



Celebrate New Mexico Paralegal Day on August 26

New Mexico Paralegal Day is coming up on August 26th!

Whether you are organizing a workplace celebration, gathering with your local affiliate, or simply treating a colleague to coffee, we encourage you to recognize the vital contributions of Paralegals and help spread the word about the State Bar New Mexico Paralegal Division. Visit our webpage on the State Bar Website to learn more about the division. You can find information on membership, member resources, CLE resources, job bank, and more! The webpage is here: <https://www.sbnm.org/Leadership/Divisions/Paralegal>

Welcome New Members

Laurelle A. Faurot

505 Legal

Farmington, NM

Admitted: May 1, 2026

Amanda Pacheco

Riley Keller Gonzales PA

Albuquerque, NM

Admitted: April 24, 2026

Mireya Herrera

Jackson Loman Downey & Stevens-Block PC

Albuquerque, NM

Admitted: Jan. 20, 2026

Kelsey Walker

North Star Legal Group LLC

Albuquerque, NM

Admitted: Feb. 19, 2026

Banni Hughes

Leonard Law Office, LLC

Tesuque, New Mexico

Admitted: May 19, 2026

Farrah D. Diaz

New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department Financial Institutions Division

Santa Fe, NM

Admitted: June 4, 2026

Inside this issue:

Celebrate New Mexico Paralegal Day 1

Calendar of Events 2

Personal Development and Growth 3-4

Pro Bono Events 5

Committee Spotlight 6

Events 7-12

Calendar of Events for 2026

EVENT	DATE & LOCATION
12:00 Lunch & Learn Tribal Law – Reed Bienvenu	Wednesday, July 8, 2026 Via Zoom
11:00 am Board Meeting 12:30 pm Lunch (provided by the Division)	Saturday, July 11, 2026 State Bar of New Mexico
National Paralegal Day	August 6, 2026
State Bar Annual Meeting	August 13, 2026 – August 15, 2026
New Mexico Paralegal Day	August 26, 2026
Paralegal Day Lunch 12:00pm. – 3:00pm	Saturday, August 29, 2026 Fusion - 708 1 st St. NW, Albuquerque
12:00 pm Lunch & Learn RIO Reentry for Criminal Reintegration Angelica Hall	Wednesday, September 9, 2026 Via Zoom
10:00am - 11:30am Board Meeting 11:30am - 1:30pm Planning Session (and lunch provided by the division) 1:30pm - 1:45pm Wrap up Board Meeting	Saturday, September 12, 2026 State Bar of New Mexico
12:00pm Lunch & Learn National Disaster Litigation – Antonia Roybal-Mack	Wednesday, October 14, 2026 Via Zoom
Paralegal Institute End of Life Planning	Saturday November 14, 2026 State Bar of New Mexico/Zoom
10:00am Ethics CLE 11:00am Annual Meeting 12:00pm Lunch (Provided by the Division) 1:00pm Board Meeting	Saturday, January 9, 2027 State Bar of New Mexico

Personal Development and Growth

What This Paralegal Has Learned After Working with Attorneys for 40 Years

May 20, 2022

Laurie Fields

<https://paralegal-bootcamp.com/paralegal-lessons-learned/>

To summarize a list of lessons learned in 43 years of paralegal practice is rather like opening Pandora's box. Hard to say what may pop up! I've had a great career, weathered some storms, at times feeling undervalued and underutilized, and at others wondering if I could tackle the latest project I've been handed. Certainly, every time I think I have heard everything, something new comes along. At least it hasn't been boring. I've mentioned in previous articles that 43 years ago, the profession of "paralegals" and "legal assistants" didn't really exist. Legal secretaries absorbed some of what is now considered paralegal responsibilities. As the para profession morphed, so did the level of responsibilities and ethics.

The Most Important Lesson

I'll start with what I view as most important, both in life and in legal. These are more general philosophies that will serve you well no matter the situation.

Remember The Golden Rule. Treat others as you would wish to be treated. The legal world is adversarial in most circumstances but remains cordial and unruffled. Jim Rohn always said that there really are only 6-7 jerks in the world – unfortunately, they just move around a lot.

From the book "The Four Agreements" by Don Miguel Ruiz. PLEASE read if you haven't!

Four attitudes to have as a paralegal

1. Be impeccable with your word. Be integrous, clear, avoid gossip, and use your words for truth and love. If you say you will do something, do it.
2. Don't take anything personally. Mr. Ruiz says that "nothing others do is because of you, what others say and do is a projection of their own reality" and most importantly, "when you are immune to the opinions and actions of others, you won't be the victim of needless suffering."
3. Don't make assumptions. Over the years, clarity has become my priority in every conversation.
4. Always do your best. We all have "off" days but find a way to rise above.

And now a few of my own nuggets I've gathered along the way.

Having integrity as a paralegal

Tactfully dissuade abusive behavior. Having said the above, you do NOT have to accept abusive behavior – from anyone. Respectfully let the individual know that if they wish to continue the conversation, you will do so when they have calmed down. I tactfully provide a warning, and then I remove myself from the situation (phone or in-person).

When it comes to abusive clients, I work that out on a case-by-case basis. Sometimes clients who are yelling or angry are not angry with you personally (remember, don't take anything personally). Frustration, pain, and life challenges can cause a client to boil over, and they just need to vent. I let them. I occasionally interject with an "I understand" or "I'm sorry this has been so difficult."

If they become a repeat abuser, I take the situation to the lawyer (because of course, you know this is a true principle, they do NOT behave that way with the attorney). I ask the lawyer to address it with the client and sometimes they will simply decide that they will handle that client directly. From that point forward I instruct

staff to always move the call off to the lawyer. Dealing with emotional clients can be difficult, here are 9 strategies for paralegals.

Humility is a key attribute in a paralegal

Get, or be, a mentor. If you are new, find a mentor(s). If you aren't, be a mentor. I was blessed early in my career to have worked with some attorneys who loved to teach and share their knowledge. It was invaluable. If you are new, be coachable and teachable. If you have some years under your belt, make sure you're utilizing the best mentoring tools to mentor new paralegals and legal assistants.

Value your legal team. Edify them and show your appreciation. Each person provides a valuable role.

Paralegal Lessons Learned from Years of Case Management

Manage your cases. Paralegal work is all about case management and how you keep the plates spinning. I've learned to inspect what I expect. That goes for the lawyers and legal assistants. Follow up with your legal assistant or the attorney to double-check that the item has been accomplished and check it off your list. My list is below.

DOCKET, DOCKET, DOCKET. Always and forever. It should run your practice.

Get tips on working for multiple attorneys in different practice areas.

Things to do to be proactive as a Paralegal

Clarity first. Understand and devise the means for any event.

Timeliness. Calendar the event on your calendar, and the attorney's calendar.

Cliff notes. When making a calendar item, whether it is a hearing, phone call, client meeting, or even a deposition, I use the appointment notes in Outlook so that when the attorney pulls up the meeting or call, he has a quick set of notes for easy reference.

Assign task. I use this function in Outlook for my assistant so that I can keep track of completed items.

Reminder on what to do as a paralegal

Last call. A quick reminder to the attorney about the call/event/meeting and if there's anything else needed before it begins.

Build-in preparation time. I build in time to prep with an attorney prior to a client meeting, deposition, hearing, and obviously in trial preparation. Hold yourself and the attorney to the timeframes whenever possible. I have my own preparation time before the meeting with the lawyer based on previous questions and, of course, clarity.

Questions – I ask them. I have long since stopped worrying about whether someone will think it's stupid. It doesn't matter. If it's something I need to know or understand, then it is important enough for an answer.

Case Reviews – do them. If an attorney is too busy to get them on the calendar weekly or monthly, do your own. I review my cases weekly and have a running list of status and what or who we are waiting on for a response. This also provides a backup as a reference in my absence. Case management systems help fill that gap but make sure they are updated.

Pro Bono events

The Paralegal Division provides opportunities for you, our members, to volunteer at various pro bono events sponsored by the State Bar and other programs throughout the state. Sponsors of these events rely on our members to provide paralegal services to attorney volunteers. Volunteering is a great way to give back to the community and earn CLE credits at the same time. Volunteers can earn up to 5 hours of CLE credit per year by volunteering with Pro Bono Committee Events. The Pro Bono Committee will email volunteer opportunities to Division members.

Upcoming events:

To be announced...

Committee Spotlight– Christina Babcock, MPS

Christina Babcock Featured in CNMs Impact Report

Please join us in sending a huge CONGRATULATIONS to CNM Director of Paralegal Studies and Paralegal Division Director Christina Babcock for recently being featured and recognized by CNM in the 2026 Impact Report. Christina is 1 of 8 CNM employees to be featured. She was selected from approximately 2,000 CNM employees. Christina works relentlessly for our division and her recognition is well deserved. Thank you, Christina, for your work and dedication to the profession and our division. Congratulations on this amazing achievement!



Christina Babcock, MPS

CHRISTINA HAS WORKED AT CNM FOR OVER 17 YEARS AND IS CURRENTLY THE DIRECTOR OF PARALEGAL STUDIES.

"I am passionate about improving achievement for every student. Through engaging instruction and individualized support, I help empower students to reach their full potential. My goal is for every graduate to leave CNM feeling confident, workforce-ready, and exceptional."

Link: [CNM Impact Report](#)

Events



The 2026 NALA Conference and Expo took place July 16-18, 2026 in Denver, CO. New Mexico had 7 registered attendees. The conference offered full conference attendees CLE Credit: 3 Legal Ethics, 33 Substantive, 2.5 Non-Substantive; 2.5 Non-Substantive or Technology. The recordings will be available this fall.

The sessions included:

- Cybersecurity, Privacy, and Ethical Practices for Paralegals
- Accountable Care Organizations: Legal and Operational Insights
- CP® Review - Civil Litigation
- Navigating Compliance Challenges in High-Risk Markets
- Navigating Maritime Law in the Cruise Industry
- The Paralegal's Role in Domestic Violence Advocacy
- CP® Review - Legal Ethics
- Decoding Health Care Contracts: Tips for Paralegals
- I Spy: The Legal Ethics Edition
- Tips From an Expert Witness on Reviewing Electronic Medical Records
- Understanding Health Care Law and Regulatory Frameworks
- CP® Review – Critical Thinking (Skills)
- Criminal Profiling in Premises Liability Cases
- Geopolitics, Sanctions, and Tariffs: Lessons for 2026 Compliance
- Legal Reform in Action: ALPs and Justice Workers
- Protecting Speech: Anti-SLAPP and Early Case Dismissals
- CP® Review – Torts
- Evaluating Sexual Assault Allegations: Evidence, Behavior, and Legal Strategy
- OneNote: Boost Productivity with Smart Note-Taking
- Reimagining Access to Justice: A Regulatory Reform Design Lab

- The Sovereign Citizen Movement: An Introduction for Legal Professionals
- CP® Review – Contracts
- Domestic Violence Intervention and Prevention Strategies
- Spotting Risk: Paralegals and Health Care Fraud Laws
- Unlocking Veterans' Benefits: Resources and Eligibility Explained
- Updates on AI Regulations: Legal Risks, Data Privacy, and Compliance
- CP® Review – Estate Planning and Probate
- Examining the Medical Standard of Care, Breaches, and Patient Harm
- From Incident to Investigation: Supporting Health Care Compliance
- Supporting Survivors: Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Trafficking
- Protecting Speech: Anti-SLAPP and Early Case Dismissals
- CP® Review – Real Estate and Property
- Evaluating Sexual Assault Allegations: Evidence, Behavior, and Legal Strategy
- OneNote: The Legal Command Center for Case Management and Trial
- CP® Review – US Legal System
- A Free Speech Dilemma: AI Chatbots, Privacy, and Legal Accountability
- Accountable Care Organizations: Legal and Operational Insights
- Tips for Effective Collaboration with Expert Witnesses in Medical Negligence

Attendees also attended fun meet ups, such as:

An evening at Coors Field as the Colorado Rockies played the Cincinnati Reds in downtown Denver.

New Mexico Paralegals Meetup. Created by SBNM Board Member Angela Kuban.

A Sip & Shop

Roundtable/Information Sessions

The New Mexico Attendees were:

Angela Kuban, Paralegal/Legal Office Administrator, Sandoval County

Amanda Trujillo, IPRA Paralegal, Sandoval County

Angela Minefee, Paralegal, Sutin, Thayer & Brown

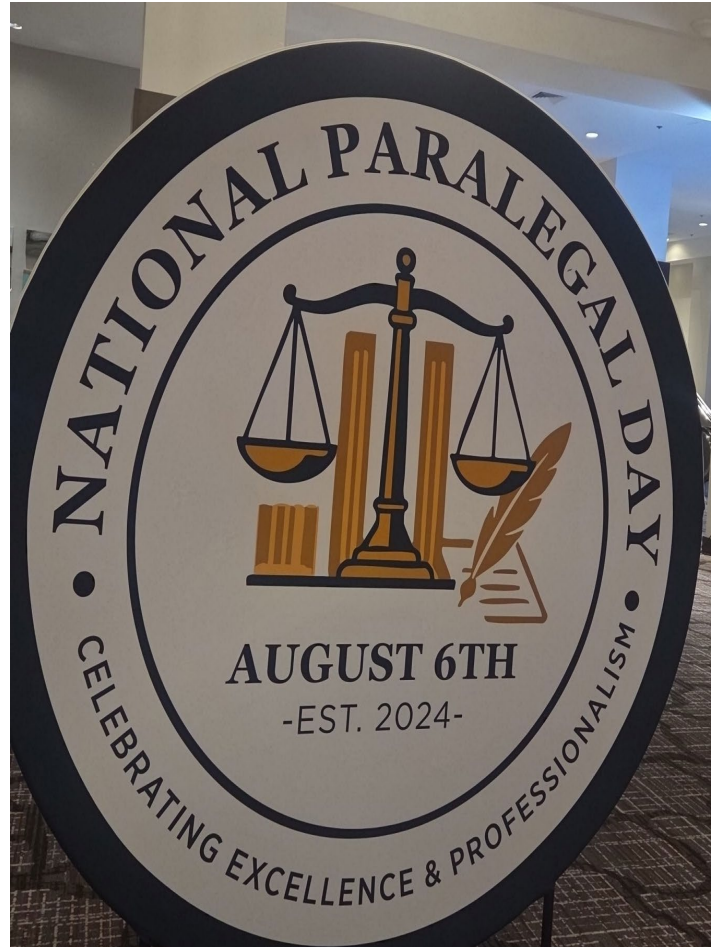
Barbara Lucero, CP, Intrepid Potash

Christopher Rollins, ACP, Senior Paralegal, Incorporated County of Los Alamos

Robertson Tirado, Paralegal, Santa Fe Community College

Julieta Fackelman, Paralegal, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck

And now for some fun pictures from the Event!



Angela Kuban with Coworker Amanda Trujillo, IPRA Paralegal



Dawn Haralson, Paralegal from AR

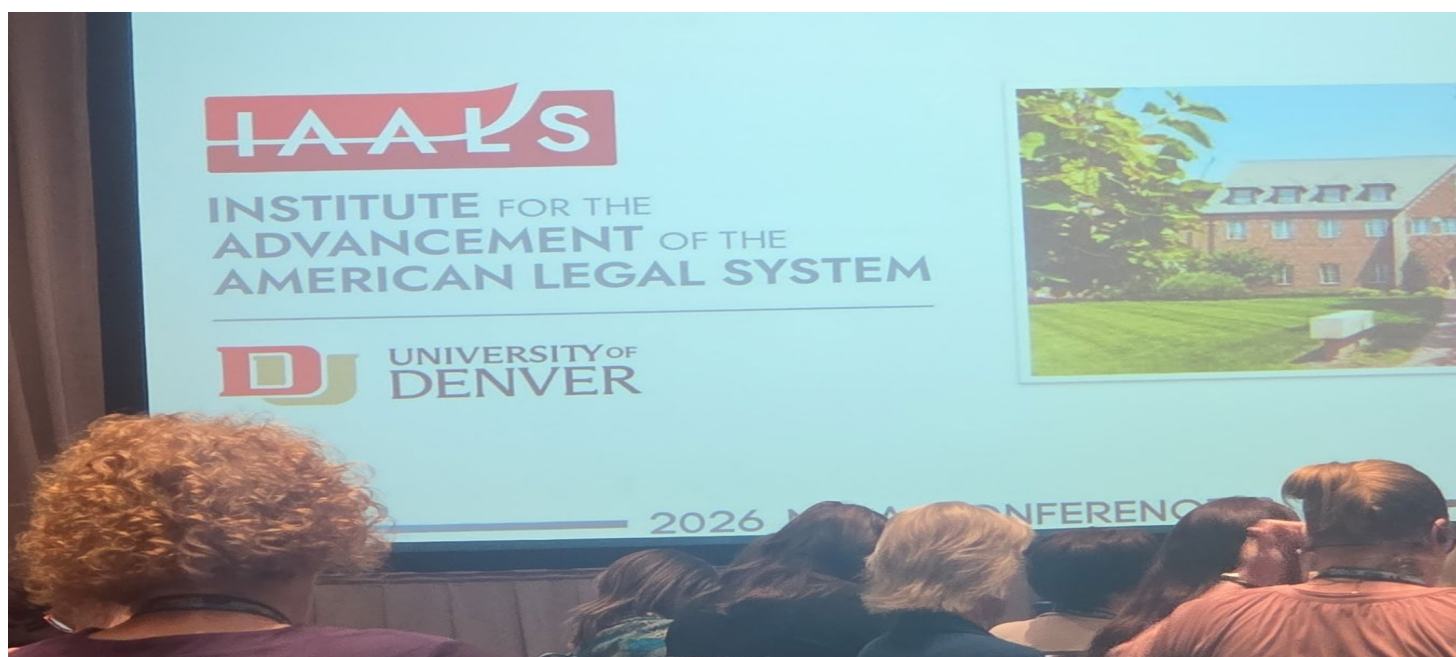
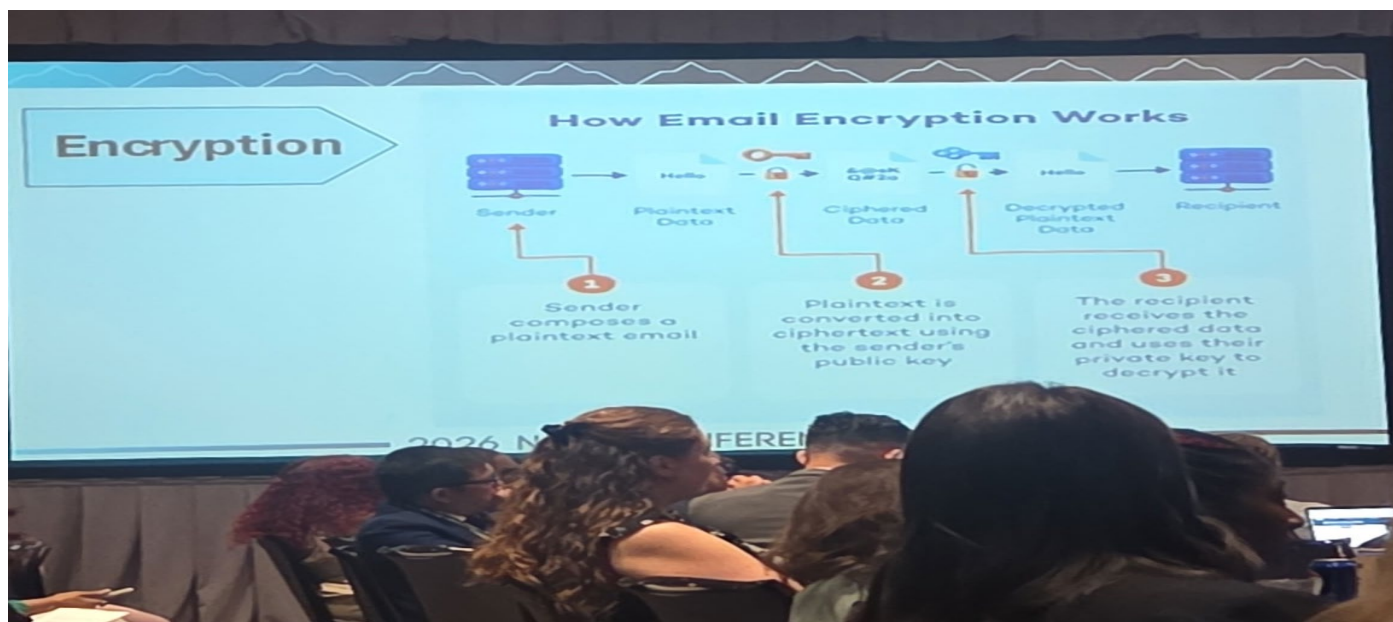


2026 NALA Conference & Expo

Powered by Whova

Conquered the
event's passport
contest!







New Mexico Paralegals attending a NM Paralegals Meet up dinner

Pictured Left to Right: Barbie Harmon (from UT, but joined us for dinner), Angela Minefee, Barbara Lucero, and Angela Kuban

(not pictured, Vivien Montoya (Angela Kuban's daughter))