

State Bar of New Mexico
Jessica Perez, State Bar President
Board of Bar Commissioners
5121 Masthead NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109

Re: Year-End Report from the Young Lawyers Division

Dear President Perez and Board of Bar Commissioner:

As the outgoing Chair of the Young Lawyers Division, I write to provide you with a year-end summary regarding the various activities undertaken by the organization in 2011. As in past years, the YLD focused a significant amount of time to our public service projects. Our volunteer members prepared wills for first responders through the Wills for Heroes program at events held in Albuquerque and Roswell. In May, we organized a "Law Day Call-In" at various locations throughout the state, including Albuquerque, Farmington, Las Cruces, and Roswell. We also coordinated projects involving the University of New Mexico School of Law such as the Mock Interview, Mentorship, Speed Networking, and Bar Preparation programs. We also provided financial support through our Public Interest Fellowship program, in the amount of \$6,000, to law students who performed work for public interest organizations over the summer. In addition, the YLD hosted statewide Brown Bag lunches with Justice Edward Chavez as the guest speaker. Moreover, we dedicated our attention to this year's ABA YLD public service project, Serving our Seniors. Through this program, volunteer attorneys provided legal assistance to the low-income senior citizen population in New Mexico. Finally, this past month, the YLD organized a continuing education program known as Bridge the Gap.

In an effort to map out our goals for 2012, the YLD Board attended a retreat in Las Cruces in September. The group participated in various team building exercises that helped foster a sense of unity among our board. More importantly, while in Las Cruces, we participated in a Serving our Seniors project. While at the Munson Senior Citizens Center, the YLD, through a strong contingent of volunteers, prepared estate planning documents for 19 senior citizens within four hours.

As I end my term as the Chair of the YLD, I want to thank the YLD Board, Program Chairs, and Section Liaisons for their diligent work on behalf of the organization. There is one board member who deserves special recognition. Martha Chicoski, the Immediate Past Chair, has been a standout contributor to the YLD for years. Her presence on the board will be missed, but we are pleased to know she will continue to serve the State Bar of New Mexico through her work with the BBC. I would also like to thank the State Bar of New Mexico staff for helping make this year a success.

Joe Conte and Christine Morganti, in particular, have been instrumental to ensuring that our organization was provided with the support needed to advance our programs and objectives. Finally, thank you, President Perez, and the members of the Board of Bar Commissioners. Without your financial backing, it would be a virtual impossibility for the YLD to sustain its presence as one of the leading public service organizations in the New Mexico legal community.

In 2012, the YLD will be led by an amazing group of young lawyers, including Samantha Hults (Chair), Keya Koul (Chair-Elect) and Ben Sherman (Vice-Chair). These individuals are hardworking and dedicated to the cause of providing young lawyers with the support they need during the formative years of their legal career. In 2012, the public service project for the organization is the ABA YLD's Project Salute. Through this program, YLD members will work to educate veterans on available benefits and assist them with obtaining these benefits.

On behalf of the YLD, thank you for the BBC's continued support of our organization. A good part of what we are able to accomplish every year could not be done without the resources you provide the YLD.

Sincerely,

Ernestina R. Cruz
YLD Chair