

YLD...In Brief

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

March 2011

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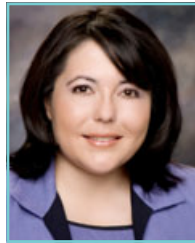
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YLD PROGRAM CHAIRS

Bridge the Gap 2011-
Martha Chicoski and Samantha Jarrett
Law Day Call-in Programs 2011 -
Albuquerque: Keya Koul
Las Cruces: David Lutz
Roswell: Jared Kallunki
Homeless Legal Clinic-
Albuquerque: Laurel Nesbitt
Las Cruces: Steven Almanza
Santa Fe: Donna Lynch
In Brief- **Martha Chicoski**
Junior Judges (began in 2006)-
Albuquerque: Martha Chicoski
Santa Fe/Northern New Mexico: Tina Cruz
and Hans Erickson
7th Judicial District: Matt Page
Rio Rancho: Cristina Adams and Tina Cruz
YLD/UNM Law Mock Interview Program-
Martha Chicoski
Summer Fellowship Program (began in 2005)-
Samantha Jarrett
UNM Law/YLD Mentorship Program-
Keya Koul and Ben Sherman
Wills for Heroes (began in 2008)-
Albuquerque: Samantha Jarrett and Ben Sherman
Speed Networking -**Keya Koul**
Voices Against Violence (began in 2009)-
Albuquerque: Keya Koul, Matt Page,
and Martha Chicoski
Serving our Seniors (began in 2011)-
Statewide: Roxanna Chacon
Bar Exam Preparation-
Cristina Adams, Ben Sherman and Tina Cruz

Greetings from the Chair

by Ernestina Cruz



As the Chair of the Young Lawyers Division, I am honored to address the members of the YLD as well as the larger membership of the State Bar of New Mexico. All members of the State Bar who are under the age of 36 or in practice for five years or less automatically become members of the YLD. The YLD currently represents 1,637 members—53% of the membership is male and 47% female. Our membership is not only diverse but is also committed to giving back to the community through both bar and public service.

I enter this position on the heels of the outstanding leadership of Martha Chicoski. For those of you who might not know, Martha led the YLD for two years, having served as Acting Chair in 2009, due to the judicial appointment of Briana Zamora to the Metropolitan Court, and Chair in 2010. Martha's service to the YLD cannot be fully recognized in this article, nonetheless, on behalf of the YLD Board, I extend our continued thanks to Martha for her dedication and hard work in leading the YLD for an unprecedented two years!

Under Martha's leadership, the YLD continued to move forward with many of its long standing projects, but more significantly, this past year it served as the host of the ABA YLD Fall Conference in Santa Fe. Under the direction of Martha and former ABA YLD District 23 Representative Roxanna Chacon, the YLD organized an amazing program for 200 young lawyers from throughout the country. The YLD showcased some of our finest jurists, professors and attorneys during the Fall Conference. Supreme Court Chief Justice Charlie Daniels served as the keynote speaker for the plenary session while Justice Edward Chavez, Professor Margaret Montoya, Ray Hamilton and Jana Walker served on a panel discussing the value

of diversity in the legal profession. In sum, the contributions of Martha, Roxanna and the rest of the host committee in organizing the three day conference cannot be understated and truly serve as an example of the great things the YLD is able to accomplish year after year.

This year, the YLD will again focus much of its efforts on bar and public service. One of the most important functions of the YLD is "bridging the gap" between law school and the early phases of a legal career. In this regard, the YLD continues to work closely with the University of New Mexico School of Law through the UNM Mock Interview and Mentorship Programs. On February 19, 2011, twenty-five judges and attorneys meet with approximately fifty law students to conduct mock interviews. The program is designed to provide law students with feedback regarding their cover letters, resumes and overall interviewing skills. Thank you to those judges and attorneys who volunteered and to board members Martha Chicoski and Samantha Jarrett, as well as John Feldman and Nancy Huffstutler at UNMSOL, for organizing another successful event!

In the next ten months, the YLD will continue to develop programming involving Junior Judges, Wills for Heroes, Law Day "Ask-A-Lawyer" Call-In, Judicial Luncheons, Bar Exam Orientation and Voices Against Violence. In addition, we will implement this year's ABA YLD public service program—Serving our Seniors. Through the Summer Fellowship Program, we will also award two \$3,000 scholarships to law students who plan to pursue public interest law summer clerkships. The YLD will also serve as a co-sponsor for the UNM/NMHBA Law Camp Program for seventh and eighth grade students from throughout the state. If you want to learn more about these programs, please visit: <http://www.nmbar.org/AboutSBNM/YLD/YLDactivities.html>.

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Meet the Board



Ernestina R. Cruz is a partner at the Narvaez Law Firm, P.A. in Albuquerque. She currently serves as the Chair of the Young Lawyers Division and Employment and Labor Law Section of the State Bar of New Mexico. She has participated in various YLD activities including Junior Judges, the UNM Mock Interview Program, Wills for Heroes, the UNM Mentorship Program and the Bar Exam

Preparation Program. Ms. Cruz has also been active with the ABA YLD having served as an ABA YLD Scholar and as an Associate Editor with the ABA YLD publication, *The Affiliate*. She obtained her B.A. from the University of New Mexico (1996), M.A. from the University of Notre Dame (1998) and J.D. from the University of New Mexico School of Law (2001).



Samantha Jarrett is an associate attorney with the Albuquerque, NM office of Jackson Lewis LLP, a national labor and employment firm. She serves as Chair-Elect of the Young Lawyers Division. Ms. Jarrett is a New Mexico native and a 2005 graduate of the University of New Mexico School of Law. She graduated from Occidental College, in Los Angeles, California, where she received a

B.A. in Urban and Environmental Policy. Ms. Jarrett's legal practice focuses on counseling and representing employers regarding labor and employment issues and related business matters. Her experience includes Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the ADA, the ADEA, the FMLA, and other state and federal employment laws. Ms. Jarrett also has a background in Health Care Law, civil litigation and practice before administrative agencies.



Keya Koul has a BA in Spanish with a minor in Biology from Smith College, a MA in medieval Spanish literature from UCLA, and a JD from Southwestern Law School. Ms. Koul is the Associate Managing Attorney with the law firm of Castle Stawiariski, LLC, and practices real estate and bankruptcy law. She serves as Vice Chair of the Young Lawyers Division, and she chairs the UNM Law

School/YLD mentorship program and the Law Day Ask-A-Lawyer program in Albuquerque. Ms. Koul was appointed as the American Bar Association (ABA) Young Lawyers Division's (YLD) 2010–2011 *The Affiliate* Newsletter Team - Assistant Editor and as one of the inaugural ABA Touch 10,000 Ambassadors for 2010. She is also on the Board of the New Mexico Women's Bar Association.



Martha Chicoski has a wide range of litigation experience in both civil and criminal law. In August 2010, she founded Chicoski Law Firm, LLC. Previous experience includes: Orraj, Anderson and Obrey-Espinoza; Albuquerque City Attorney's Office, Robles, Rael & Anaya, P.C., Walz and Associates, and the NM Public Defender Department. She currently serves as Immediate Past Chair of YLD, represents the

First Bar Commissioner District on the Board of Bar Commissioners, and serves as Treasurer on the Board of Directors for the New Mexico Women's Bar Association. Ms. Chicoski received a J.D. from Suffolk University Law School and a B.A. in Criminal Justice from The George Washington University. Ms. Chicoski is admitted to practice in New Mexico and Massachusetts, as well as before the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico. During free time, she enjoys running, skiing, hiking and attempting to train her dogs, Doug Flutie and Ty Webb.



Cristina Adams received her J.D. from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 2006. An associate in the Rodey Law Firm, Ms. Adams' practice focuses in the area of labor and employment law. She also practices in the areas of medical malpractice and insurance defense. Ms. Adams has tried cases in multiple areas of law in state and federal courts. During law school, Ms. Adams served as a clerk in both

private and public sectors, including the litigation division of the City of Albuquerque and the compliance and litigation divisions of the Consumer Products Safety Commission in Bethesda, Maryland. Ms. Adams serves on the Board (Region 4 Director) of the State Bar's Young Lawyers Division. She also served as a former liaison and Board member of the Bar's employment/labor law section. Ms. Adams is a co-author of the *New Mexico Employment Law Desk Reference*, Rodey Law Firm © 2010.



Hans Erickson is an associate in the Santa Fe office of Montgomery & Andrews, and practices in the areas of business transactions, real property law, and trusts & estates. He graduated from Los Alamos High School in 1999, and returned to New Mexico after finishing law school in 2010. While away from the state, Mr. Erickson worked as an investigator of police misconduct in New

York City, and as an associate in an investment company based in Vietnam. He is grateful for the opportunity to serve on the YLD board and looks forward to working with other new lawyers through the Division's many great programs.



Jared Garner Kallunki is the managing attorney of the Roswell office of New Mexico Legal Aid. He practices in a wide range of civil matters related to poverty law including family law, landlord/tenant, and public benefits. Mr. Kallunki attended the University of Alabama and graduated with a B.A. in Political Science and an M.A. in International Relations and Comparative Politics. He earned his Juris

Doctorate from the Thomas Jefferson School of Law. Mr. Kallunki serves on the Chaves County, Lea County, Eddy County, and 12th District Pro Bono Committees. He lives in Roswell with his wife of 13 years, Tiesha, and his two children, Detroit and Joaquin.

Meet the Board



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. Mr. Lutz 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. Mr. Lutz returned to New Mexico in 2004. He is currently a partner at Martin, Lutz, Roggow, & Eubanks, P.C. in Las Cruces.



Mateo "Matt" S. Page serves as Director-at-Large, Position 2. He has been an assistant district attorney for five and a half years, currently working in Torrance County where he prosecutes primarily DWI, domestic violence, and juvenile cases. He received his B.A., *summa cum laude*, in political science from UNM in 2000, and his J.D. from the University of Washington in Seattle in 2004. After completing law school and becoming a member of the Washington State Bar, Mr. Page returned home to New Mexico. He has previously worked for a private firm practicing Indian law and environmental law, and as a prosecutor in Lincoln and Bernalillo

Counties. In addition to his work with YLD, Mr. Page is a school board member for the Moriarty-Edgewood School District, president of the Moriarty Rotary Club, and actively involved with the Estancia Valley Catholic Parish. He lives in Moriarty with his wife of ten years, Heather, his three sons Royal, Lincoln, and Cotton, and his daughter Torrance.



Ben Sherman is an Assistant City Attorney practicing in the litigation department of the City Attorney's Office for the City of Albuquerque. Before entering civil law, he gained criminal law experience while prosecuting cases as an Assistant District Attorney for the Second Judicial District Attorney's Office. Mr. Sherman is currently Chair of the Board of the Criminal Law Section of the New Mexico State Bar and was recently elected as a Director-at-Large of the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar. He is also an active member of the H. Vearle Payne American Inn of Court. Mr. Sherman received his B.A. degree from The Ohio State University and his J.D. from the UNM School of Law. He is honored to be able to serve the public on a daily basis and enjoys being active in the New Mexico State Bar, helping to strengthen the legal community in which he works.

Meeting Your Pro Bono Publico Service Responsibility; Help YLD Help You

By Matt Page, Director-At-Large, Position 2

Along with paying bar dues, all active attorneys in New Mexico were just required to report the number of pro bono hours performed in 2010. For some, writing the magic number of 50 hours of actual pro bono hours provided was easy (approximately 48% of active members in 2009 met or exceeded the aspirational goal). For others it was not so easy. And in many cases, attorneys had to write a big goose egg on the line (approximately 35% of active members in 2009 reported no pro bono hours). Of course this is the beginning of a new year and it's time to start racking up those pro bono hours again. Let the Young Lawyers Division ("YLD") make it easy and fun.

According to Rule 24-108(A) NMRA, a lawyer should aspire to render at least fifty (50) hours of pro bono publico legal services per year. Rule 16-601 NMRA outlines ways for attorneys to fulfill this important responsibility. The preferred way is to provide legal services without fee to those of limited means. This is problematic for some attorneys, especially for those who are also public employees and cannot offer such representation. YLD can help any attorney who may have previously thought this responsibility was impossible to fulfill.

Rule 16-601(C) NMRA allows attorneys to fulfill the pro bono responsibility by participating "in activities for improving the law, the legal system or the legal profession." This is where YLD comes in. YLD has several opportunities that fall within this category of service available to attorneys of all ages around New Mexico. The following is a list of state-wide YLD programs: Bridge the Gap CLE presenters; Ask-A-Lawyer Law Day Call-In; Homeless Legal Clinic; Junior Judges-Helping Kids Make Smart Choices; YLD/UNM Law Mock Interviews; YLD/UNM Law Mentorship; Wills for Heroes; Voices Against Violence; Serving our Seniors; and Bar Exam Preparation presenters. Not only can attorneys participate in the activities but they can also join planning committees thus earning additional pro bono hours. And for those new to the profession or new to New Mexico, participating in YLD programs is an excellent way to meet colleagues.

YLD provides many worthwhile programs to New Mexico citizens. Help YLD continue its work in 2011 and at the same time fulfill your professional responsibility. And as an added bonus, you'll have fun doing it. Please visit YLD's website at <http://www.nmbar.org/AboutSBNM/YLD/yld.html> for more information, and watch for announcements in the Bar Bulletin and in e-mails.

2010 YLD Fellowships Recipients

Last spring, I was humbled to hear that I would be one of the recipients of the Young Lawyers Division Summer Fellowship and that I would be given the opportunity to spend my summer with the City of Albuquerque's Legal Department. As a life-long resident of Albuquerque, I have been fortunate to benefit from a variety of public services. And I was excited that I was given the chance to have a hand in the government that has, in the past, allowed me these benefits.

There is no substitute for the learning experiences that law students can gain from being a part of the legal practice. For example, although I had several writing assignments in my first year of law school, my summer at the City helped me to expand on these skills in a more practical application. This Fellowship allowed me to hone my research skills and more efficiently explain the legal issue.

My writing improved not just because of the practice I received, but because I had the invaluable experience of being able to work with a number of attorneys one-on-one. Each attorney had a different style and area of expertise and this kept my writing style flexible while broadening what I could do in legal writing.

But being in the City's Legal Department wasn't just about improving my writing: it was about participating in all the different programs and legal areas covered in the Department. My substantive experience included learning about the intricacies of civil defense, employment law, property law and drafting rules and regulations. The range of experience I received helped me to focus my legal education this year.

I want to thank the Young Lawyers' Division for providing me for this opportunity. Without the Summer Fellowship, I would not have been able to explore my passion for public service and gain such valuable experience.

*Sincerely,
David Odegard*

My YLD Summer Public Interest Fellowship allowed me to pursue my interest in public interest environmental law with Western Environmental Law Center (WELC) this past summer. It was actually this very job that prompted me to go to law school, so I am eternally grateful to everyone in the YLD who helped turn that goal into a reality.

I can't say enough about how great it was to work with such talented attorneys who have a true passion for the goals they are trying to accomplish. In addition to their contagious passion, it was really nice to work with attorneys who had such different styles—I got to see first hand that there is more than one approach to various tasks. Add to that a laid back office atmosphere and WELC was a wonderful place to begin my legal career.

The projects this summer were varied, from client meetings in Chama to taping a WELC radio show. When I first arrived, it was all hands on deck to complete a brief for a case before the Tenth Circuit. Once that was complete, I spent the majority of my time, as any young law clerk would, researching a variety of legal issues. While WELC does work all over the western United States, I was fortunate enough to work on projects that were a bit closer to home, including the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission's newly adopted "Outstanding National Resource Waters" regulations.

Most importantly, this summer provided me with an opportunity to learn about how the law is actually practiced. While one may be able to learn the law from books, it is difficult to learn how to practice law without actually doing it. In addition to improving my research and writing skills, at WELC I learned what goes in to a big picture strategy for accomplishing environmental goals, of which litigation is but a part.

Without the help of the YLD, I would not have had the opportunity for such a great experiential learning experience and I thank everyone for their generosity. The experience has helped me refine my interests in public interest law and I hope that, with the continued support of the YLD, future students have the same opportunity I did to pursue their passions.

*Sincerely,
Tony Burchell*

Greetings from the Chair *continued from cover...*

I should also note that the YLD cannot accomplish its work without the support of the State Bar of New Mexico. Every year the Board of Bar Commissioners provides the YLD with the financial resources and people power it needs to move forward with positive growth. Further, Joe Conte, State Bar Executive Director, and Christine Morganti, Director of Membership and Communications, are instrumental in ensuring the year to year success of the YLD. For their continued support, on behalf of the YLD, I say "thank you".

Finally, I would like to welcome the newly elected members to the YLD Board of Directors, including Cristina Adams, Hans Erickson and Benjamin Sherman. They will join Samantha Jarrett (Chair-Elect), Keya Koul (Vice-Chair), Martha Chicoski (Immediate Past Chair), Jared Kallunki, David Lutz and Matt Page on this year's board. The board is comprised of a great group of people who are wholeheartedly committed to the objectives of the YLD, and I am privileged to work with them this year in advancing the YLD's various initiatives. If you have any questions about participating in YLD projects or anything else related to the YLD, please feel free to contact me at tcruz@narvaezlawfirm.com.