

YLD...In Brief

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

March 2012

YLD BOARD

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YLD PROGRAM CHAIRS

YLD CLE 2012:

Samantha Hults and Greg Gambill

Law Day Call-in Programs 2012:

Albuquerque: Keya Koul

Farmington: Ken Stalter and Mary Alvarado

Roswell: Jared Kallunki

Las Cruces: David Lutz and Samantha Barncastle

Law Day Essay Contest (YLD Volunteer Coordinator):

Robert Lara

In Brief: **Tina Cruz**

Junior Judges (began in 2006):

Matt Page and Tina Cruz

YLD/UNM Law Mock Interview Program:

Samantha Hults, Matt Page, and Charlie Stoll

Summer Fellowship Program (began in 2005):

Samantha Hults

UNM Law/YLD Mentorship &

Speed Networking Program:

Keya Koul, Ben Sherman, and Charlie Stoll

Wills for Heroes (began in 2008):

Samantha Hults, Ben Sherman, Charlie Stoll

Voices Against Violence (began in 2009):

**Jared Kallunki, Matt Page, Charlie Stoll
and Samantha Hults**

Serving our Seniors (began in 2011):

Matt Page and Samantha Hults

Project Salute: Young Lawyers Serving Veterans

(began in 2012):

Samantha Hults

Judicial Brown Bag Luncheon Program

Martha Chicowski, Ken Stalter, Samantha Barncastle

Message from the YLD Chair...

By *Samantha M. Hults*



As I start my tenure as the 2012 YLD chair, I think of the saying, "Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something." As young lawyers, many of us get caught up in launching our new careers and lose sight of why we entered this noble profession. We become overwhelmed carrying out the role of the "new associate," the "new assistant district attorney," the "new public defender," the "new assistant city attorney," or any of the other "new attorney" labels that exist within the practice of law. This is where I ask each YLD member to take a step back from the hustle and bustle of their emerging careers and remember that, "Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something."

The YLD consists of all State Bar members under the age of 36 as well as those who have been admitted to the practice of law in any state for five years or less. Any attorney that meets this criteria is automatically a member of the YLD without having to apply, join, or pay dues. The YLD is approximately 1,925 members strong, and I encourage each of you to "do something" for yourself and your community by participating in one of the many YLD programs or community service projects.

Some of the community service projects that the YLD will continue to develop in 2012 are Wills for Heroes, Serving Our Seniors, Junior Judges, and Law Day "Ask-a-Lawyer Call-In." Please keep an eye out for announcements in the weekly State Bar E-News and *Bar Bulletin* regarding volunteer opportunities for these projects.

I am also proud to announce that the YLD, in continuing its commitment to public service, is implementing a new service project

in conjunction with the ABA/YLD called, "Project Salute: Young Lawyers Serving Veterans." Through this program, attorney volunteers educate veterans regarding available benefits and assist them in obtaining these benefits. The YLD launched this initiative at the Veterans Integration Center in Albuquerque March 10 with the aid of ABA YLD National Project Salute Director Tammy Kudailis on hand. I am very excited to implement this much-needed service in our state. Future clinics will be scheduled throughout the year in various locations. For more information or to participate, please feel free to contact me directly.

This year the YLD will redevelop its CLE program in order to meet the changing needs of its members. The YLD is sponsoring a CLE program this November entitled, "Reinventing Professional Services," which will target young professionals practicing law in a digital market. Additionally, the YLD is currently working to rebuild the New Mexico Leadership Institute, which helps young lawyers identify, prepare and develop skills for leadership opportunities. I encourage all YLD members to take advantage of these programs and provide feedback for the future development of these resources.

Recently, the YLD, in conjunction with the New Mexico State Bar Foundation, hosted a talent show featuring members of our very own State Bar. From singing, dancing, playing the bag pipes, classical guitar, and performing stand-up comedy, the State Bar sure has talent! The event raised approximately \$8,000 to fund the delivery of legal service to the needy, while providing a great night of food and entertainment for all in attendance. Congratulations to runner-up performers The Moondogs and competition winners Isaac Estrada, Robert Lucero, Maria Martinez, and Chris Melendrez for their amazing mariachi performance!

continued on page 4

Meet the Board



Samantha Hults is the chair of the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of New Mexico. She is an assistant city attorney with the City Albuquerque. She formerly practiced at the Albuquerque office of Jackson Lewis LLP, a national labor and employment firm. Hults 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. Hults' legal practice focuses on counseling and representing the city 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, the City Labor Management Relations and Personnel Acts and other city, state and federal employment and labor laws. Hults also has a background in health care law, civil litigation and practices before administrative agencies.



Keya Koul is the chair-elect of the YLD board and director-at-large, position 1. She chairs the UNM Law School/YLD Mentorship Program, the Law Day Ask-A-Lawyer Call-in program in Albuquerque, and the Speed Networking event. She was the 2011 State Bar of New Mexico Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year. Koul has a B.A. in Spanish with a minor in biology from Smith College, an M.A. in medieval Spanish literature from UCLA, and a law degree from Southwestern Law School. She is the associate managing attorney in the Albuquerque office of Castle Stawiariski LLC and practices real estate and bankruptcy law. Koul is also the treasurer of the New Mexico Women's Bar Association and an assistant editor on the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division's (ABA YLD) Affiliate Newsletter Team.



Ben Sherman is the vice chair and director-at-large, position 4, on the YLD board. He recently started Ben Sherman Law LLC, a law firm specializing in criminal defense and personal injury. Prior to opening his own firm, Sherman worked as an assistant city attorney for the Albuquerque City Attorney's Office and as an assistant district attorney for the 2nd Judicial District Attorney's Office. In 2010, he was elected as a director-at-large of the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar and currently serves as its vice chair. He has also served on the board of directors of the Criminal Law Section since 2009 and currently serves as its past-chair. Sherman is also an active member of the H. Vearle Payne American Inn of Court. He received his B.A. from Ohio State University and his J.D. from the University of New Mexico School of Law. He enjoys being active in the State Bar and giving back to the community, helping to strengthen and improve the legal community in which he practices. In his spare time, he enjoys playing recreational soccer and spending time with family and friends.



Ernestina "Tina" Cruz is the immediate past chair of the YLD. She has served as a member of the YLD board since 2007. She has coordinated events for the Wills for Heroes and Serving our Seniors public service projects and served as co-chair of the YLD's Bar Preparation Program. She has volunteered for the YLD/UNM School of Law Mentorship, Junior Judges, and Mock Interview programs. In 2009-2010, she was an ABA YLD General Practice/Solo Practitioner Scholar. She is currently a board member with the State Bar Committee on Diversity in the Legal Profession, Committee on Women in the Legal Profession, the Board of Bar Examiners, and the New Mexico Women's Bar Association. She also is the immediate past chair of the State Bar Employment and Labor Law Section. Cruz obtained her B.A. from the University of New Mexico, M.A. from the University of Notre Dame, and law degree from the University of New Mexico School of Law. Before returning to Northern New Mexico, she was a partner at the Narvaez Law Firm in Albuquerque. She is the founder of Cruz Law Office LLC in Taos. In addition to her law practice, Cruz is a visiting assistant professor of Pre-Law at New Mexico Highlands University.



Ken Stalter is a prosecutor with the 11th Judicial District Attorney's Office in San Juan County. His case load encompasses a range of felony cases, including violent, property, and financial crimes. He joined the D.A.'s office in 2010 after working in public finance and politics. In 2011, he was elected region 1 director of the YLD. Stalter received his B.A. from Cornell University and his J.D., *cum laude*, from Harvard Law School. He is the region 1 director on the YLD board.



Joachim Marjon is an attorney with the State Office of the Public Defender in Santa Fe. He has worked for the Public Defender since he graduated from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 2009. While in law school, he was president of the ACLU's UNM School of Law chapter and also clerked for the ACLU of New Mexico. Marjon graduated with a B.A. in Economics and Political Science from the University of New Mexico in 2005. He also studied at the Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey in Querétaro, México. He is very active in the Santa Fe community and spends much of his time making sure he stays abreast of community issues and concerns. He is also an avid runner, a past time he has continued to pursue since his days on the UNM Track and Cross Country teams. Marjon looks forward to his tenure on the YLD board in the position of region 2 director and hopes that he can add to the group and represent Santa Fe and Northern New Mexico by contributing his views on sex, politics and religion.

Meet the Board



Jared G. Kallunki is a sole practitioner in Roswell. He practices in a wide range of civil matters including family law, contracts, and civil litigation. He 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. Kallunki serves on the Chaves County

Pro Bono Committee. He lives in Roswell with his wife of 14 years, Tiesha, and his three children. Kallunki is the region 3 director on the YLD board.



Samantha Barncastle, originally from Roswell, received her Bachelor of Arts in Government and Philosophy from New Mexico State University in 2007. She received her J.D., *magna cum laude*, from the University of New Mexico in 2010. Upon graduation, she became an associate attorney with the Law Office of Steven L. Hernandez, located in Las Cruces. She has a general civil litigation practice

with a heavy emphasis on natural resource litigation, specifically water issues. In addition to representing irrigation and conservancy districts throughout the state in water rights adjudications and other water rights related cases, she serves as the southern New Mexico representative on the board of directors for the New Mexico Chapter of the American Water Resources Association. Her other practice areas include contracts, property rights, and creditor rights. Barncastle is the region 4 director on the YLD board.

Charlie Stoll currently works for the 2nd Judicial District Attorney's Office in Albuquerque, Domestic Violence Division. A graduate of the City University of New York School of Law in 2006, Stoll has worked for the New Mexico Child Support Enforcement Division as well as the District Attorney's Office in San Juan County. Prior to moving to New Mexico in 2009, he resided in Alaska where he worked for the Public Defender Department in both the village of Kotzebue and the city of Anchorage. Today in his spare time he enjoys exploring the ruins of Chaco Canyon and Canyon de Chelly, skiing at nearby Taos Mountain, and reading about the great state of New Mexico and its rich and interesting history. Stoll represents region 5 on the YLD board.



Mateo "Matt" S. Page serves as director-at-large, position 2, on the YLD board. He has been an assistant district attorney for almost seven years, currently working in Torrance County where he prosecutes primarily DWI, domestic violence, and juvenile cases. He received his BA, *summa cum laude*, in political science from the University of New Mexico in 2000 and his law degree from the University

of Washington in Seattle in 2004. After completing law school and becoming a member of the Washington State Bar, Page returned home to New Mexico. He previously worked for a private firm practicing Indian law and environmental law, as a prosecutor in Lincoln and Bernalillo counties, and as a legislative analyst for the New Mexico House of Representatives Judiciary Committee. In addition to his work with YLD, Page is a school board member for the Moriarty-Edgewood School District, the immediate past president of the Moriarty Rotary Club, and actively involved with the Estancia Valley Catholic Parish. He lives in Moriarty with his wife of 11½ years, Heather, his three sons Royal, Lincoln, and Cotton, and his daughter Torrance.



Robert Lara serves as director-at-large, position 3, on the YLD board. He is currently the New Mexico finance director for the Martin Heinrich for U.S. Senate campaign and is currently on sabbatical from the law firm of Castle Stawarski LLC, where he is an associate. Lara is originally from El Paso, Texas. He is a 2004 graduate of the University of Texas at El Paso, where he received a Bachelor

of Arts degree in Political Science, and is a 2007 graduate of the University of New Mexico School of Law. While in law school, he was awarded the Dean's Award for Outstanding Service to the University in 2007. In addition he was awarded the Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity International Robert Redding Service Award in 2007 and the Outstanding Community Service Program Award in 2006 in recognition of his work on Gulf Coast Hurricane Relief. Lara currently serves as an officer on the boards of the UNM School of Law Alumni Association, the New Mexico Hispanic Bar Association, and Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity International-District V. His legal practice focuses on property law, administrative law, and election law where he represents various clients, organizations, political campaigns and candidates regarding the Federal Election Campaign Act, the New Mexico Election Code, and related business matters. In addition, he is a lobbyist on behalf of his clients at both the federal and state legislatures and agencies. His experience also includes working on national, state, and local campaigns. Outside of work, Lara enjoys advocating for the New Mexico Dachshund Rescue Association and spending time on a busy dance floor or with a good book.

ABA Midyear Meeting in New Orleans

By Keya Koul, YLD Vice Chair

State Bar of New Mexico Young Lawyers Division (YLD) board members Jared Kallunki and Keya Koul traveled to New Orleans for the 2012 American Bar Association Midyear Meeting in New Orleans. They were the New Mexico delegates to the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division (ABA YLD) Assembly, the principal policy-making body of the ABA YLD. During the meeting, issues and resolutions which impact young lawyers are debated and voted upon. A new addition to the Assembly included a roll call of each state with a brief greeting specific to the state. Kallunki and Koul greeted the Assembly from the Land of Enchantment and asked the perennial question—Red or green?



Jared Kallunki, Levina Kim and Keya Koul in New Orleans

The ABA YLD also helped over 60 veterans during an installation of the 2011-2012 ABA YLD public service project, Project Salute: Young Lawyers Serving Veterans. This public service project educates veterans on available benefits and assists them in the application process. The State Bar YLD held Project Salute: Young Lawyers Serving Veterans clinic on March 10 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at

the New Mexico Veterans Integration Center.

On Saturday, a large delegation from New Mexico attended the Spirit of Excellence Awards Luncheon where Justice Petra Jimenez Maes was one of the award recipients. The Spirit of Excellence Awards recognize the efforts and accomplishments of lawyers and judges alike who work to promote a more racially and ethnically diverse legal profession. With great pride, the luncheon attendees heard

about Justice Maes' life history, success in the judiciary, and her commitment to diversity in the legal profession.

Both Kallunki and Koul attended ABA YLD social events, including the YLD Dinner Dance at the Musée Conti Wax Museum and several CLEs on a variety of topics addressing substantive legal, diversity, and technology issues in the legal profession.

The Spring ABA YLD conference will be held in Nashville in May. More information can be found at http://www.americanbar.org/calendar/2012/05/yld_2012_spring_conference.html.

Message from the Chair *continued from cover...*

In addition, The YLD continues to provide outreach to students at the University of New Mexico School of Law by co-sponsoring the UNMSOL Mock Interview Program, Mentorship Program, Summer Fellowship Program, and Annual Speed Networking event. The YLD is grateful to all attorneys who continue to volunteer and make these programs a success and also thanks John Feldman, Bonnie Stepleton and Nancy Huffstutler at UNMSOL Career Services for helping to coordinate these events.

I encourage all YLD members and future members (law students) to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the Division to improve and sharpen their advocacy skills and advance their careers. I also encourage every member of the State Bar to take time out to enjoy and recognize members of our legal community. This can be accomplished by attending one of the many events hosted by the YLD or the State Bar.

Finally, as a person who knows that she "cannot do everything," I would like to thank the members of the YLD board for providing their

time, dedication and support in making the YLD a success. I would especially, like to thank Past Chair Tina Cruz for her contributions in 2011, including her implementation of the Annual YLD Board and Service Retreat. I also want to convey my enormous gratitude to all returning board members while welcoming five new board members: Samantha Barncastle, Robert Lara, Joachim Biagi Marjon, Kenneth Stalter and Charles Stoll. I look forward to working with you all.

On that note, just remember that although you may not be able to do everything, you can do something. I hope you will get involved and that I hear from you soon. The success of the YLD and its programs are largely reliant on your involvement and participation.

For more information, visit the YLD website at <http://www.nmbar.org/AboutSBNM/YLD/YLD.html> or contact Samantha Hults at sammysam01@yahoo.com.