



State Bar of New Mexico  
Young Lawyers  
Division

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**2021 PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS**

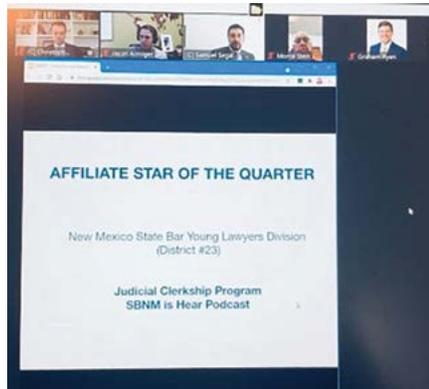
**Ask-A-Lawyer Call-In**  
Mariah Mumm, Damon Hudson  
**Constitution Day**  
Mariah Mumm  
**Wellness/#Fit2Practice**  
Lindsay Cutler  
**Judicial Clerkship Program**  
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**Diversity Collaboration**  
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**ABA YLD Regional Conference**  
Shasta Inman, Lauren Riley

# YLD *in brief*

WINTER  
2021

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

## 2021 Affiliate Start of the Quarter



The New Mexico Young Lawyers Division brought home not one, but two awards from the ABA this year! NM YLD was recognized as a 2021 Affiliate Star of the Quarter in recognition of our EMBRACING Diversity Award-winning Judicial Clerkship Program and involvement in the Legal Well-Being in Action Podcasts series on “What I Wish I Knew”, run by the great team at the State Bar of New Mexico!

– *Lauren Riley*



SBNM is Hear

## Way to Represent!



The current chair of the New Mexico Young Lawyers Division, **Shasta Inman**, has been elected the ABA Young Lawyers Division 2021-2022 Clerk! At this year’s ABA Annual Conference, Shasta also received a Start of the Year Award for her tremendous contributions to the ABA YLD this past year! Please join us in congratulating Shasta!

– *Lauren Riley*

# Program Updates

## 2021 Western States Regional Summit of ABA YLD Affiliates



The 2021 Western States Regional Summit of ABA YLD Affiliates was a great success! The conference was a long time coming. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, area affiliate leaders were forced to cancel the 6th Annual Summit (planned for Lake Tahoe, Nevada). This Santa Fe hosting was also delayed: rescheduled from an initial April 2021 setting to November 2021.

We had 65 attendees from eight (8) different states attend! The summit included CLE credits, including hot topics in the legal realm (cannabis law, #FreeBritney, and entertainment streaming issues), ethics & professionalism sessions, and an entire afternoon of interactive diversity, equity, and inclusion programming. We were also honored to feature a judicial “What I Wish I Knew” panel of judges and justices from Colorado and New Mexico.

Sprinkled around our CLE sessions, attendees participated in a New Mexico Supreme Court tour, wellness walk around the Plaza, dine-arounds with new friends & colleagues, an outing to MeowWolf, and a photo scavenger hunt!

A huge thank you goes out to all of our business and co-affiliate sponsors! This event would not have been nearly successful without you all!

Probably the biggest thanks goes to Lauren Riley, a director for the SBNM YLD and our ABA YLD District Representative, who has been an absolute rockstar and my literal rock throughout this whole process.

Thank you to all who attended as well! It was a wonderful to see colleagues in person again!

-Shasta Inman

## Ask-a-Lawyer Call-in Program



### Law Day Call In

On May 1, 2021, the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar held “Ask-a-Lawyer” Law Day Call- In. Attorneys from all over New Mexico volunteered in person and over the phone to provide free legal advice. Approximately 80 people called in with legal issues including family

law, land-lord tenant, employment, and various others. The Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar would like to thank all of our volunteers, we cannot do these programs without them.

-Mariah McKay



### Wills for Heroes

The YLD The YLD organized four Wills for Heroes events across the state. In April and June, although still at a high peak of the pandemic, we worked with the Bernalillo County Fire Department to provide much needed legal documents to its officers and their spouses. YLD and paralegal volunteers advised clients and prepared 40 wills and powers of attorneys. In July, YLD program chairs traversed to Farmington with computers and printers in tow. YLD and paralegal volunteers prepared another 24 wills and powers of attorney. The final event was in November in Santa Fe. Held in conjunction with the YLD Regional Summit, 20 wills and powers of attorneys were provided for the Santa Fe Fire Department and Santa Fe Police Department.

For volunteers participating at a Wills for Heroes event is a rewarding pro bono experience. First responders are always very appreciative of volunteers spending their Saturday morning helping them to put their estate and legal affairs in order in the event that tragedy hits. If you are interested in participating, volunteering requires only a Saturday morning and program coordinators are onsite to guide and

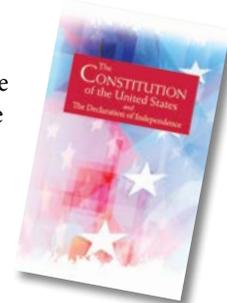
support volunteers. The YLD provides computers with software pre-loaded to prepare the documents and breakfast. We hope to see you next year!

- **Damon Hudson**

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## Constitution Day

During the week of September 13- September 17, 2021, attorneys paired with 5th grade classrooms around the State of New Mexico to bring the spirit of the United State's Constitution to life. Constitution day presentations were held virtually and in person. Students, teachers, and volunteer attorneys were enthusiastic to discuss and learn. We cannot thank our volunteers and participating schools enough. Without them, this program would be impossible. Thank you.



- **Mariah McKay**



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## Fit2Practice

In November 2020, YLD partnered with the Well-Being Committee to host a Virtual Turkey Trot Lawyers across our state participated and two lucky lawyers won a pair of Airpod Pros. Check your inbox this November for more details about how to participate in this year's virtual 5K and how to enter this year's raffle!

We were excited to resume our annual Chips and Salsa 5K this year! On September 11, YLD members came out to Albuquerque's North Valley to run the Chips and Salsa 5K and 10K, sponsored by the YLD. Look out for this great event again this year!

If you have an idea for a Fit2Practice event, please let the YLD know!

- **Lindsay Cutler**



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## EMBRACING Diversity Challenge

The State Bar of New Mexico's Young Lawyers Division's Judicial Clerkship Program was awarded first place in this year's American Bar Association's ENBRACING Diversity Challenge! The purpose of the Judicial Clerkship Program is to provide opportunities to students who are members of traditionally underrepresented groups in the legal profession, particularly within the judiciary. We were honored to receive this generous award which will help support growth of the program and support the participants throughout the clerkship!

- **Lauren Riley**

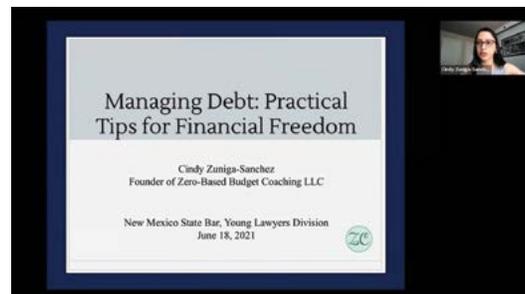
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## Student Loans

The YLD also hosted Cindy Zuniga-Sanchez, the founder of Zero-Based Budget and a nationally-renowned expert on managing student loan debt for lawyers. Ms. Zuniga-Sanchez led a brown bag virtual presentation on managing and paying off your student loans. If you missed her presentations, but find yourself wondering about strategies for your own student loan debt, the recorded presentation is available on the State Bar website, <https://www.sbnm.org/Leadership/Divisions/Young-Lawyers/Initiatives/Student-Loan-Debt>

You can learn more about our speaker on Instagram @zerobasedbudget or on her website [zero-basedbudget.com](http://zero-basedbudget.com)

- **Lindsay Cutler**



## Mentorship Program update

This year, with events slowly starting to go back to being in-person, the YLD mentorship program was no exception. Our mentorship kickoff BBQ picnic at the law school was able to be conducted in-person, hosted on the UNM School of Law's back patio. This kickoff event saw an outstanding 82 RSVPs to the event and the mentorship program itself managed to succeed in another record-breaking year of 68 students and 62 mentors signing up.

As part of our mentorship kickoff event, mentorship participants received their YLD Work Hard – Study Hard – Play Hard swag bags to support that home-office lifestyle we've gotten so used to seeing in these times. As always, we are beyond grateful for everyone who signs up to be a mentor and the YLD would like to thank every one of our participants. If you're interested in becoming a volunteer mentor to a UNM School of Law student, or if you're interested in volunteering for our mock interview or resume review programs, please feel free to reach out!

– Jessica Perez

## Veteran's Legal Clinic



The YLD continued to partner with the Veterans Justice Outreach Program to take the Veteran's Legal Clinic virtual in 2021! We co-hosted four virtual clinics this year. Through these clinics, veterans are able to meet one-on-one with experienced attorneys for consultations on a variety of legal issues. Thanks to partnerships with New Mexico's many civil legal services providers, volunteer attorneys are often able to refer veterans to additional legal services. Thank you to the dedicated volunteer attorneys who make this clinic possible. We look forward to continuing this program in the future!

– Lindsay Cutler



## SBNM is Hear

### SEASON 1

**1.1 Personal Inventory: COVID – A Forced Life Transition For Some**

**1.2 Part 1 Tools of the Trade with Young Lawyers Division: What I Wish I Knew with Ernestina Cruz**

**1.2 Part 2 Tools of the Trade with Young Lawyers Division: What I Wish I Knew with Ernestina Cruz**

**1.3 Tools of the Trade with Young Lawyers Division: What I Wish I Knew with Tomas Garcia**

**1.4 Hear All About It: COVID-19 and Evictions in New Mexico**

**1.5 Hear All About It: COVID-19 and Unemployment Insurance in New Mexico**

**1.6 Tools of the Trade with the Young Lawyers Division: What I Wish I Knew with Aja Brooks**

**1.7 Let's Talk About Leveraging Culture in a Solo or Small Firm**

**1.8 Let's Talk About Your Client Funnel in a Solo or Small Firm**

**1.9 Grieving, Coping, and Healing Regarding Suicides in Our Legal Community**

**1.10 Hear All About It: Judicial Clerkships with NM Justice David K. Thomson**

**1.11 Hear All About It: History of ADR in New Mexico**

### SEASON 2

**2.1 Hear All About It: 2020 Reflections and 2021 Plans with Chief Justice Vigil**

**2.2 Personal Inventory: Get Out and Move!**

**2.3 Hear All About It: Family Law Court with Judge Jane Levy**

**2.4 Hear All About It: Recreational Cannabis in New Mexico**

**2.5 Hear All About It: Family Law Court with Judge Sylvia LaMar**

**2.6 Let's Talk About Avoiding Professional Heartburn**

**2.7 Meet and Greet Judge Baca-Miller and Judge Fox with the NMCCLA**

**2.8 Meet and Greet Judge Montano and Judge Wernersbach with the NMCCLA**

**2.9 Meet and Greet Cory Muscara, 2021 Annual Meeting Featured Speaker**

**2.10 Let's Talk About the Professional Practice Program**

**2.11 What I Wish I Knew with Carla Martinez**

**2.12 Let's Hear about Cannabis Licensing with Superintendent Trujillo**



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