

Erinna M. Atkins, Esq. 2024 President State Bar of New Mexico

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July 8, 2024

## Dear Members:

I am honored and grateful for the trust you have placed in me by electing me as your 2024 Chair. As I embark on this journey, I am filled with enthusiasm and determination to serve our Division to the best of my abilities.

My objectives for this year are the promotion and expansion of our Division by increasing awareness of membership benefits to our members and potential members. Our Division, through the years and due to the active work of BOD leadership and many committees, has offered and continues to offer continuing legal education, pro bono and networking opportunities and other benefits of membership. However, recognizing the importance of engagement and feedback and to accomplish the mission of our Division to serve the needs of paralegals in the state, the Board has recently approved a proposal to conduct a statewide survey aimed at gathering statistical and practical information from our members and potentially other paralegals in the community. This initiative will help us better understand the needs and preferences of our colleagues to more effectively serve them and educate us about how they as well as their employers perceive and practice/utilize the profession. Watch for more on this in the near future.

I am delighted to share that we have secured a new event exclusively for Division Members - "Lunch with the Justices." This new opportunity will include a tour of the Supreme Court and Law Library, providing our members with firsthand insights into the workings of our legal system. Such experiences not only enrich our understanding but also foster a stronger sense of community among us. Furthermore, I am actively exploring avenues for collaboration with the Women's Bar, aiming to address and promote the role of women in the legal profession.

Behind the scenes, our dedicated committees are hard at work, diligently working on new opportunities and initiatives for the Division. I extend my gratitude to all committee members for their commitment and dedication. To those who have not yet joined a committee, I urge you to consider doing so, as your contributions are invaluable in shaping the future of our Division.

I am committed to advancing our Division's mission and promoting a vibrant and inclusive community of paralegal professionals.

Thank you once again for your trust and support.

## Meryl Sutton

Meryl Sutton 2024 Paralegal Division Chair