

YLD...In Brief

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

April 2009

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7th Judicial District: **Matt Page**
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Nasha Torrez and Martha Chicoski
Summer Fellowship Program - **Brent Moore**
YLD/UNM Law Mentor Program -
Erika Poindexter and Sarita Nair
Wills for Heroes -
Albuquerque: **Clara Moran and Martha Chicoski**
Farmington: **Reagyn Germer**

Greetings from the Chair/ Chair Elect



Martha Chicoski

As the Acting Chair and Chair-Elect of the Young Lawyers Division (YLD), I am honored to address our YLD members, as well as the other members of the State Bar. I find myself writing this article a year sooner than expected due to Briana Zamora's appointment to a judgeship in the Metropolitan Court Criminal Division. During her five years on the YLD Board, Judge Zamora headed many projects and events for YLD, and her dedication and leadership will be missed. On behalf of the YLD Board, I would like to wish Judge Zamora the best of luck with her new endeavor.

As you may know, all members of the State Bar who are under the age of thirty-six (36), or, who have been practicing law in any state for fewer than five (5) years are members of this division. YLD strives to promote the integrity and respect of the legal profession, provide services and outreach to its members, and support and encourage public service. In doing so, we try to help bridge the gap between law school and the practice of law for our members, while encouraging them to get involved with and give back to their communities.

In the upcoming year, YLD will continue many of its longstanding and successful service projects. These include: Mock Interview program; Call-In program for Law Day; Junior Judges; Summer Fellowship; Wills-for-Heroes; Homeless Legal Aid Clinics in Las Cruces, Santa Fe and Albuquerque; and YLD/UNM Law Mentorship Program. On March 27th, a Wills-for-Heroes event held in Albuquerque generated almost fifty free wills for qualified emergency first responders! Other events around the state are being planned, so be sure to keep an eye out for volunteer opportunities. Finally, YLD

will once again co-sponsor the Justice for All Ball with Equal Access to Justice, which is scheduled to be held in the fall.

Additionally, we are excited to begin two new service projects in 2009. The Children's Court mentorship program pairs volunteer attorneys with young adults who are successfully completing probation within Children's Court special programs. Mentors will participate in activities designed to encourage professionalism and interpersonal skills. The program is scheduled to kick off on April 5th with dinner at Saggios, followed by a performance of *Luma* at Popejoy Hall (both of which were generously donated). We also hope to launch *Voices Against Violence*, the 2009 ABA/YLD public service project. *Voices Against Violence* is "a call to action for young lawyers around the country to join forces to end domestic violence." The program was created to educate young lawyers to the epidemic of domestic violence and to engage them in efforts to respond to and prevent domestic violence in their communities. For more information on any program, please feel free to contact any YLD Board member.

Finally, I would like to welcome Emilio Chavez, William Gilchrist, Mateo Page, and Alex Russell to the YLD Board. I look forward to their energy, leadership, and contributions during the upcoming year. YLD is a fun and exciting division of the State Bar. I encourage all YLD members to get involved with our projects. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like more information about YLD events.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Meet the Board 2-3
YLD Community Service Programs 4
Wills for Heroes 4

Meet the Board

Emilio Chavez

Emilio Chavez represents Region 2 of the YLD. Mr. Chavez is currently a Senior Trial Attorney for the Eighth Judicial District Attorney's Office. His duties include the prosecution of various homicides, drug trafficking, criminal sexual penetration, and other serious violent felony cases. Prior to his foray into the criminal world, Mr. Chavez worked as an energy associate with a prominent law firm in Washington D.C. Mr. Chavez obtained his B.A. degree in economics from Grinnell College in 2001 and J.D. from University of New Mexico in 2004. He is licensed in New Mexico and Washington D.C.



Martha Chicoski

Martha Chicoski represents Region 5 of the YLD. She chairs Junior Judges, co-chairs the YLD/UNM Law Mock Interview program and Wills for Heroes, and most recently co-chaired the inaugural Justice for All Ball, which was co-sponsored by Equal Access to Justice. In 2007, Ms. Chicoski

received one of ten national scholarships given by the Minorities in the Profession Committee of the ABA/YLD. She currently works as a trial attorney with the Law Offices of Craig A. Orraj as staff counsel for Farmers Insurance Exchange and Affiliates. Previously, she has worked for the Public Safety Division of the Albuquerque City Attorney's Office, Robles, Rael & Anaya, P.C., and Walz and Associates. Ms. Chicoski received a J.D. from Suffolk University Law School and a B.A. from The George Washington University. She is admitted to practice in New Mexico and Massachusetts, as well as before the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico.



Tina Cruz

Ms. Cruz is a shareholder at the Narvaez Law Firm in Albuquerque and has practiced in the area of civil litigation for seven years. She has concentrated her law practice in the areas of employment law, civil rights, education law and insurance defense. She represents public entities

and private employers in New Mexico federal and state courts. Ms. Cruz also represents employers at the administrative level before the New Mexico Human Rights Division, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the City of Albuquerque's Human Rights Office and has handled appeals before the New Mexico Court of Appeals and Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. She was appointed to the Young Lawyers Division Board in January 2008. She has volunteered on various YLD related projects, including Wills for Heroes, Junior Judges, the Mock Interview Program, UNM/YLD Law Student Mentor Program, and the Bar Exam Orientation.



William G. "Dooley" Gilchrist

William G. "Dooley" Gilchrist was born in Jackson, Mississippi. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and Political Science from the University of New Mexico and his Juris Doctor, cum laude, from the Boston University School of Law. His practice focuses on employment law and

general commercial litigation matters. Mr. Gilchrist has represented employers in proceedings before the New Mexico Department

of Labor, the New Mexico Human Rights Division, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and state and federal courts in New Mexico as well as in other states. Mr. Gilchrist is admitted to practice in New Mexico and Arizona, the United States District Courts for the District of New Mexico and Arizona, and the Ninth and Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. Prior to joining the firm, Mr. Gilchrist practiced with Rodey, Dickason, Sloan, Akin & Robb, P.A. in Albuquerque. While in law school, Dooley served as an editor for his law school's legislative drafting clinic and served as a staff member on the Boston University International Law Journal and as an intern at the Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants.



Dustin K. Hunter

Dustin K. Hunter is a partner in the Roswell, New Mexico firm of Kraft & Hunter, LLP. He practices in a wide range of civil and corporate matters, including family law, business litigation, insurance coverage and litigation, contracts and personal injury. Mr. Hunter attended undergraduate at

Cameron University and graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. in political science. While at Cameron, he was elected and served as the Student Body President. Mr. Hunter obtained his Juris Doctorate from Texas Tech University School of Law, graduating magna cum laude. Mr. Hunter was a member of the Texas Tech Law Review and was named to the Order of the Coif. Mr. Hunter also serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Family Law Section of the State Bar of New Mexico. On a national level, Mr. Hunter has served on the ABA YLD Affiliate Newsletter as an Associate Editor. He is a proud 2006 graduate of the Roswell Chamber of Commerce 'Leadership Roswell' program and a 2008 graduate of the State Bar of New Mexico's Lawyers Leadership Training Institute. Mr. Hunter also volunteers and provides pro bono services to elderly individuals through the Lawyer Referral for the Elderly Program and is a member of the Chaves County Pro Bono Committee. He has been married for sixteen years to his best friend, Jennifer, and has two children, Lauren and Ethan.



Brent Moore

Brent Moore is the General Counsel for the Insurance Division of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission. In 2008, he served as the Chair of the Young Lawyers Division, and he continues to serve as the fellowship coordinator for the YLD Summer Fellowship program. Prior

to being appointed General Counsel, Mr. Moore served as the Deputy Superintendent for the Insurance Division. He is a 1994 graduate of Texas Christian University and a 1998 graduate of the University of New Mexico School of Law. After graduating from law school, Mr. Moore participated in the Legal Honors Program for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington, D.C. Upon completing the program, he served as agency counsel for the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency and Assistant General Counsel for the New Mexico Environment Department. He lives in Santa Fe with his wife, Mary Ann, and two daughters, Caroline and Virginia.

Meet the Board



Clara Moran

Clara Moran is currently an Assistant Trial Attorney with the Bernalillo County District Attorney's office in Albuquerque. She is a 2005 graduate of UNM's Law School. Ms. Moran currently works within the DWI Felony/Vehicular Homicide Division and previously worked as the sole prosecutor within the Domestic Violence Pilot Project, which is a program of pooled resources between the Bernalillo County District Attorney's office and Governor Richardson's office. Ms. Moran has taught and participated in several seminars, trainings, and CLE's on the prosecution of domestic violence cases. She has worked on the Division's Wills for Heroes program, the 2008 Access for Justice Pamela Minzner Justice for All Ball, and arranged a forum linking the judges of the 2nd Judicial District with YLD members. Ms. Moran lives in Albuquerque with her husband, Richard, and daughter, Molly.



Mateo "Matt" S. Page

Mateo "Matt" S. Page is an assistant district attorney for the 7th Judicial District where he prosecutes primarily DWI, domestic violence, and juvenile cases. He received his B.A. in political science from University of New Mexico in 2000 where he was a Presidential Scholar, and his J.D. from the University of Washington School of Law in Seattle in 2004. Upon graduating from law school and becoming a member of the Washington state bar, he and his family returned home to New Mexico where he practiced Indian law and environmental law with a civil firm in Corrales. Mr. Page has previously worked as an assistant district attorney for the 12th Judicial District and 2nd Judicial District where he was assigned to the metropolitan court division for two and half years. Currently, Mr. Page lives in Moriarty with Heather, his wife of eight and half years, and his three sons, Royal, Lincoln, and Cotton.



Alex Russell

Alex Russell is Chair-Elect of the Criminal Law Section of the State Bar, Member of the Board of Directors of the Trial Practice Section, and Member of the H. Vearle Payne American Inn of Court. Mr. Russell is an experienced trial attorney with a concentration in criminal law. He received his law degree from St. Mary's University School of Law and is a graduate of Bucknell University. Mr. Russell is admitted to practice in New Mexico and the District of Columbia, as well as the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico.



Reagyn Germer

Reagyn Germer was born and raised in Colorado. She graduated from University of Chicago, A.B., in 1999 and received her law degree from University of Colorado School of Law in 2003. Her practice consists of general civil matters in the courts of the Navajo Nation, New Mexico, Arizona, and the Hopi Tribe, and working with DNA-People's Legal Services. She also serves as a Shiprock Bar Commissioner with the Navajo Nation Bar Association. Ms. Germer was previously with the Native American Disability Law Center (formerly known as the Native American Protection and Advocacy Project) for approximately three years focusing on providing legal services to the members of the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe.



David Lutz

David Lutz was born in Las Cruces, New Mexico and graduated from Onate High School in 1993. He attended Claremont McKenna College and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts, *summa cum laude*, in History in 1997. David attended Cornell Law School and graduated with a J.D., with Specialization in International Legal Affairs in 2000. He worked as an associate at Baker Botts, LLP in Dallas from 2000 until 2003. David returned to New Mexico in 2004. Mr. Lutz is currently a partner at Martin, Lutz, Roggow, & Eubanks, P.C. in Las Cruces.



The Hon. Briana Zamora

The Board of the Young Lawyers Division would like to congratulate one of our own on her recent appointment to the bench of the Metropolitan Court.

Thank you for all of your hard work and contributions to the Board.

We wish you the best of luck as you begin your judicial career!

YLD Community Service Programs – Volunteers’ Perspectives

Martha Chicoski

The continued success of the Young Lawyers Division’s community service programs is due in large part to the dedication and commitment of the many attorneys and judges who generously give their time to these programs. While many of the same volunteers sign up for these community service opportunities, YLD is fortunate to attract new volunteers, too. These days, it is often difficult to balance professional and personal obligations, let alone have time to give back to the community. We asked some “perennial” volunteers and some newcomers why they do it. Some of their responses are below. YLD thanks *all* of the wonderful people who have volunteered over the years!

“Junior Judges 2008 at my neighborhood elementary school provided an opportunity to speak to inquisitive students about our justice system and to address some interesting and thoughtful questions posed by the young people. The Junior Judges experience provided an avenue to encourage, motivate and validate our future leaders. I am looking forward to being a part of Junior Judges 2009.”

– Judge John Romero, District Judge, Children’s Court Division

“Although time is a commodity that few of us have, I believe my time volunteering and participating with the YLD has been time well-spent. My volunteer experiences have always been rewarding and I walk away from them with new insight and a different perspective. These experiences have helped me grow as an individual. I hope, along the way, I have been a positive influence to others.”

– Amanda Sanchez, Associate, Rodey Law Firm

“I volunteer for the Mock Interview Program because I believe that it is a valuable tool to help law students, especially those with no prior work experience and no ties to the legal community (my status when I was in law school) learn the skills needed to participate in a productive job interview. I also enjoy giving back to the law school because it is my alma mater.”

– Sean Garrett, Associate, Butt Thorton & Baehr PC

“Helping out people with a bit of my time is one way I like to help New Mexico. The YLD along with the State Bar make it easy for me to give back a little.”

– Scott Jaworski, Associate, Miller Stratvert PA

“As a person who entered the legal profession because of my desire to work for social justice and social change, it is inspiring to see so many attorneys willing to volunteer their (often very limited) free time to pursue activities related to helping individuals who may be facing significant injustices... YLD’s commitment to public service work is really inspiring to me because it shows that there is a real commitment on the part of everyone involved to creating a more just society.”

– Grace Spulak, Staff Attorney/ Skadden Fellow, Pegasus Legal Services for Children

Wills for Heroes

The Young Lawyers Division volunteered their time and expertise on March 27 at the 2nd Judicial District Courthouse to write wills and family estate planning documents for Albuquerque’s first responders’ police officers and firefighters who put themselves in harm’s way every day. The attorneys helped firefighters and police officers who otherwise might not have sought the costly legal services. The Wills for Heroes program provides essential legal documents free of charge to first responders, including wills,

living wills, and powers of attorney. By inviting first responders to plan now, the volunteer attorneys are helping to ensure that important legal affairs are in order before a tragedy hits. At the event, organized by Chair Martha Chicoski and Clara Moran, 22 volunteer attorneys worked one-on-one with 48 first responders and their families. In addition, ten paralegal volunteers provided notary services and served as witnesses.



LeeAnn Werbelow and
Raymond Torres



Clara Moran, Leslie Maxwell
and Brent Moore



Jason Harvey and Ralph Trujillo