

YLD...In Brief

The Official Newsletter State Bar of New Mexico Young Lawyers Division

February 2013

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Law Day Call-in Programs 2013: **Samantha Barncastle;**

Spencer Edelman; Jared Kullunki;

Mary Modrich-Alvarado; Ken Stalter

Law Day Essay Contest: **Robert Lara**

In Brief: **Samantha Hults**

YLD/UNM SOL Outreach Programs:

Spencer Edelman; Samantha Hults; Robert Lara;

Mary Modrich-Alvarado; Matt Page; Ben Sherman

Wills for Heroes: **Greg Gambill; Spencer Edelman;**

Joachim Marjon; Ben Sherman; Ken Stalter

Homeless Legal Clinic: **Steven Almanza;**

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Serving our Seniors: **Spencer Edelman; Greg Gambill;**

Joachim Marjon; Matt Page

Project Salute: Young Lawyers Serving Veterans:

Samantha Barncastle; Greg Gambill;

Joachim Marjon; Mary Modrich-Alvarado

Judicial Brown Bag Luncheon Program:

Samantha Barncastle; Ken Stalter

Message from the YLD Chair...

By Keya Koul



Along with the honor and privilege of being the 2013 chair of the State Bar of New Mexico Young Lawyers Division, I humbly acknowledge the major commitment and responsibility that accompanies this position. All SBNM members under the age of 36 or in practice for five years or less automatically become members of the YLD, which currently consists of approximately 1,735 members. I am extremely excited and proud to lead this group of attorneys.

The YLD chair is only one person and can only do so much. Everything that I will do as chair in 2013 could not be possible

without the dedicated, hard-working, and committed volunteers that comprise our YLD board. The YLD board members spend countless hours working on developing, organizing, and implementing every YLD program and project. All of this is done behind the scenes and in what appears to be an effortless and perfectly choreographed dance, but only past and current board members truly know the amount of work it takes to accomplish all that the YLD does each and every year.

The focus for this bar year will be diversity, specifically developing diverse leaders on a local, state, and national level. A Leadership Forum was held Jan. 19 at the State Bar Center to discuss the results of the 2013 YLD Survey and to open the dialogue and to start an idea exchange between the YLD and other local and state bar associations. I hope that this is only the beginning of the discussion and that through collaboration we can make strides in this area. To further this goal, the YLD submitted two proposals to the American Bar Association YLD Next Steps Challenge, which is a program that aims to increase diversity in the pipeline to the legal profession.

This year the YLD will also continue to take the lead on various public service projects. Every year the ABA YLD selects a public service project for its affiliates to implement. The SBNM YLD is considered an affiliate of the ABA YLD. In 2013, we will continue to implement ABA YLD Chair Chris Rogers' Year of Service which will include Project Salute: Young Lawyers Serving Veterans, Serving Our Seniors, Wills for Heroes, American Voter, and many other public service projects.

The YLD board works diligently to ensure that the organization continues to meet the needs of the legal community as a whole. Some of the community and member service projects that the YLD will continue to administer in 2013 are the Law Day Call-in programs in Albuquerque, Farmington, Roswell, and Las Cruces; Junior Judges; and the statewide Judicial Brown Bag Luncheon program.

The YLD and the University of New Mexico School of Law have a rich history of working together to prepare future young lawyers for the myriad number of experiences and challenges that await them as members of the legal community. In 2013, the YLD and UNMSOL will organize the Mock Interview Program, the Mentorship Program, the Speed Networking Program, and the Summer Fellowship Program.

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Meet the Board



Keya Koul

Keya Koul is the associate managing attorney of the New Mexico office of The Castle Law Group LLC. She concentrates her practice in the area of residential mortgage foreclosures and related actions. Koul attended Smith College (B.A.), the University of California at Los Angeles (M.A.), and Southwestern Law School (J.D.). In 2011, she was named the State Bar of New Mexico's Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year. Koul is the associate editor of the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division *The Affiliate* Newsletter Team. She was recently selected as a 2012-2014 ABA Real Property, Trust, and Estate Section Fellow and serves on the board of the New Mexico Lawyers for the Arts. In 2012, she was presented the SBNM CLE Young Lawyer Crest Award for her presentation on "Alternatives to Foreclosures" at the 2011 SBNM Annual Meeting. Koul loves learning foreign languages and traveling all over the world, especially to India where her family is from originally.



Ben Sherman

Ben Sherman is the current chair-elect of the State Bar Young Lawyers Division and the owner/founder of Ben Sherman Law LLC, located in Albuquerque. His practice focuses primarily on criminal defense, workers' compensation, and personal injury. Prior to opening his own law firm, Sherman worked at the Second Judicial District Attorney's Office and the City of Albuquerque legal department. Originally from Ohio, he moved to New Mexico in 2005 and graduated from UNMSOL in 2008. Sherman is honored to serve the young lawyers of New Mexico and is consistently impressed by the quality of professionals in the legal community. In his free time, he enjoys playing soccer, spending time outdoors, skiing, gardening, cooking, dancing, visiting family, and spending time with friends.



Ken Stalter

Ken Stalter is vice chair of the State Bar YLD as well as region 1 director, serving San Juan and McKinley counties. As an assistant district attorney in the Eleventh Judicial District, Division I, he handles a wide range of felony cases. Stalter attended Cornell University (B.A.) and Harvard Law School (J.D. *cum laude*). When not working, he enjoys reading and writing speculative fiction, snowboarding, and computer programming.



Greg Gambill

Greg Gambill is a voting member of the SBNM YLD board and is also the 2012-2014 ABA YLD district representative for New Mexico and Arizona. He is an attorney at the law firm of Bannerman & Johnson PA in Albuquerque. His practice is oriented towards health care and commercial matters, and is a mixture of transactional, regulatory compliance, and litigation work. Gambill is a frequent flyer in the YLD's member service and public service projects, including the UNMSOL/YLD Mentorship Program, Project Salute: Young Lawyers Serving Veterans, Wills for Heroes, and Serving Our Seniors. His latest endeavor is exploring how to implement the recommendations in the ABA's Next Steps report, which assesses the state of diversity in the legal profession. The recommendations are aimed at increasing diversity and reflect and incorporate the multiple experiences, false starts, insights, frustrations and new beginnings that represent the various ways that diversity works within the different sectors of the legal profession.



Jared Kallunki

Jared G. Kallunki is the region 3 director on the YLD board. He is a sole practitioner in Roswell where he practices in a wide range of civil matters including family law, contracts, and civil litigation. Kallunki attended the University of Alabama (B.A., Political Science; M.A., International Relations and Comparative Politics) and the Thomas Jefferson School of Law (J. D.). Prior to opening his own firm, he was the managing attorney of the Roswell office of New Mexico Legal Aid. He currently serves on the Chaves County Pro Bono Committee and has previously served on the 12th District Pro Bono Committee. In 2012, Kallunki was awarded the State Bar Robert H. LaFollette Pro Bono Award for his work with the less fortunate. He lives in Roswell with his wife of 15 years, Tiesha; and his three children, Detroit, Joaquin and Cedric.

Meet the Board



Joachim Marjon

Joachim Marjon is a 2009 graduate of the UNM School of Law, where he was a two-term president of the UNMSOL chapter of the ACLU. He worked with the Santa Fe Public Defender's Office until opening his own office in August 2012 in Santa Fe. His practice is limited primarily to criminal defense and personal injury claims. He looks forward to serving his community and encourages members to contact him with any ideas and suggestions for YLD activities.



Mary Modrich-Alvarado

Mary Modrich-Alvarado serves as the director-at-large, position 5, on the YLD board. She is an attorney in the Tax and Finance Unit at the Navajo Nation Department of Justice in Window Rock, Arizona, where advises and works with departments, programs, and committees on legal issues focusing on tax, finance, and litigation. She currently serves as an appointee to the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division *The Affiliate* Newsletter Team as an assistant editor and a Window Rock district commissioner on the Board of Bar Commissioners for the Navajo Nation Bar Association. She attended Miami University at Oxford, Ohio (B.S., Business) and Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Tempe, Arizona (J.D. and Indian Law Certificate). Modrich-Alvarado is barred in New Mexico and in the Navajo Nation.



Matt Page

Mateo "Matt" S. Page serves as director-at-large, position 2, on the YLD board. He has been an assistant district attorney for almost eight years, currently working in Torrance County where he prosecutes primarily DWI, domestic violence, and juvenile cases. He attended the University of New Mexico (BA, *summa cum laude*, Political Science, 2000) and the University of Washington in Seattle (J.D., 2004). After completing law school and becoming a member of the Washington State Bar, Page returned home to New Mexico. He 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. Page is a board member of the New Mexico Board of Examiners, a school board member for the Moriarty-Edgewood School District, and is actively involved with the Estancia Valley Catholic Parish. He lives in Moriarty with his wife of 12½ years, Heather; his three sons Royal, Lincoln, and Cotton; and his daughter Torrance.



Robert Lara

Robert Lara is currently an associate for the Castle Law Group LLC. He is originally from El Paso, Texas, and is a 2007 graduate of the University of New Mexico School of Law. Lara's 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 various agencies. His experience includes working on national, state, and local political and issue campaigns. Lara has a background in public interest law, public policy and administrative law. In his free time, he enjoys advocating for the New Mexico Dachshund Rescue Association and spending time on a busy dance floor or with a good book.



Samantha Barncastle

Samantha R. Barncastle attended New Mexico State University (B.A., 2007) and the University of New Mexico School of Law (J.D., 2010). She is an associate attorney with the Law Office of Steven L. Hernandez PC in Las Cruces. Barncastle has a general civil practice with a heavy emphasis on natural resource litigation (specifically, water and property issues). She is counsel for the Elephant Butte Irrigation District and on behalf of EBID she has been heavily involved in the pending stream adjudication of the Lower Rio Grande, which seeks to adjudicate all of the rights to the waters of the LRG from Elephant Butte Reservoir to the Texas state line, water-related litigation in federal court, a variety of water-related issues within EBID's administrative arena, and most recently the application for original action in the United States Supreme Court filed by the State of Texas against the State of New Mexico regarding water in the LRG. Barncastle's other areas of practice include contracts, property rights, and creditor rights.

Meet the Board



Spencer Edelman

Spencer Edelman is the region 5 director. He has been involved in YLD projects since moving to New Mexico in 2009. He first became involved in the Wills For Heroes program and has since expanded that volunteerism to other projects. In his non-pro bono life, Edelman is an associate at the Modrall Sperling Law Firm, focusing on creditors rights and bankruptcy. He is also on the board of Law Access New Mexico. Edelman attended Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota (2006) and the University of Arizona School of Law (2009). He enjoys playing tennis regularly.



Samantha Hults

Samantha Hults is the immediate past chair of the State Bar YLD. She is an assistant city attorney with the City Albuquerque. She formerly practiced at the Albuquerque office of Jackson Lewis LLP. Hults, a New Mexico native, attended Occidental College in Los Angeles, California (B.A., Urban and Environmental Policy) and the University of New Mexico School of Law (J.D., 2005). 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 and civil litigation and practices before administrative agencies.

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

I am also thrilled to announce the resurrection of the Bar Leadership Institute which will be conducted by Attorney Rick Kraft of Roswell. Several past YLD chairs are graduates of BLI, and I look forward to offering this opportunity to future bar leaders.

None of these programs and projects would be possible without the tireless dedication and hard work of the YLD board and our many amazing volunteers. I urge each and every one of our members to take

time to volunteer in whatever way you can. I guarantee that there is a volunteer opportunity for everyone—whether it takes five minutes or five hours or five days or five weeks or five months of your time. Please reach out to me and I will find a volunteer opportunity that is perfectly tailored to your schedule and your interests. I am always available via email at kkoul@cmsatty.com or via my cell at 213-361-5268. I look forward to hearing from many of you in the weeks to come.

Upcoming YLD Events

March 29, 2013: Application deadline for the YLD Summer Fellowship

April 13, 2013: YLD/UNM SOL Mentorship BBQ

May 4, 2013: YLD Law Day Call-In Program

May 19-20, 2013: ABA/YLD Spring Conference in Minneapolis, MN