



State Bar of New Mexico
Young Lawyers
Division

2022 YLD BOARD

Jessica Perez, Chair

Damon Hudson, Chair-Elect

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Director-At-Large, Position 1, Damon Hudson

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Director-At-Large, Position 3, Laura Unklesbay

Director-At-Large, Position 4, Lindsay Cutler

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Region 4 Director, Vacant

Region 5 Director, Jessica Perez

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2022 YLD LIAISONS

Bankruptcy Law – Clair Gardner

Cannabis Law – Savannah Hoover

Employment & Labor Law – Laura Unklesbay

Family Law – Janine Callier

Indian Law – Tierra Marks

Intellectual Property Law – Liz Natal

NREEL – Paula Vance

Prosecutors – Stephen Timmer

Real Property, Trusts & Estates – Sarah McLain

2022 PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS

Ask-A-Lawyer Call in:

Damon Hudson

Constitution Day:

Vacant

#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

Membership Outreach:

Lauren Riley, Laura Unklesbay

UNMSOL Programming:

Lauren Riley, Jessica Perez

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*

WINTER
2022

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



Jessica A. Perez

Message from the 2022 YLD Chair

So, another year comes to an end during a time where months seem to blend and fly by. The pandemic has altered the way many people operate in their day to day lives. The legal community and the Young Lawyer's Division are not an exception. Hearings are virtual, client meetings are over the phone, and some of us are still on some form of a working from home schedule. As we continue easing into 2023, the YLD Board is still committed to serving the community through support and programming for our members.

In 2022, the board focused a lot on what it meant to be practicing as a new attorney in this semi-post pandemic world. We've started having events in person once again and, for many new attorneys and law students alike, attending hearings or events outside of a computer screen is new. In addition, for our State, this year proved to be a rough one.

Many families are still being impacted by illness and death due to COVID-19. This year, our state saw tragedy with the Calf Canyon/Hermits Peak fire. In the face of these tragedies, we are reminded of why our public service programs are so important to us. Through Wills for Heroes, families can prepare for difficult moments, have peace of mind knowing a plan is in place and hopefully relieve a bit of the burden for their loved ones should anything happen. This year, board member Lauren Riley was instrumental in relief for New Mexico families by working with the American Bar Association YLD's Disaster Legal Services Program and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide immediate temporary legal assistance to disaster survivors.

I invite you all to continue following the YLD as we move forward. Volunteer with us when you have the time, join us at events when you're able and follow us on social media. Every year, within our Winter Edition of In Brief, program chairs provide an overview of what they accomplished this year. If you're interested in learning a little more about what we've accomplished this year, please have a look.

Finally, the board would like to thank our members who left at the end of 2022: Lindsay Cutler, Shasta Inman and Breanna Contreras. We enjoyed our time with you and hope to still see you around at events. Best wishes and have a happy holiday season!

— Jessica A. Perez, Chair



Damon Hudson

A Message from the Incoming Chair

Greetings and Happy New Year!

With the Young Lawyer's Division's 2022 year all wrapped up, we first wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate Board Member Lauren Riley on her award for Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year. We are exceptionally proud of the work Lauren did in putting together the Disaster Legal Services hotline and in-person clinic to assist those impacted by the fires in New Mexico this year.

Additionally, the Board wanted to congratulate our outgoing chair, Jessica Perez, on her election to the Board of Bar Commissioners as the Commissioner for the 7th and 13th Judicial Districts. Jess will be a fantastic addition to the BBC and we look forward to seeing the great things she will do!

— Damon Hudson, Chair Elect



Lauren Riley



Program Updates



SCHOOL
OF LAW

UNMSOL Mock Interviews

Every year, as part of the UNM School of Law mentorship program, the YLD hosts mock interviews on the law school campus. This event takes place on a Saturday with interview sessions in the morning as well as the afternoon. At this, the law students can bring with them resumes to be reviewed and they sit with a current young lawyer to practice their interview skills. All of this is done in scheduling alignment with the Arturo Jaramillo Clerkship Program to provide students with the best opportunity to succeed in their program interviews. This year, mock interviews shall take place in January at the law school. Signups for this went out to both students and volunteer attorneys in December.

If you are interested in this program or have any questions, please feel free to reach out to YLD Past Chair Jessica A. Perez at JPerez2@da.state.nm.us.



Mentorship Program

Mentorship to UNMSOL law students continues to be an integral part of the outreach that the Young Lawyers Division provides to the legal community. In early 2022, mentors from the 2021-2022 program assisted students in preparing for their Mock Interviews through YLD by reviewing resumes and assisting with the Mock Interview program, hosted by YLD.

We kicked off the fall 2022 semester with a group of over 70 attorney volunteers and 75 UNMSOL students signing up for the mentorship program. Over 65 mentors and mentees attended our back-to-school meet and greet. With finals and holidays ahead, mentors and mentees gathered for one last hoorah, with over 20 people in attendance! We truly appreciate the attorney volunteers that continue to make this important service possible. Thank you also to the Rodey Law Firm and Batley Family Law who both sponsored events this year, as well as Modrall Sperling who will be sponsoring our future spring event.

— Lauren Riley, 2022 Director at Large, Position 2



FEMA



AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

FEMA/ABA Disaster Legal Program

The Young Lawyers Division in partnership with the State Bar of New Mexico, FEMA and the ABA implemented a Disaster Legal Services Program hotline which provided free legal services to those affected by the Calf Canyon and Hermits Peak fires. Over 50 attorneys volunteered to assist with the calls received via the hotline to provide brief legal services. Additionally, more than 10 attorney volunteers and six UNMSOL Clinic students traveled to Las Vegas, NM to participate in the in-person legal clinic where assistance with FEMA applications, FEMA

appeals, insurance questions and a myriad of additional issues was provided. More than 75 people were provided with free legal services through this program.

— Lauren Riley, 2022 Director at Large, Position 2

State Bar of New Mexico Annual Meeting



Last year, the New Mexico YLD was able to sponsor a couple of #Fit2Practice events at the 2022 State Bar of New Mexico Annual Meeting. Attendees interested in starting their day on the more active side were invited to enjoy an early morning nature trail walk at the Tamaya Resort and get some good stretches in during poolside yoga.

Following a long day of CLEs, attendees were then invited to join the YLD as they hosted a drag show. All State Bar members in attendance were able to watch performer and host Seliah DeLeon delight the crowd with her performances while also interviewing other performers about what drag means to them. With this being the first drag show performance to be hosted at the State Bar Annual Meeting, the YLD Board was delighted to learn that the event turned out to be one of the most, if not the most, well-attended YLD sponsored Annual Meeting events.

— Jessica A. Perez, 2022 Chair



SBNM is Hear Podcast

Be sure to check out episodes 3.4 **Bridge the Gap Program: Overview of Your First Year of Practice** and 3.5 **Bridge the Gap Program: Enhancing Your First Year of Practice** at www.sbnm.org/podcastlibrary, in which our own Lauren E. Riley interviews several Program Directors and General Counsel of the State Bar of New Mexico about the requirements in your first year of practice as well as the fun ways attorneys can get involved in the State Bar. Also, be sure to check out Season 3, Episode 12 of “What I Wish I Knew” where 2023 Chair Damon Hudson interviews Chief Justice Shannon Bacon.

Ask-a-Lawyer Call-in Program



Ask-A-Lawyer Call in Day

In April of last year, 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. We had over 40 volunteer attorneys assisting with the program. Almost 200 people called in with legal issues including family law, landlord tenant, employment and various other areas of the law. The Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar would like to thank all our volunteers, we cannot do these programs without them. We look forward to hosting this event again in 2023.

— Damon J. Hudson, Chair-Elect



Wills For Heroes

The Young Lawyers Division organized four Wills for Heroes events this past year across the state of New Mexico. Last February, we hosted an event in Rio Rancho, drafting and executing wills, powers of attorney and healthcare directives for both the Rio Rancho Police and Bernalillo County Fire Departments. Last May, we organized an event in Las Cruces with the New Mexico State University Police Department. Next, we held an event at the Roswell Fire Department, providing estate planning documents to members of both the Roswell Fire Department and Police Department. The final event was last December in Albuquerque. This event supported members of Albuquerque Fire Rescue and was the biggest Wills for

Heroes we have hosted since 2019. It was overall an incredibly successful year, with YLD providing over 100 wills, powers of attorney and healthcare directives to first responders and their spouses around the state.

We hope to see more attorney volunteers next year and are grateful to everyone who has volunteered with the program so far! We rely on volunteers in each city to make these events successful and are so appreciative of their hard work. We would also like to provide a special shout-out to the Paralegal Division for all their help throughout the year!

— Laura Unklesbay, 2022 Director at Large, Position 3



#Fit2Practice

From yoga to nature walks to the Duke City Pedaler, the YLD hosted a variety of Fit2Practice events in 2022!

In October, the YLD partnered with the Well Being Committee for a family fun run at Albuquerque Great Pumpkin Chase. We were especially excited to have some very promising future lawyers join in for the Kids K event! Special shout out to Maggie and Dominic who both took home first place in their age groups.

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

- Lindsay Cutler, 2022 Director at Large, Position 4



Veterans Clinic

The YLD continued to partner with the Veterans Justice Outreach Program to hold four Veteran's Legal Clinics in 2022. The first two clinics of the year were virtual, and we returned to holding the Veteran's Legal Clinic in person at the Veterans Memorial Park.

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 and paralegals are often able to refer veterans to additional legal services. The YLD is grateful to the dedicated volunteer attorneys, paralegals and UNM Veteran Law Society, all of whom made this year's Clinic possible.

After two years of holding the Clinic virtually, it was great to see familiar faces return to Veterans Memorial Park. Please look out for future Veterans Clinics and consider volunteering in 2023!

— Lindsay Cutler, 2022 Director at Large, Position 4