

# YLD... *In Brief*

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

January 2000

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Family Law, Twila Larkin  
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## YLD PROGRAM CHAIRS

AIDS Law Panel, Laurie Hedrich  
Bar Exam Program, M. David Chacon  
Call-In Programs, Trent Howell  
Homeless Legal Clinic,  
Sean Olivas and Jennifer Olson  
Law School Mock Interviews,  
Jeff Albright  
Today's Law School,  
Bryan Biedscheid, Santa Fe  
Kim Middlebrooks, Albuquerque

## Message From the YLD Chair . . .



by  
Henry A.  
Alaniz

*Greetings. I want to briefly discuss who I am, give readers some information regarding the Young Lawyers Division (YLD) and share my thoughts on the upcoming year.*

I was recently sworn in as chair of the State Bar Young Lawyer Division. I graduated from the University of New Mexico in 1996 under the dual degree program where I received my juris doctor from the School of Law and a master's in business administration from the Anderson School of Business. I currently practice law as an assistant district attorney for Jeff Romero of the Second Judicial District in Bernalillo County.

As chair, I represent you as your voting member on the State Bar Board of Bar Commissioners (BBC). In addition, President Steve Doerr has appointed me to serve on the BBC Executive Committee. I have also volunteered to serve on the Quality of Life Task Force.

Each attorney who qualifies under the YLD membership requirements is automatically a member. There are no additional dues to pay.

Your voice for the direction of the State Bar and/or YLD is important and only takes a moment of your time. Each of us has interests in programs or membership services that we believe beneficial. We all have ideas of programs or issues that need to be addressed, that as lawyers, we believe will enhance the image of our profession. I want your input.

I would like to see more active participation from our young lawyers. Programs already in place and new programs to be implemented will only succeed with the

support of more volunteer attorneys. The YLD attorneys comprise more than one-sixth of the State Bar membership. If each and every member gave a few hours of their yearly work schedule, many worthwhile endeavors could be accomplished without placing a burden on a select few. The reward of personal satisfaction in knowing that you made a difference is nothing short of great.

The recent "Ask-a-Lawyer" Call-in Program was a great success. For those of you unfamiliar with the program, it occurs twice annually – once in May in conjunction with Law Day, and again in the fall (the most recent program was held in November) – and involves attorney volunteers who operate phone banks in several locations throughout New Mexico providing free legal information to callers. YLD Board and/or division members organized the local programs conducted in November — David Overstreet in Las Cruces, Dianna Luce in Roswell, Paul Briones in Farmington, and Trent Howell, in Albuquerque.

The numbers were amazing! Albuquerque—which also serves as the statewide phone bank—had more than 250 calls, handled by two teams of about a dozen attorneys, one team in the morning and one team in the afternoon. Great job Trent! Roswell had more than 50 calls from 9 A.M. to noon. Great job Dianna! Las Cruces had more than 40 calls. Great job David! This is a great program for YLD members to get involved in.

A new program will be put into action during 2000. It will be a leadership development program. The purpose of this program is to train YLD members for future YLD and State Bar leadership roles.

There are a number of opportunities to become involved in worthwhile programs. I hope that I will be hearing from some new volunteers soon.

Henry Alaniz can be reached by telephone at 505-841-7067 or by e-mail at [halaniz@da2nd.state.nm.us](mailto:halaniz@da2nd.state.nm.us).

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## Message from the Editor

**OUR MOTTO: YOU ASK  
FOR IT AND YOU GET IT.**



**by Ann Maddox  
Utterback, Editor  
of In Brief and  
Past Chair of the  
Young Lawyers  
Division**

We have received terrific feedback from the YLD's first quarterly issue of *In Brief*. As a result of comments received, for this next issue, we have expanded on some of the free research ideas that were mentioned in the "Where to Find It" section of the last issue. We have also again included what will be regular features spotlighting our various membership and public service programs and telling you what the YLD is doing around the state.

Remember, if you have ideas or comments or would like to submit an article for *In Brief*, please contact me at [amulaw@aol.com](mailto:amulaw@aol.com) or write to *In Brief* in care of the State Bar.

## In the Spotlight: YLD'S AIDS LAW PANEL

*By Ann Maddox Utterback*

The YLD's AIDS Law Panel is an award-winning program. Through the years the Panel has received grants from IOLTA and the ABA/YLD. In addition, the program was recently selected to be presented as a sample project to the ABA/YLD at their next affiliate outreach meeting. Representatives from young lawyer divisions from all over the United States will be present for that meeting this Fall in Washington, D.C.

The AIDS Law Panel program first began in 1994 to fill a need for low-income persons impacted by AIDS who were not being serviced by other organizations. The Panel consists of a group of volunteer attorneys statewide who provide legal services and referrals to eligible low income persons affected by the HIV virus.

Practically, the program works initially through statewide advertisement of a 1-800 number that interested persons can call statewide, leaving a message with information regarding their issue or problem. The central program chair then listens regularly to the messages and returns the calls, giving a referral out to the AIDS Law Panel attorneys whenever possible. The Panel volunteer in the applicable geographic region who receives the referral then handles the referral free of

charge and oftentimes provides such care as home or hospital visits to handle the situation. Volunteers are covered with malpractice insurance provided by the State Bar.

The Panel has in the past limited itself to estate planning issues such as powers of attorney documents, living wills, and last wills and testaments. However, the program has recently seen a change in the issues that are affecting persons with the HIV virus due to the impact of life-prolonging drugs in the AIDS community. Now, issues involving such areas of law as disability and employment are becoming more prevalent.

The program is chaired by Laurie Hedrich who practices estate planning in her own firm, Dougherty and Hedrich. Not only does Laurie spend her time screening the calls that come into the 1-800 number and making the necessary referrals, but she additionally meets regularly with AIDS organizations statewide to promote the program and oftentimes provides onsite service to eligible persons. Laurie's goal with the program is to expand the type of services that the Panel currently provides. The YLD is looking for additional leadership to help Laurie with the program. If you are interested in joining the Panel or becoming a co-chair of this program, please contact Laurie Hedrich at 505-880-8699.

## WHERE TO FIND IT: FREE LEGAL RESEARCH ON THE INTERNET



**by H. Nicole  
Schamban  
The Narvaez Law  
Firm, P.A.**

Don't have the money to pay for Lexis or Westlaw services. Don't worry. Do FREE legal research on the internet.

If you want a user friendly and comprehensive free legal research site, go to [www.romingerlegal.com](http://www.romingerlegal.com).

Do you need access to United States Supreme court cases (1893 to the present), Tenth Circuit cases (1995 to the present), or New Mexico state cases (1998 and 1999)? Go to [www.findlaw.com](http://www.findlaw.com). You'll find forms at this web site as well. More forms are available at [www.nolo.com](http://www.nolo.com).

Also log onto [www.washlaw.edu](http://www.washlaw.edu) for

Tenth Circuit opinions. Get your password and log onto [www.nmcourt.fed.us](http://www.nmcourt.fed.us) for federal district court decisions in New Mexico, as well as docket and other case information.

Looking for New Mexico court forms you can download? Or for links to legal sites operated by the state? Go to [www.lawguru.com](http://www.lawguru.com). or <http://cochiti.nm.org/menu/forms.htm>.

Having trouble finding New Mexico statutes or the Administrative Code? Go to [www.michie.com](http://www.michie.com). or [www.lexislawpublishing.com](http://www.lexislawpublishing.com). The United States Code? Log onto <http://uscode.house.gov>.

Want some legislative history to go along with your United States Code cites? Check out <http://thomas.loc.gov>. Looking for New Mexico state legislative history. Go to <http://legis.state.nm.us>.

Trying to research federal regulations? Go to [www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr](http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr) for the Code of Federal Regulations and

[www.nara.gov/fedreg](http://www.nara.gov/fedreg) for the Federal Register.

Looking for a job? Check out [www.hg.org](http://www.hg.org) for information on law firms, state, and government agencies. You will also find links on this web site to law journals and expert witnesses.

Tax season? Log onto [www.irs.treas.gov](http://www.irs.treas.gov) for online access to forms and publications, as well as information on tax regulations.

Curious about other government web sites. Try [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov), [www.usdoj.gov](http://www.usdoj.gov), [www.ins.doj.gov](http://www.ins.doj.gov), [www.doi.gov](http://www.doi.gov), and [www.doe.gov](http://www.doe.gov).

Interested in checking out more legal web sites? Try [www.ago.state.nm.us](http://www.ago.state.nm.us), <http://lawschool.unm.edu>, [www.nmcourts.com](http://www.nmcourts.com), [www.state.nm.us](http://www.state.nm.us), [www.lectlaw.com](http://www.lectlaw.com), [www.lawsourc.com](http://www.lawsourc.com), [www.ilrg.com](http://www.ilrg.com), [www.law.net](http://www.law.net), [www.internetlawyer.com](http://www.internetlawyer.com), [www.law.cornell.edu](http://www.law.cornell.edu), [www.colorado.edu/law/lawlib](http://www.colorado.edu/law/lawlib), [www.fedworld.gov](http://www.fedworld.gov).

# REPORTS FROM THE QUADRANTS

## QUADRANT ONE *(Eleventh and Thirteenth Judicial Districts)*



by  
**Kyle M. Finch**  
**Quadrant One Director**

As many of you already know, last October Quadrant One Director Paul Briones resigned to successfully run for a position on the New Mexico Board of Bar Commissioners. I was elected to fill Paul's position and carry on the torch. Congratulations to Paul for his election to the Board of Bar Commissioners and many thanks for his contributions and service as Quadrant One Director!

On Saturday, November 13, 1999, the Young Lawyer's Division had another successful "Ask-A-Lawyer" call in day at the District Attorney's office in Farmington. In the "Ask-A-Lawyer" program, young lawyers field calls from the public and provide free legal information on a variety of topics ranging from criminal law to property disputes, personal injury to divorce. Thanks to the many young lawyers in Quadrant One who volunteered their time and expertise to provide this important public service, and special thanks to the D.A.'s Office for allowing the YLD to use its facilities. The "Ask-A-Lawyer" call in day will be held again this Spring.

Another YLD program in the works for Quadrant One is a "Brown Bag Lunch" program, where young attorneys will have the opportunity to sit down to an informal lunch with a district or magistrate judge in our area. The judge will make a short presentation on an area of interest to young lawyers, and we will have an opportunity to ask the judge questions. This will be a great learning opportunity for young lawyers, and a great chance to get to know our judiciary and each other. Other Quadrants in our state have implemented similar programs with great success. If you have any suggestions for topics to be discussed at a "Brown Bag Lunch" or have other comments or questions regarding the YLD, please feel free to call me at 326-4521 or send me an e-mail at [kfinch@mstlaw.com](mailto:kfinch@mstlaw.com).

## QUADRANT THREE *(Fifth, Ninth and Twelfth Judicial Districts)*

by  
**Dianna L. Luce**  
**Quadrant 3 Director**

Greetings from Quadrant 3. Thanks to everyone who helped with the Fall Ask-a-Lawyer program on November 13, 1999, it was a great success for our Quadrant. The firm of Sanders, Bruin, Coll & Worley in Roswell hosted the site for our quadrant and we answered over fifty telephone calls. We plan to expand the sites to other counties for the

Ask-a-Lawyer call-in for Law Day in May.

The "Brown Bag Lunch" program is off to a running start in Lea County. We have met three times in 1999 with our local judges and discussed topics of interest. The Honorable Gary L. Clingman, Honorable R. W. Gallini, Honorable Vickey A. Crawford, and the Honorable William A. McBee have actively participated in the program. The next lunch is scheduled for February 15, 2000. I am looking forward to expanding this program to all counties in our Quadrant.

## QUADRANT FOUR *(Third, Sixth and Seventh Judicial Districts)*



by  
**David M. Overstreet**  
**Quadrant 4 Director**

On November 13, 1999, Quadrant Four had another successful "Ask-a-Lawyer" call in program. Young lawyers in Quadrant Four gave legal information to 45 people during the 3-hour program. The Young Lawyers in Quadrant Four are looking forward to the Spring "Ask-a-Lawyer" call in program which will be held in May 2000.

On February 17, 2000, the Honorable Stephen Bridgforth, who recently joined the bench of the Third Judicial District, will host the next "Brown Bag Lunch" program in Quadrant Four. The Brown Bag Lunch program continues to provide young lawyers with the opportunity to meet with each other and the judges informally and to learn valuable insights.

## What is a YLD Section Liaison?

by  
**Ann Maddox Utterback**

You will notice on the first page of this newsletter a list of YLD section liaisons. These persons are appointed by the new Chair of YLD after the State Bar's Annual Convention every year. The term is one year. These volunteers act as liaisons to the various practice area sections of the State Bar, such as the family law section. The section liaison becomes an actual member of the particular section's board. The YLD Board sees several reasons behind having section liaisons.

First, this is an opportunity for young lawyers to become a part of sections they are interested in without having to be elected through the normal channels. It is amazing how many of our young lawyers actually go on to these boards in an elected capacity after their terms as section liaisons end. These young lawyers also serve as YLD's official liaisons to the various sections of the State Bar. If the YLD has an issue for a particular practice area, the section liaison would act as the messenger of that issue. The opposite is also true. When a particular section has an idea for the YLD, they can communicate with the YLD through their section liaison. If you are interested in becoming a section liaison for next year, please contact me or a member of the YLD Board.

### *Welcome!*

The YLD Board welcomes  
**Alvin Garcia**  
**Quadrant 2 Director**  
and  
**Al Park**  
**YLD Chair-Elect**

### CALENDAR OF UPCOMING YLD EVENTS—2000

*Mock Interview Program..Feb. 5*  
*Board Meeting (Albq.) March 25*  
*In Brief (next issue) .....April*  
*Call-in Program ..... May*

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## FREE WESTLAW AND LEXIS FOR NEW USERS

*You heard it right—Free Westlaw and Lexis. At the State Bar’s Annual Convention, representatives from both Westlaw and Lexis agreed to give free research services for a limited period of time to young lawyers in the NMYLD who are new users of these products. Call representatives at West Group at 1-800-762-5272 and Lexis at 1-800-886-3847 to discuss the specifics of these offers.*

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## WHERE CAN I VOLUNTEER AND WHO DO I CONTACT?

- **The Bridge the Gap CLE** - Aids young lawyers in their new profession. (Jeff Croasdell, 765-5900)
- **Bill Kitts Mentor Program** - Mentorship program partnering new attorneys with experienced professionals. (Membership Services and Programs Department at the State Bar of New Mexico, 797-6043)
- **UNM Mock Interview Program** - Links up law students with young lawyers who conduct mock interviews. (Jeff Albright, 247-2315)
- **Bar Exam Program** - YLD and a member of the Board of Bar Examiners speak to persons taking the bar exam to provide information about what to expect. (David Chacon, 450-7307)
- **Bar Journal** - Places substantive articles in the YLD section of the quarterly State Bar publication. (YLD Board of Editors: K.C. Maxwell, 842-9960; Gabe Parra, 883-2500; Nelse T. Schreck, 842-5050)
- **AIDS Law Panel** - Statewide referral panel consisting of volunteer attorneys who give legal information and advice to low-income persons who have the HIV virus. (Laurie Hedrich, 880-8699)
- **Homeless Legal Clinic** - On-site clinic located in Albuquerque that provides legal information and advice to homeless persons. (Sean Olivas, 346-9140 and Jennifer Olson, 247-4800)
- **Today’s Law School** - Monthly seminars in Albuquerque and Santa Fe that provide legal information on a variety of legal topics to the public (Kimberly Middlebrooks, Albuquerque 247-0751; Bryan Biedscheid, Santa Fe, 982-1947)
- **“Ask-a-Lawyer” Call-in Program** - Statewide program that takes place in cities throughout New Mexico in which lawyers answer telephone calls from the public and provide legal information. (Trent Howell, 883-8181)
- **FEMA Program** - Lists volunteer attorneys to be contacted in the event of a disaster. (Ann Utterback, 299-6481)
- **Elder Law Program** - Allows young lawyers to do outreach work at senior centers statewide. (Felissa Garcia Kelley, 242-1907)