



## State Bar of New Mexico Young Lawyers

### YLD BOARD

Jessica Perez, Chair

Damon Hudson, Chair-Elect

Randy Taylor, Vice Chair

Director-At-Large, Position 1, **Damon Hudson**

Director-At-Large, Position 2, **Lauren Riley**

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

Director-At-Large, Position 4, **Lindsay Cutler**

Director-At-Large, Position 5, **Randy Taylor**

Region 1 Director, **Alexander Weber**

Region 2 Director, **Breanna P. Contreras**

Region 3 Director, Vacant

Region 4 Director, Vacant

Region 5 Director, **Jessica Perez**

Past Chair, **Shasta Inman**

### YLD LIAISONS

Cannabis Law: **Savannah Hoover**

Employment & Labor Law: **Laura Unklesbay**

Family Law: **Janine Callier**

Intellectual Property: **Liz Natal**

NREEL: **Paula Vance**

Prosecutors: **Stephen Trimmer**

RPTE: **Sarah McLain**

### 2022 PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS

**Ask-A-Lawyer Call-In**

Damon Hudson

**Constitution Day**

Vacant

**Wellness/#Fit2Practice**

Lindsay Cutler

**Judicial Clerkship Program**

Shasta Inman, Jessica Perez

**Lunch with Judges**

Breanna Contreras, Alexander Weber

**Networking Events**

Lauren Riley

**SBNM is Hear Podcasts**

Lauren Riley, Jessica Perez

**Membership Outreach**

Lauren Riley

**Student Loan Debt**

Lindsay Cutler

**Summer Law Camp**

Devon Aragon Martinez

**UNMSOL Mentorship & Programs**

Laura Unklesbay

**Legal Clinics**

Lindsay Cutler

**Wills for Heroes**

Damon Hudson, Laura Unklesbay

**Service Project in Outlying Areas**

Shasta Inman

**FEMA/Emergency Services**

Lauren Riley

# YLD *in brief*

SPRING  
2022

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



## Message from the YLD Chair

**Hello Young Lawyer Division members,**

With the pandemic going on for a couple of years now, I'm sure everyone has heard about "these unprecedented times." Slowly, but surely, there appears a light at the end of the tunnel. So, as we all band together to endure these trying times, please remember that the YLD Board is here to help. Programming seems to be returning to in-person events and the YLD Board is committed to hosting public service projects for the broader New Mexico community as well as providing support and programming to our members.

Here's what you can expect over this year:

**#Fit2Practice** - COVID has limited so many activities these past couple of years, but the YLD is still committed to getting attorneys up on their feet and moving. Recently, we recorded our fun "chair yoga" sessions so that those can be hosted more frequently, helping attendees with relaxation and flexibility. If you're like me and enjoy participating in 5k events, the YLD looks forward to the return of our participating in the Chips and Salsa 5k as well as the Turkey Trot. Whether you like to run alone, or with a socially distanced group, these outdoor events are a great way to get out and get some fresh air.

**Wills for Heroes** - Despite having to restrict the numbers of volunteer attorneys and first responder served, the YLD has still been able to host our Wills for Heroes events. This year will be no different. While our events look a little different with participants spaced out through various conference rooms and utilizing personal protective equipment, we hope to still provide the first responder community with this valuable and necessary event. Our Wills for Heroes program chairs, Damon Hudson and Laura Unklesbay, have plenty of events scheduled and we are thrilled to be moving forward with this programming.

**Summer Fellowship Program** - For those that don't know, every year the YLD awards a summer fellowship to a student interning at a non-profit. This is a program that, personally, I am quite fond of as, once upon a time, I was one of the students that the YLD elected to award the fellowship to. As a Division dedicated to public service, the YLD feels strongly about keeping this program alive and looks forward to receiving applications from law students doing their part to advance public service work in the state.

**UNMSOL Mentorship & Programs** - On January 22, the team was able to have the first in-person Mock Interview program since COVID began. The Committee was thrilled by how many volunteer attorneys showed up for this event, giving their Saturday mornings to help current law students prepare for interviews and sharpen their interviewing skills. There will be more opportunities for volunteers to get involved with the UNMSOL Mentor programming, including this fall when we call for volunteers for our law student mentorship program.

As always, the YLD wants to welcome participation in our programming and thank everyone who has participated over the years. For more information about the YLD and our initiatives, please visit the YLD page on the State Bar website at [sbnm.org/Leadership/Divisions/Young-Lawyers](http://sbnm.org/Leadership/Divisions/Young-Lawyers).

Please feel free to reach out at any time with comments, concerns, or questions at [Jperez2@da.state.nm.us](mailto:Jperez2@da.state.nm.us).

Best,  
Jessica A. Perez  
YLD Chair

## Meet the Board



**Jessica Perez**

Chair

**Jessica Perez** serves as the Region 5 director and this year's Chair on the New Mexico Young Lawyer's Division. She is a graduate of UNM School of Law and currently works as an assistant district attorney in the 13th Judicial District within the Sandoval County office. There she prosecutes a variety of felony cases, manages the review of expungement, handles extradition cases, as well as handles juvenile delinquency cases involving sex crimes. She is the program chair for the mentorship program with UNM School of Law as well as the Summer Fellowship committee. In her spare time, she enjoys playing video games and scrolling through Pinterest for crochet project ideas.



**Damon Hudson**

Director-at-Large, Position 1

**Damon Hudson** recently joined the YLD Board of Directors as a Director-at-Large. He is an associate attorney at The Jones Firm in Santa Fe, NM, practicing primarily in medical malpractice, employment law, labor law, and estate planning. Damon obtained his BBA and MPA from the University of New Mexico, and his law degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He co-chairs the Wills for Heroes program and the Ask-A-Lawyer Call in Day Program. In his free time, he enjoys woodworking, gardening, reading, hiking, and eating copious amounts of green chile.



**Lauren Riley**

Director-at-Large, Position 2

**Lauren Riley** practices family law at Batley Family Law, P.A. in Albuquerque, NM. She practices in all aspects of family law including divorce, custody, child support, kinship-guardianship and divorce modification. Additionally, Lauren drafts and negotiates Prenuptial and Postnuptial Agreements.

Lauren serves as the American Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division District Representative for New Mexico and Arizona. She was appointed to the Director-At-Large, Position 2 in January 2022, and sits on the NMYLD board. Lauren is co-chair of the UNMSOL & Mentorship Programming Committee and is chair of the Mentorship Outreach Committee. Lauren is also chair of the Wesley Kids Early Education Center Board.



**Laura Unklesbay**

Director-at-Large, Position 3

**Laura Unklesbay** serves as the Director-at-Large, Position 3. She is a litigation associate at Modrall, Sperling, Roehl, Harris & Sisk, P.A. with a focus in tort claims and employment and labor law. Unklesbay obtained both her undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Arizona, moving to Albuquerque in fall 2018. She co-chairs the Wills for Heroes program and is the YLD liaison for the Employment and Labor Law Board.

## Meet the Board



**Lindsay Cutler**

Director-At-Large, Position 4

**Lindsay Cutler** works for the New Mexico Center on Law & Poverty as an attorney on the Economic Equity team, where she started as a Fellow focused on payday lending reform in 2017. Lindsay practices consumer and housing law and engages in multifaceted legal work, including litigation, administrative advocacy, and policy reform. Lindsay has been a Board Member of the New Mexico State Bar's Young Lawyers Division since 2019, coordinating the Veterans Civil Justice Clinic and the Fit2Practice subcommittee. Lindsay earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Mary Washington and her juris doctorate from the UCLA School of Law.



**Randy Taylor**

Director-at-Large, Position 5

**Randy Taylor** is an Associate in Rodey Law Firm's Albuquerque office. He is a member of the Litigation Department, working primarily with the Products and General Liability Practice Group. Randy's practice includes medical and professional negligence, commercial litigation, and insurance coverage disputes.

Randy graduated in 2016 from UNM School of Law, where he served as the Managing Editor of the New Mexico Law Review and competed on the ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition moot court team. That team achieved a regional Best Brief Award, and Randy individually won the 2015 Raymond W. Schowers Prize for excellence in constitutional law writing. Following law school, Randy clerked for two years for a United States Magistrate Judge for the District of New Mexico.

Outside of work, Randy enjoys card and board games, trying new breweries and restaurants, and New Mexico's long motorcycle riding season.



**Breanna Contreras**

Region 2 Director

**Breanna Contreras** is the Vice President of Legal at Meow Wolf, Inc. where she works to bring the company's goals to fruition through thoughtful legal advice and implementation. Prior to joining Meow Wolf, Inc. as VP of Legal, Breanna was a partner at Bardacke Allison LLP in Santa Fe, New Mexico where she represented a variety of clients in intellectual property, entertainment, employment, and commercial litigation. In the IP and entertainment arenas, she represented a variety of clients in the United States and overseas in brand strategy, IP enforcement, copyright and trademark registration and maintenance, and licensing in the technology, literary, arts, music, film, and fashion industries. Breanna also regularly handled complex commercial and employment disputes on behalf of both plaintiffs and defendants.

Breanna was named a Rising Star by Super Lawyers four years in a row-2018-2021, an accolade reserved to only the top 2.5% of attorneys in the Southwest. She is a proud graduate of UNM Anderson School of Management '10, and Notre Dame Law School '13, where she was privileged to learn from now-Justice Amy Coney Barrett. Breanna is actively involved in her community, and serves on a number of boards, including for the Catholic Foundation of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, 2021 Chair of the Trial Practice Section of the State Bar of New Mexico, and Regional Director of the State's Young Lawyers Division. She previously taught Legal and Business Issues in the Arts as an adjunct faculty member of the Santa Fe Community College, and served on the Board of the Intellectual Property Law Section of the State Bar of New Mexico.

During law school, Breanna served as the Solicitation Editor of the Notre Dame Journal of Law, Ethics & Public Policy, and as the Vice President of the Hispanic Law Students Association. Before law school, Breanna worked as a bilingual legal assistant at Catholic Charities of Central New Mexico, where she served immigrant survivors of domestic violence in pursuit of non-immigrant legal status.

## Meet the Board



**Alexander Weber**

Region 1 Director

**Alexander Weber** attended Colorado College for undergrad, where he majored in Environmental Policy and was a member of the varsity soccer team. He then graduated from the Golden Gate School of Law where was awarded a Faculty Merit Scholarship and participated in the Honor Lawyering Program. Alexander then relocated to San Juan County, New Mexico where he served as an Assistant District Attorney for nearly 2 years. Currently, Alexander is the Associate at Patscheck Law PC. His practice areas include criminal defense, general civil, and children's law.



**Shasta N. Inman**

Past Chair

**Shasta N. Inman** (she/her) is the Immediate Past Chair of the State Bar of New Mexico Young Lawyers Division. She previously served as a board member and officer to the SBNM Children's Law Section, and a YLD liaison to the Elder Law Section. Shasta was also a liaison to the Children's Court Rules Committee last year, during her YLD-Chair year on the Board of Bar Commissioners.

Nationally, Shasta is the 2021-2022 American Bar Association YLD Assembly Clerk, and the 2021-2023 New Mexico young lawyer delegate to the ABA House of Delegates. She is also a young lawyer liaison to the ABA Commission on Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity, and is a 2021-2022 commissioner with the ABA Commission on Racial & Ethnic Diversity in the Profession.

For her "day job," Shasta is a solo attorney in Albuquerque, working primarily in child welfare, contested custody, kinship guardianships, and adult guardianships in counties throughout Central New Mexico. She earned her law degree and a Master of Arts in Gender & Women's Studies from the University of Arizona, James E. Rogers College of Law, after graduating from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (Go Big Red!) with a dual-degree Bachelor of Arts in English and Women's & Gender Studies.



We  
have a  
podcast!

# SBNM is Hear

Listen at [www.sbnm.org](http://www.sbnm.org)



Spotify®



YouTube



State Bar of  
New Mexico

Est. 1886