

Testimonials from Clerkship Program Alumni:



Frank Davis

*Associate Attorney,
Freedman, Boyd,
Hollander, Goldberg,
Urias & Ward, P.A.*

Participating in the State Bar Summer Clerkship Program was one of the most rewarding experiences that I had during law school. When I arrived at UNM-School of Law, I did not know any lawyers and

my knowledge of what lawyers did on a day-to-day basis was limited to what I saw on television. Even after my first year of law school, I still lacked a real sense of what I should expect from my chosen career. Fortunately, I was offered one of the State Bar's 2010 clerkship positions. I was placed at one of the most prestigious and well respected law firms in the State.

During my summer at the Rodey Law Firm, I forged relationships with some of the best attorneys in their respective practice areas, received extensive feedback on assignments, and had meaningful opportunities to contribute to important cases. Perhaps more importantly, my legal writing and other litigation skills improved that summer. The experience I garnered from participation in the State Bar Summer Clerkship Program made me a better student and was influential in future employment opportunities. I strongly urge firms in our closely knit legal community to make a difference in the lives of aspiring lawyers by participating in this program.



Lisa Ortega

*Partner, Rodey, Dickason,
Sloan, Akin & Robb, P.A.*

One of the most critical times for me in law school was the opportunity, twenty years ago, to apply for the State Bar Summer Law Clerk Program. At that time, I knew only a couple of practicing attorneys and did not have any legal experience. In fact,

I had never even applied for a legal job. The Law Clerk Program was perfect for someone like me. I had done well in my first year of law school but was clueless about job opportunities and where and how to start looking for a job. Being selected for one of the clerkship positions opened many doors for me.

I received a position at one of the participating law firms, Atkinson & Kelsey, where I had the opportunity to work with family law specialists, attend hearings, perform legal research and obtain a glimpse into the law practice. It was invaluable to gain this experience after only one year of law school. One of the attorneys at Atkinson & Kelsey, the late Sandy Siegel, was particularly instrumental to my professional development that summer and for years after. In addition to the work experience that I gained that summer, I was given the chance to network with attorneys from a variety of practice areas. It was through a meeting with Sandy and his friend, Joseph Mullins, Rodey partner, that I first visited the Rodey Firm, where I clerked the following summer and ultimately have spent my entire career.

I am grateful for the many opportunities that I had as a result of the Summer Law Clerk Program. It was far more than just a summer job. I'm thrilled that, after all these years, the Clerkship Program is still going strong.



Mariposa Padilla-Sivage

*Partner, Sutin Thayer &
Browne, P.C.*

I participated in the State Bar Summer Clerkship program in 2001 as a first year law student. My experience clerking as a first year was invaluable to my professional development. During my summer, I was provided the same opportunities

and workload as the second year law clerks and was given a preview of what to expect as a second year law clerk looking to secure a job. I was provided constructive and helpful feedback on my work-product and abilities and made professional and personal relationships that continue even today. This program provided me a clear understanding of what employers were seeking when hiring associate attorneys and gave me additional real life attorney work experience that I was not only able to use during school, but in my second year clerkship and as a young associate. I credit part of my success to the fact that I was able to participate in this program as a first year law student. I would recommend this program to all qualifying first year law students and legal employers alike.