



State Bar of New Mexico  
Committee on Diversity  
in the Legal Profession

**COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION  
OF THE STATE BAR OF NEW MEXICO  
2024 ANNUAL REPORT**

**TO:** Richard Spinello, Executive Director  
Board of Bar Commissioners  
State Bar of New Mexico

**FROM:** Helen B. Padilla

**SUBJECT:** 2024 Annual Report – Committee on Diversity in the Legal Profession

**DATE:** January 6, 2025

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The Committee on Diversity in the Legal Profession conducted and accomplished the following in 2024:

1. Board of Directors
  - a. N/A – In 2024, the CDLP had one Chair and a number of members from various diversity organizations, the UNM School of Law, and the general bar membership, but not a board of directors. However, pursuant to new Standing Committee Policies from the BBC the CDLP has elected a slate of voting members and a Chair to serve starting January 1, 2025.
2. Meetings
  - a. March 8, 2024
  - b. June 14, 2024
  - c. September 13, 2024
  - d. December 13, 2024
3. Continuing Education Presentation(s)
  - a. 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium on Diversity & Inclusion – November 8, 2024  
The Symposium was a full-day event. There were 43 participants, including speakers. A variety of topics were covered, including Immigrants' rights, reproductive rights, and Disability access and justice. For more information see Symposium agenda included with this Report. Symposium presenters and panelists received small gifts in appreciation for their work on the Symposium. These gifts were all made by and purchased directly from local Indigenous artists.
4. Section/committee Annual Meeting

- a. N/A
- 5. Section/committee Outreach/Initiatives/Events
  - a. Art Jaramillo Clerkship Program – another successful year of diverse students paired with legal employers (21 confirmed) for summer clerkships.
  - b. Bar Exam Coaching Program – Due to staff turnover in the EIJ Program at the State Bar, the Coaching Program only produced matches for the February 2024 Bar Exam. Eleven diverse bar applicants were matched with volunteer attorney coaches. The Committee works with the American Indian Law Center, Inc. to match Native bar applicants with Native attorneys. Generally, there has been success by diverse bar applicants who had an attorney coach at a higher rate of bar passage than those for diverse groups as reported by statistics from the NM BBE. With the EIJ position filled, the Committee started matching for the February 2025 Bar Exam in advance of previous years. 18 matches were made for the February 2025 Bar Exam.
  - c. Judicial Clerkship Program – A joint effort with SBNM and Justice Thomson, New Mexico Supreme Court – pairing 2L diverse law students with judges for judicial clerkship program. There were 8 students (6 from UNM, 2 from out of state law schools). After completion of the 2024 cohort the decision was made by the Supreme Court, in consultation with Executive Director Richard Spinello and then President-Elect Brooks that the Program would be wholly a Supreme Court program. The Court has now taken over administering the Program.
  - d. Equity in Justice Program – Abby Lewis, Equity in Justice Attorney, keeps the Committee informed on updates and events of this important program and continues to assist the Committee Chair with the tasks and coordination needed for the CDLP programs.
- 6. Scholarships (if applicable)-N/A
- 7. Media (includes website and/or social media if applicable)
  - a. The CDLP webpage was updated to reflect the current Chair of the Committee.
- 8. Ongoing Section/Committee Items:
  - a. For 2024, the CDLP intends to continue its programs identified in Sections 3 and 5 above.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Helen B. Padilla – Electronically Signed

Helen B. Padilla

2024 Chair, State Bar of New Mexico Committee on Diversity in the Legal Profession

# 10th Annual Diversity & Inclusion Symposium

November 8, 2024  
2.0 G, 3.0 EIJ, 1.0 EP



8:45 a.m.	<b>Welcome</b> Helen Padilla, Committee on Diversity in the Legal Profession Chair	
9 a.m.	<b>Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging: NextGen Bar Exam and Moving Beyond the Bar Exam</b> Patrick Lopez, University of New Mexico School of Law Roshanna Toya, Rothstein Donatelli	1.0 EIJ
10 a.m.	<b>Break</b>	
10:15 a.m.	<b>Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging in Higher Education: One Year After the Harvard and UNC Decisions</b> Vinay Harpalani, University of New Mexico School of Law	1.0 EIJ
11:15 a.m.	<b>Break</b>	
11:30 a.m.	<b>Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging in Public Schools: <i>Johnson v. APS Board of Education, S-1-SC-39961</i></b> Leon Howard, ACLU of New Mexico Barbara Creel, University of New Mexico School of Law Marc-Tizoc Gonzalez, University of New Mexico School of Law	1.0 EIJ
12:30 p.m.	<b>Lunch (Provided by the Center for Legal Education)</b>	
1:15 p.m.	<b>Ethics, Disability Justice, and Accessibility</b> Eli Fresquez	1.0 EP
2:15 p.m.	<b>Break</b>	
2:30 p.m.	<b>Abortion and Reproductive Healthcare</b> Jazmyn Taitingfong, ACLU of New Mexico	1.0 G
3:30 p.m.	<b>Break</b>	
3:45 p.m.	<b>Immigrants' Rights</b> Jessica Martinez, New Mexico Immigrant Law Center Becca Sheff, ACLU of New Mexico Max Brooks, ACLU of New Mexico	1.0 G

