

Introduction to the Organized Bar

Resource 3

Resource 3 will help facilitate a discussion about the organized bar, including local, state and national bar associations and the advantages of being involved in bar association activities.

- Attend any meeting/event of the organized bar association together (not a CLE program) and introduce the new lawyer to other lawyers in attendance.
- Give the new lawyer examples of local, state, specialty and national bar associations and discuss the differences between them. Examples:
 - Local associations: your county/city bar association, your judicial district bar association
 - State associations: State Bar of New Mexico, Bar Association of the US District for the District of New Mexico, New Mexico Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, New Mexico Trial Lawyers, New Mexico Women's Bar Association, Oliver Seth Inns of Court
 - Specialty associations: Hispanic Bar Association, Black Lawyers Association, Indian Bar Association, New Mexico Lesbian and Gay Lawyers Association
 - National associations: American Bar Association, National Association of Bar Counsel, American Inns of Court
- Where possible, provide the new lawyer with brochures or website links to the different types of associations so the new lawyer can review information about each entity as time permits. (See State Bar of New Mexico website for many: http://www.nmbar.org/nmstatebar/Membership/Bars_and_Legal_Groups/Nmstatebar/For_Members/Bars_and_Legal_Groups.aspx?hkey=cbd581c4-a72f-4163-96eb-abd999204557)
- Share the associations in which you are a member, why you choose to be involved in that association(s), the activities you are involved in at the association(s), and how involvement in the associations(s) has benefited you over the course of your career.
- Provide examples of activities one can get involved in as a member of an association. Discuss specific reasons why one would want to be involved in those activities.
- Read and discuss attached PowerPoint presentation, "State Bar 101."



STATE BAR
of NEW MEXICO

State Bar 101

*An Introduction to Your
State Bar of New Mexico*

In the Beginning . . .

- ❑ The State Bar of New Mexico was organized on January 19, 1886 in Santa Fe by 19 members.
- ❑ The Bar has operated uninterrupted since then and celebrates 130 years in January 2016.
- ❑ A celebration is held each year on the Bar's anniversary to honor members of the profession at a ceremony held at the Bar Center.

Leadership...

- ❑ The State Bar is governed by an elected Board of Bar Commissioners.
- ❑ The BBC consists of 22 members: 19 bar commissioner members elected from throughout the state, the chair of the Young Lawyers Division, a delegate from the Senior Lawyers Division, and a non-voting Paralegal Division liaison member.
- ❑ The BBC meets four to six times a year and sets policy, budget and direction for the organization.
- ❑ Of the members of the board, 36% are women; 36% represent minority populations; 36% are in solo/small firms; 45% are in medium or large firms; and 14% are public or government lawyers.

BBC and Membership...

- A comparison of the BBC and total State Bar membership shows the following:

BBC	State Bar
36% women	40%
36% minority	29%
36% solo/small firms	69%
45% medium/large firms	12%
14% public/gov't/legal services	28%

Governance . . .

- The State Bar has appointments to many Supreme Court committees, but does not administer admissions, discipline or MCLE. These functions are handled by independent Supreme Court committees.
- The State Bar collects dues, administers the Client Protection Fund and collects data on professional liability coverage, pro bono hours conducted, and any Supreme Court mandated functions.

Structure...

- The State Bar is comprised of two organizations: the State Bar of New Mexico and the Bar Foundation. The two organizations combined have a budget of approximately \$4 million.

- There are six senior level positions in the State Bar and Foundation that oversee 30+ professional staff. They are:
 - Executive Director
 - Chief Operating Officer
 - CFO
 - General Counsel
 - Director of Legal Services
 - Governance & Special Projects Administrator

Budget . . .

- ❑ The Bar's 2016 operating budget is \$2,501,855.
- ❑ Of this, approximately 32% or \$802,950 is generated from NON-DUES revenue. Advertising in the Bulletin and annual Bench & Bar Directory, as well as sales of the Directory, and Bar Center rentals, account for the majority of non-dues revenue.
- ❑ Annual licensing fees are \$245 for active members. Members also pay an annual Disciplinary Board fee of \$150 on their dues form and a \$15 Client Protection fee. These are NOT State Bar fees.

Membership Data . . .

- The State Bar has grown to an active membership roster of 6,769 and an inactive roster of 2,299, for a total of 9,449 members. Of the active members, 5,393 are in-state and 1,376 are out-of-state. 4,157 (61.4%) are male and 2,612 (38.6%) are female.
- Most members, 3,118, practice in Bernalillo. Out-of-state members comprise the second largest with 1,376 members and Santa Fe is third with 1,088. Dona Ana has 304 members. Chaves has 131, San Juan has 123 and Sandoval has 139 members. All remaining counties have less than 100 lawyers each and many counties have less than 10 lawyers.

Generational Stats...

- ❑ 449 members are in the Traditional Generation, born before 1946;
- ❑ 4,340 are Baby Boomers, born from 1946-1964
- ❑ 3,019 are Generational X, born between 1965 and 1976; and
- ❑ 1,075 members are Generation Y, born after 1977.

Membership Services . . .

- ❑ Member Services account for about 35% of the total budget.
- ❑ The Bar Bulletin is perhaps the most popular benefit of membership. It is mailed each week to more than 6,500 members and subscribers. It is also available electronically. At an average page rate of 48 pages, this means almost 18 million pages annually that are printed in the State Bar's in-house print shop.
- ❑ The other most visible services provided to members are the annual Bench & Bar Directory and the Bar's Web site at www.nmbar.org.
- ❑ The Bar Center was constructed about 15 years ago. It is currently valued at approximately \$3.3 million and the debt service is approximately \$1,150,000.
- ❑ Fastcase was launched in July 2011 as a free online legal research product for members. The library is extensive and includes search options for all 50 states.

Bar Foundation . . .

- ❑ The Bar Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization that houses CLE and the Public and Legal Services Programs. The State Bar is a 501(c)6 trade organization that houses membership services and administration.
- ❑ *Why the difference?*
- ❑ The Bar Foundation, as a 501(c)3, is the entity that can conduct charitable and educational work, such as referral, pro bono and public service programs, and continuing legal education programs.

Public and Legal Services . . .

- ❑ The Bar Foundation's central intake phone lines field an average of 100 calls a day from members and the public looking for legal services or referrals.
- ❑ The Legal Resources for the Elderly program has been in existence for more 30 years.
- ❑ Many workshops on relevant issues, like bankruptcy and family law, are provided at no charge to the public.
- ❑ In 2016, the Foundation will implement the Entrepreneurs in Community Lawyering Program, and will embark on a renewed development effort.

Center for Legal Education...

- ❑ NO members' dues are used to support CLE. The CLE program is entirely self-sustaining and must make revenues to meet expenses each year of approximately \$1,000,000. The State Bar does not subsidize CLE.
- ❑ CLE conducts more than 40 live programs annually, many in conjunction with State Bar sections.
- ❑ CLE also offers many online, web-based programs, self-study materials and books.
- ❑ CLE is not MCLE. CLE provides programs. MCLE tracks credits and attorney compliance.

Sections . . .

- ❑ The State Bar has 20 practice sections with a total membership of over 3,000.
- ❑ Sections provide members with information on changes in law through CLE programs, newsletters, electronic communications and networking opportunities.
- ❑ Sections set and spend their dues according to the annual budgets they set.
- ❑ The State Bar does not charge sections for the administrative services they receive.

Committees . . .

- ❑ The State Bar's 13 Committees operate from a general appropriation of \$20,000 annually.
- ❑ Committees use this money for their program and meeting expenses, based on annual budgets they prepare.
- ❑ Committee membership is open to all interested lawyers wishing to join. Membership is open to the public on several committees. Appointments are made during the year by the State Bar President.

Divisions . . .

- ❑ The Young Lawyers Division represents 1,766 members who are under age 36 or in practice for 5 years or less. Of the YLD, 52% are female and 48% are male.
- ❑ The Senior Lawyers Division represents 3,775 members who are age 55+ and have 25 years of practice, both active and inactive. This is 40% percent of the membership.
- ❑ There are 147 members of the Paralegal Division. The Paralegal Division was formally organized in August 1995 to serve the needs of paralegals throughout the state. The Division is self-supporting, but does receive State Bar administrative support.

Just a Glimpse...

- *This is just a glimpse of your State Bar.*
- *We invite you to visit the web site at www.nmbar.org.*
- *Better yet, drop in to your Bar Center any time for a personal tour.*