

Long, Pound & Komer, P.A.

Attorneys at Law

Nancy R. Long
Mark E. Komer

Erika E. Anderson
Mark T. Baker
Little V. West

John B. Pound
of counsel

November 19, 2007

Re: Young Lawyers Division Report

Dear Board of Bar Commissioners:

It has been a great privilege to serve as the State Bar of New Mexico Young Lawyers Division Chair for 2007. As the Chair, I have been honored to speak on behalf of the Young Lawyers Division of New Mexico to so many other Young Lawyers Division organizations throughout the country as well as newly admitted attorneys in New Mexico about the many accomplishments of our organization. I want to thank the Board of Bar Commissioners for always being so supportive of the Young Lawyers Division. Because this is my last Young Lawyers Division report, I also want to provide an update on the Young Lawyers Division's accomplishments for 2007.

Homeless Legal Clinic

The Young Lawyers Division has helped fund the Homeless Legal Clinics in Las Cruces and Albuquerque for several years. This is a program where volunteer attorneys provide legal services to homeless individuals. This year the Homeless Legal Clinic in Albuquerque received an American Bar Association / Young Lawyers Division Award of Recognition. We have also agreed to fund another Homeless Legal Clinic in Santa Fe in 2008.

Law School Outreach

As with previous years, the Young Lawyers Division has helped sponsor several programs to benefit the law students at the University of New Mexico Law School. This year the Young Lawyers Division co-sponsored a résumé party and mentorship program for law students. We offered a mock interview program for law students to practice their interview skills. We also provided two \$3,000 scholarships to law students to pursue an opportunity in the public sector during the summer.

Community Service Projects

The Young Lawyers Division continued its commitment to community service projects and pro bono work in 2007. Roswell, Albuquerque, Las Cruces and Farmington held a call-in providing pro bono legal services to callers in May. We expanded our Junior Judges Program throughout the state. This is a program where volunteer attorneys work with middle school students and teach them to make smart decisions when it comes to cheating, bullying, and other negative behaviors. The Young Lawyers Division continued to sponsor the Dismas House Project whereby volunteer attorneys educate individuals who have been incarcerated and are re-integrating into society about family law, criminal law, landlord/tenant law and the restoration of driver's licenses. Finally, the Young Lawyers Division worked with Englace and the Hispanic Bar Association in implementing a new American Bar Association / Young Lawyers Division

program called "Choose Law; a Profession for All." We successfully implemented this program into the Albuquerque public schools. This program educates students about the opportunities available in the legal profession and teaches students how to become a lawyer.

American Bar Association/Young Lawyers Division Appointments

Many of our young lawyers received American Bar Association/Young Lawyers Division appointments in 2007. These are national positions that are highly competitive. It is extraordinarily noteworthy that a small state like New Mexico has so many young lawyers with American Bar Association/Young Lawyers Division appointments. This year Roxanna Chacon was appointed Chair of the National Conferences Team; Dustin Hunter and Georgene Louis were appointed to be Assistant Editors to the American Bar Association/Young Lawyers Division publication called "The Affiliate"; and Martha Chicowski was appointed to be Affiliate Assistant. These are all American Bar Association/Young Lawyers Division funded positions.

Bridge the Gap CLE

The Young Lawyers Division sponsored its annual Bridge the Gap CLE. This year we had several great speakers including Thomas Haunty, a financial advisor from Madison, Wisconsin who frequently speaks at American Bar Association / Young Lawyer Division conferences about financial planning for young lawyers.

Brown Bag Lunches

The Young Lawyers Division Board members hosted several brown bag lunches with federal and state judges throughout the state. These lunches provide an excellent opportunity for young lawyers to meet the judges and other young lawyers in their area.

State Bar Convention

This year the State Bar Convention was held in Mescalero, New Mexico at the Inn of the Mountain Gods. The entire convention was a huge success. The Young Lawyers Division had more young lawyers attending the convention than we have ever had at any other convention.

Future Young Lawyer Division Projects

The Young Lawyers Division has several new projects it intends to implement in 2008. We plan to introduce the American Bar/Young Lawyers Division service project for 2008 called "Wills for Heroes." This project is run by volunteer attorneys who draft simple estate planning documents at a designated location for firefighters and police officers. The Young Lawyers Division will also partner with the Access to Justice Commission to host an awards dinner in 2008 honoring attorneys and law firms who donate time and money to Equal Access for Justice. Finally, the Young Lawyers Division hopes to work with the public schools of New Mexico and the New Mexico Court of Appeals to have Court of Appeal oral arguments held in the public schools.

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Future of the Board

Brent Moore will become the Chair of the Young Lawyers Division in January 2008. There are also three open Board positions for next year. We have received several letters of interest from young lawyers to serve on the Young Lawyers Division Board, and we will make those appointments at our next Board meeting in December.

Conclusion

Again, I want to thank the Board of Bar Commissioners for all of your support for the Young Lawyers Division. I have really enjoyed serving on the Board of Bar Commissioners and getting to know all of you on the Board.

Very truly yours,

LONG, POUND & KOMER, P. A.

Erika E. Anderson

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