writing sample to Angela Aragon at amaragon@cabq.gov.

Associate Attorney

Well established two partner insurance defense law firm, downtown Albuquerque, in search of a full-time associate attorney with minimum 4 years of legal experience and willing to work 35 hours per week. Pay range varies with experience. Candidates should be proficient in conducting and defending depositions, have critical research and writing abilities and be familiar with motion practice. Practice areas include primarily civil litigation and workers' compensation. To apply, send resume, writing sample and law school transcript to: pdixon@hdmnlaw.com with "Litigation Attorney" in the subject line. All inquiries will be kept confidential.

Assistant Trial Attorney– Magistrate Court Division

The 12th Judicial District Attorney's Office is seeking an in-house, dedicated and motivated Assistant District Attorney to join our team and manage the Otero County Magistrate Division II docket. This position is ideal for an attorney who thrives in a fast-paced courtroom environment and is eager to gain substantial prosecutorial and trial experience. You will handle all aspects of criminal prosecution within the Magistrate Court, including case review, charging decisions, plea negotiations, motion practice, and regular court appearances. This position provides the opportunity to participate in jury trials frequently, allowing for the development of strong trial and courtroom advocacy skills. Must be admitted to the New Mexico State Bar. Salary: \$90,000. Full benefits package with retirement. Email resume to: sgann@da.state.nm.us or visit our website <https://12th.nmdas.com/>

Attorney Associate

The Third Judicial District Court in Las Cruces is accepting applications for a permanent, full-time Attorney Associate. Requirements include admission to the NM State Bar plus a minimum of three years' experience in the practice of applicable law, or as a law clerk. Under general direction, as assigned by a judge or supervising attorney, review cases, analyze legal issues, perform legal research and writing, and make recommendations concerning the work of the Court. For a detailed job description, requirements and application/resume procedure please refer to <https://www.nmcourts.gov/careers.aspx> or contact the Human Resources Division at lcrdhr@nmcourts.gov.

Various Assistant City Attorney Positions

The City of Albuquerque Legal Department is seeking Assistant City Attorneys to join multiple divisions. Available positions include general counsel services for various departments, general litigation, and employment litigation. Attention to detail and strong writing and interpersonal skills are essential. Salary based upon experience. Hybrid in person/remote work schedule available. For more information or to apply please send a resume and writing sample to Angela Aragon at amaragon@cabq.gov.

Manager of Career Services

UNM Law School seeks a motivated individual for a full-time Manager of Career Services, School of Law (UNM job title is Manager, Employer Outreach). Best consideration date, 01/30/2026. General duties: Manages promotion and execution of employer outreach services in the legal community and other employment markets, including employer liaison, on/off campus recruitment, career fairs, and other initiatives; advises students and graduates regarding employment options. Requires: ability to create/deliver presentations on legal career/employer development topics; knowledge of legal career outreach methods, programs, services, resources. Must be able to interact professionally with diverse constituencies. Occasional evening/weekend work required. Applicants possessing a J.D degree from ABA accredited law school strongly preferred. To apply: <http://unmjobs.unm.edu>

Paralegal

Exciting opportunity to join Rothstein Donatelli as a Paralegal (Albuquerque Location): Rothstein Donatelli's Albuquerque office focuses on civil rights and criminal defense litigation. We strive to provide our clients with the highest level of legal representation advocacy. We are seeking a highly motivated and detail-oriented paralegal to join our team. This position requires someone who is excited to work in the legal field, can build trust and rapport with our clients, can multi-task, and is a self-starter. Key responsibilities: Drafting pleadings, discovery requests, and discovery responses; Assisting attorneys with analyzing and organizing discovery materials; Conducting legal research; Working proficiently in Adobe, Excel and Microsoft programs; Organizing and managing case complex files; Managing litigation calendars and deadlines; Communicating with clients, witnesses, and opposing counsel. Compensation and benefits: Salary/hourly rate is dependent on candidate's experience; Full-time position (40 hr.) work week; Competitive benefits package including health, dental, and retirement. Please submit your application and cover letter to vacosta@rothsteinlaw.com or info@rothsteinlaw.com. This position will take applications until the position is filled.

Experienced Litigation Paralegal

Paralegal for civil litigation department. Five plus years of experience in litigation (commercial, defense litigation preferred). Paralegal certificate a plus. Extensive knowledge of litigation procedures in New Mexico, proficient in office applications and software, attention to detail and deadlines, proficient in word processing and grammar skills, motivated and able to assist and support busy litigation team in large and complex litigation cases, multi-attorney docket and calendar system, and trial. Competitive benefits package. Salary is commensurate with experience. Additional info: Full time, indefinite. Competitive salaries based on experience. Contact: Paula.palvarez@raylaw.com

Paralegal/Legal Assistant

Established law firm seeks experienced paralegal/executive assistant for partner. Must have ability to multi-task heavy state and federal court workload including, e-filing, drafting pleadings and discovery, and direct client contact and follow-up. Successful candidate will have meticulous organizational skills, calendar and deadline management and attention to detail. Word, Outlook and Adobe expertise required, as well as excellent proofreading skills. Bachelor's degree a plus. Competitive salary and excellent benefits offered. Resumes should be submitted to jbrumfield@wwwlaw.us. Qualified applicants only, please.

Full-Time Paralegal

Seeking Full-Time Paralegal for small firm in Albuquerque. Salary between \$65-\$70,000/year. Please email hiringnmlegal@gmail.com with resume and confidential inquiries.

Litigation Paralegal

Hiring! As a Litigation Paralegal at McGinn, Montoya, Love, Curry & Sievers, you will play a critical role in supporting attorneys with all aspects of case management. Responsibilities include managing deadlines, organizing case files, finalizing and filing pleadings, assisting with discovery and trial. You will interact regularly with clients, offering guidance and support as they navigate their legal journey. Solid abilities in MS365 and Adobe Acrobat is necessary. Salary commensurate with experience. Excellent benefit and profit-sharing package. Email your resume and interest letter to mmlcadmin@mcginnlaw.com

Services

Forensic Document Examiner

Jan Seaman Kelly, 9360 W. Flamingo Road, Suite 110-400, Las Vegas, NV 89147; 702-682-0529; forensicodynamicsllc@gmail.com; www.forensicdynamics.org. Jan Seaman Kelly accepts civil and criminal cases in Las Vegas, Reno, Arizona, and New Mexico. Thirty-five years experience in the examination of handwriting, signatures, typewriting, machine-generated documents, printing processes, recovery of indented writing, shredded documents, and mechanical impressions. Deeds, Wills, Trusts, Contracts, Medical Records, Business and Insurance Records. Court testimony given in numerous states since 1993. Certified by American Board of Forensic Document Examiners since 1993. Published research in scientific journals, and, author and editor of three books. Initial consultation is free. Curriculum Vitae available upon request. CATEGORIES: 1. Document Examiner; 2. Fraud, Embezzlement & Theft; 3. Handwriting Expert; 4. Medical – Records Examination

Office Space

Office For Rent:

Two Santa Fe Offices Available January 1, 2026. Two adjacent offices in a six-office professional suite. Centrally located in The Saint Francis Professional Center, the suite has a large reception area, kitchenette, and ample parking for clients. Rent includes alarm, utilities, and janitorial services. \$975 mo/both 505-795-0077

Does Your Office Need a Hand?

If you're a sole practitioner in need of occasional help, I can assist with your discovery, motions, trial prep, appeals and everything reasonably needed by your law office. I have over 35 years in law (independent contract paralegal 18 years, 19 as attorney), and offer hourly fees. Christa M. Okon 505-690-6047; cmokon@aol.com

Make the State Bar Center Your Meeting Destination



Perfect for your conference, seminar, training, mediation, reception, networking event or meeting.

- Multi-media auditorium with seating to accommodate 160 people
- 3 spacious classrooms (equipped with removable walls to make a larger space)
- Small and large conference rooms with capacity from 6 to 12 people
- 2 multi-media boardrooms
- Ample parking
- Free Wi-Fi
- Snack and beverage service
- Hybrid meeting capabilities in most rooms



State Bar of
New Mexico

Est. 1886

5121 Masthead St. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109

www.sbnm.org/StateBarCenter

For more information, site visits and reservations, contact Guest Services at **505-797-6070** or roomrental@sbnm.org

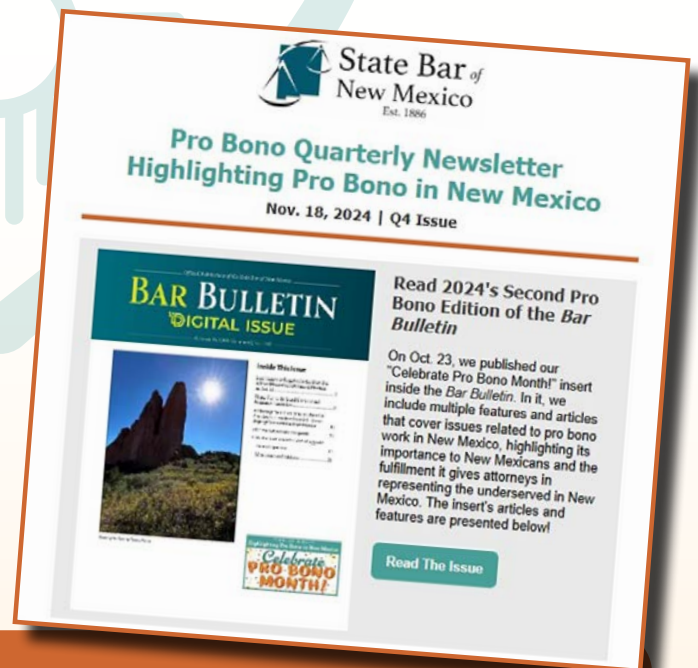
Read the **PRO BONO** **QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER!**

The State Bar of New Mexico's **Pro Bono Quarterly Newsletter** is the New Mexico legal community's premier source for information on **pro bono work** and **access to justice** in New Mexico! The Pro Bono Quarterly Newsletter is sent to all members of the State Bar of New Mexico via email once a quarter. Be on the lookout for it!

Newsletter Content Includes:

- Pro Bono News & Announcements
- Civil Legal Service Provider Information
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Articles & Features
- Access to Justice Resources

And much more!

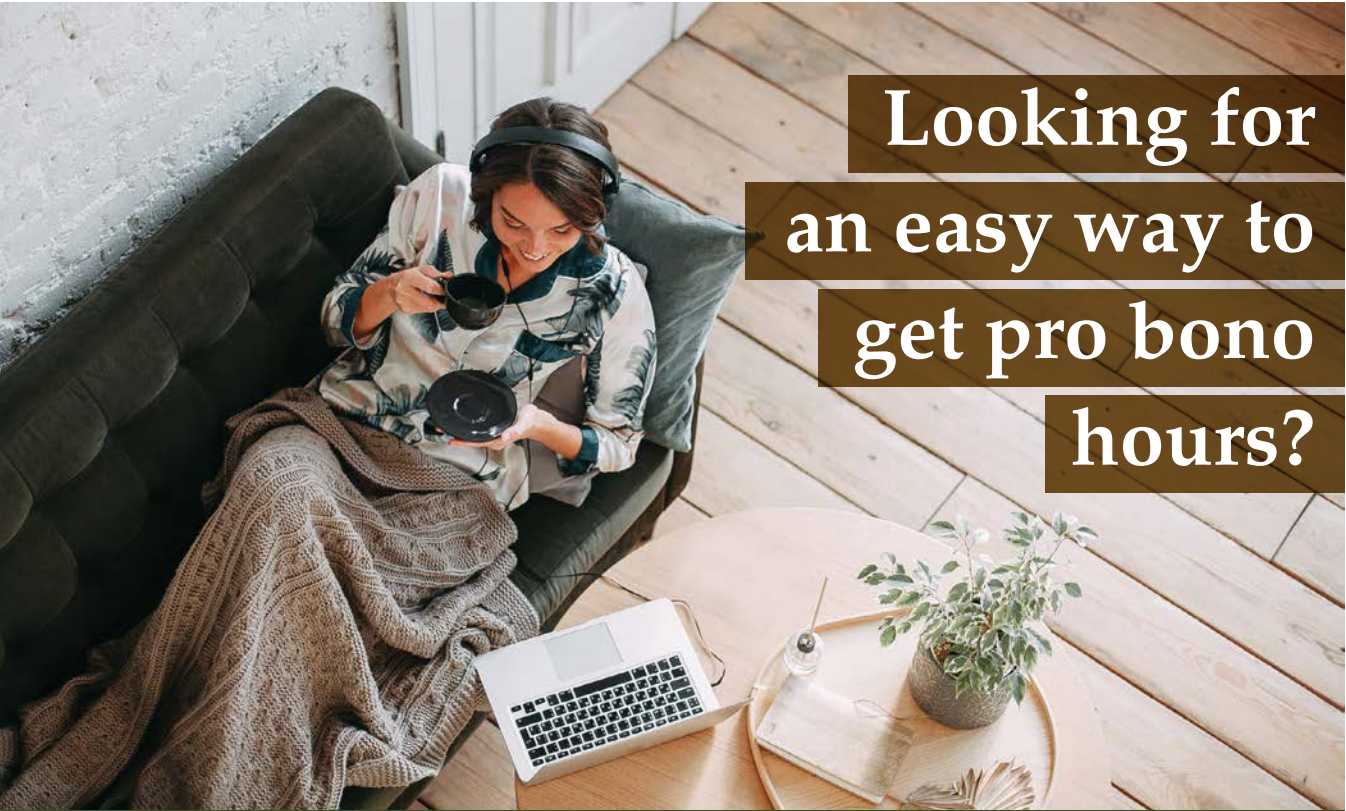


Have an idea for a pro bono feature or an opportunity for pro bono work you would like to share? Email **notices@sbnm.org** to include your information or articles in a **Pro Bono Quarterly Newsletter!**

To view each newsletter, visit
<https://bit.ly/Pro-Bono-Newsletter>



State Bar of
New Mexico
Est. 1886



Looking for
an easy way to
get pro bono
hours?

ABA Free Legal Answers is a virtual legal advice portal where qualifying users request brief advice about a specific civil legal issue and pro bono volunteer attorneys provide information and basic legal advice.

Register as a volunteer attorney today and you will be able to provide answers 24/7/365.

The platform can be accessed anytime, anywhere at *your* convenience.

To Register as a volunteer attorney:

- Go to <https://nm.freelegalanswers.org/>
- Click on “Attorney Registration” and follow the prompts



The NEW MEXICO STATE BAR FOUNDATION is the
State Administrator of the ABA Free Legal Answers Program