

2008 Annual Report

Division/Section/Committee Title: Young Lawyers Division

Date: December 31, 2008

Chair/Co-chairs: J. Brent Moore

It has been a great privilege to serve as the Chair of the State Bar of New Mexico's Young Lawyers Division ("YLD") in 2008. I want to thank the Board of Bar Commissioners for being so supportive of YLD. This annual report provides a brief update on YLD's accomplishments for 2008.

Activities Undertaken Since Last Report:

- **Wills-for-Heroes Project**

YLD implemented the Wills-for-Heroes project in 2008. The Wills-for-Heroes project provides free legal services to police officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and other first responders by bringing together the first responders with volunteer attorneys, laptop computers, witnesses, and notaries, and providing first responders with fully executed estate planning documents after a one hour session. This year YLD held three Wills-for-Heroes events. These events were held in Las Cruces, on the Westside of Albuquerque, and at the State Fair in Albuquerque. All three of these events were tremendously successful.

- **Equal Access to Justice Ball**

On November 1, 2008, YLD partnered with the Access to Justice Commission to host the Equal Access to Justice Ball. The awards dinner was a wonderful event that honored Justice Pam Minzner and other attorneys who have donated time and energy to the cause of providing legal representation to those in need. The event was a great success, and YLD looks forward to continuing our association with this event in the future.

Ongoing Activities:

- **Homeless Legal Clinic**

YLD has helped fund the Homeless Legal Clinics in Las Cruces and Albuquerque for several years. In 2008, YLD helped with the opening of a third legal clinic in Santa Fe. These clinics connect volunteer attorneys with homeless individuals in need of legal services. The managing attorneys for all three legal clinics were very appreciative of the support provided by YLD, and YLD will continue to support these clinics in 2009.

- **Law School Outreach**

Several programs that benefit law students at the University of New Mexico Law School were continued in 2008. YLD continued our Mentorship Program, which pairs law students with practicing attorneys for the purpose of mentoring the law students regarding the practice of law. YLD continued our Mock Interview Program, which provides law students the opportunity to practice their interview skills. YLD continued our Summer Fellowship Program, which provides funding to law students so that they have the opportunity to work for public interest entities or in the government sector. YLD was proud to provide funding to a law student to work this summer with Pegasus Legal Services for Children.

- **Community Service Project – Call-in Program**

YLD conducted its annual Law Day Call-In program on May 3, 2008. The program was conducted in Albuquerque, Las Cruces, Roswell, and Farmington and provided free legal advice to callers. Volunteer lawyers in Albuquerque fielded approximately fifty (50) calls in four hours. More complex legal issues were referred to the Bar Foundation's legal services programs.

- **Community Service Project – Junior Judges**

YLD continued its Junior Judges Program throughout the state. The program involves volunteer attorneys working with middle school students and teaching them to make smart decisions when it comes to cheating, bullying, and other negative behaviors.

- **Community Service Projects– Dismas House**

YLD continued its sponsorship of the Dismas House Project in which 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.

- **Brown Bag Lunches**

YLD 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.

- **Bridge the Gap CLE**

YLD sponsored its annual Bridge the Gap CLE ON October 3, 2008. This year we had several great speakers including the Honorable Paul Grimms from Maryland. While well received, the CLE's attendance was lower than desired, and the CLE will be held in late November in 2009 in order to increase attendance.

- **State Bar Convention**

YLD held its annual meeting on July 19, 2008, at the State Bar Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona. The convention had great programming and accommodations, and the Wills-for-Heroes program was showcased at the State Bar Convention. YLD was excited to offer registration rebates to young lawyers who wanted to attend the convention. These rebates were intended to offset the cost of attending the convention, and YLD will continue to seek this assistance for YLD members for future conventions.

- **Court of Appeals Arguments**

In 2008, YLD continued its educational project which brings New Mexico Court of Appeals oral arguments into New Mexico public schools. YLD partnered with the New Mexico Court of Appeals and conducted oral arguments in March at Capital High School in Santa Fe. Prior to the arguments, local attorneys went into the classrooms and provided background to the students on the cases and the process for oral arguments. The event was very well received, and the public schools and Court of Appeals have expressed interest in continuing the project in 2009.

Issues Requiring Board of Bar Commissioner Action: (Provide supplemental materials when applicable.)

None at this time.

Future of the Board

In 2009, the YLD officers will be: (1) Briana Zamora will be the Chair; (2) Martha Chicoski will be the Chair-Elect; and (3) Clara Moran will be the Vice Chair. These young, energetic lawyers will provide strong leadership for the Division in 2009.