

Official Publication of the State Bar of New Mexico

DIGITAL BAR BULLETIN

January 22, 2025 • Volume 64, No. 2



Courthouse on Shakespeare Street, by Jonathan Miller (see page 5)

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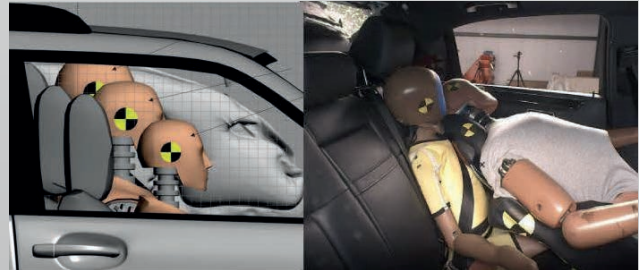
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As we welcome them into the partnership, we celebrate this moment together as a firm. It reflects our shared values, our commitment to cultivating outstanding talent, and our vision for a bright future. Chris and Jessica embody the qualities that define RRA, and we are confident they will play an integral role in building upon the legacy we have created.

Please join us in congratulating them on this well-deserved accomplishment. Let us take this opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the journey that has brought us to this exciting chapter.

Here's to their continued success and to the future of RRA!



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About Cover Image and Artist: Jonathan Miller has been a member of the State Bar of New Mexico since 1988. While based in Albuquerque, he travels all over New Mexico and has appeared in every judicial district. He started taking pictures as a way to stretch to and from his travels to court. Jonathan is a graduate of Albuquerque Academy, Cornell University and the University of Colorado law school. He does have an MFA through the American Film Institute. He recently took his first professional photography class through Cornell's online program. His photos have been displayed on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.

Editor's Note:

The Benefits of Going Fully Digital



Dear Readers of the *Bar Bulletin*,

First established in 1962, the *Bar Bulletin* has been the State Bar of New Mexico's ("the State Bar") official publication for over six decades that provides New Mexico's legal community everything from vital information and announcements to insightful and interesting articles and features. With the publication having gone through a variety of changes and evolutions throughout the years, we have always maintained a high degree of determination in ensuring consistent high-quality content and commitment to delivering on the State Bar's mission of "serving the legal profession and the public."

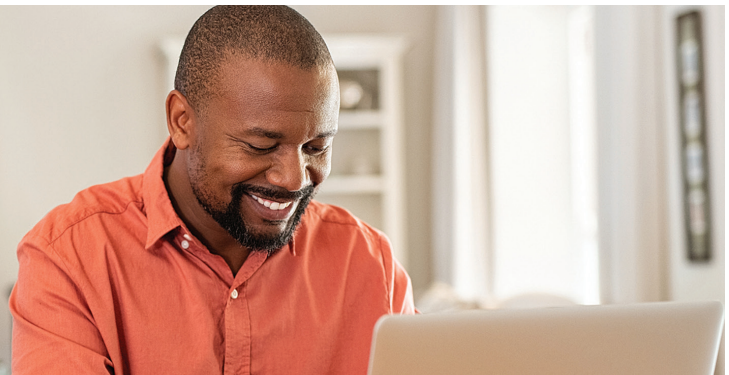
With the *Bar Bulletin*'s latest evolution of going completely digital comes multiple benefits for the legal community. In addition to the convenience of being able to read the *Bar Bulletin* on the go, readers will now have access to timelier and more current information along with the digital archive of past issues. Going fully digital also offers a green solution as we move toward a collective emphasis on sustainability and environment-friendly practices as an organization.

As we continue to navigate these "digital waters," we will continue to build on the benefits of an exclusively digital publication, and we are confident this focused format will enable us to continually evolve the *Bar Bulletin* as the State Bar's official publication.







Sincerely,
Brandon McIntyre
Editor of the *Bar Bulletin*

WRITE ARTICLES for the Bar Bulletin!



The *Bar Bulletin* isn't just a place for information; it's a hub for discourse and perspectives on timely and relevant legal topics and cases! From A.I. and technology to family law and pro bono representation, we welcome you to send in articles on a variety of issues pertaining to New Mexico's legal community and beyond!

By publishing your work in the *Bar Bulletin*, you will:

-  • Increase your law firm or organization's visibility
-  • Have your article read by over 8,000 State Bar of New Mexico members
-  • Get a FREE shoutout on social media for your published submissions
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We look forward to your submissions!



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For information on submission guidelines and how to submit your articles, please visit www.sbnm.org/submitarticle.

Please email notices desired for publication to notices@sbnm.org.

COURT NEWS

New Mexico Supreme Court Rule-Making Activity

To view recent Supreme Court rule-making activity, visit the Court's website at <https://supremecourt.nmcourts.gov>. To view all New Mexico Rules Annotated, visit New Mexico OneSource at https://nmonesource.com/nmos/en/nav_date.do.

Supreme Court Law Library

The Supreme Court Law Library is open to the legal community and public at large. The Library has an extensive legal research collection of print and online resources. The Law Library is located in the Supreme Court Building at 237 Don Gaspar in Santa Fe. Building hours: Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (MT). Library Hours: Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m. (MT). For more information call: 505-827-4850, email: libref@nmcourts.gov or visit <https://lawlibrary.nmcourts.gov>.

U.S. District Court, District of New Mexico Notice of Judicial Appointment

Due to a judicial vacancy, Judge Sarah Davenport has been appointed as the 27th U.S. District Judge in New Mexico as of Jan. 13. There will be a formal ceremony held at the U.S. Courthouse in Las Cruces in the coming weeks.

Notice of 2025 Federal Bar Dues

With the concurrence of the Article III judges, Federal Bar Dues for 2025 are set at \$25.00. Attorneys admitted to practice in the district should submit dues on or before Jan. 31. Delinquent payments for prior years must be made to maintain good standing. Current dues and dues for prior years can be paid through your CM/ECF account. Please visit www.nmd.uscourts.gov for more information on Federal Bar dues and guidance on how to pay dues online.

Notice to Federal Bench & Bar Association Members

The 2025 Bench & Bar Spending Plan has been approved in the amount of \$85,700.00 for 10 identified projects. To view the detailed spending plan, please see the "Attorney Information" page on the Court's website at <https://www.nmd.uscourts.gov>.

Professionalism Tip

With respect to opposing parties and their counsel:

I will not serve motions and pleadings that will unfairly limit the other party's opportunity to respond.

Notice of Reappointment of Incumbent United States Magistrate Judge

The current term of office of United States Magistrate Judge Jerry H. Ritter is due to expire on Sept. 4. The United States District Court for the District of New Mexico is required by law to establish a panel of citizens to consider the reappointment of the magistrate judge to a new eight-year term. The duties of a magistrate judge in this court include the following: (1) presiding over most preliminary proceedings in criminal cases; (2) trial and disposition of misdemeanor cases; (3) presiding over various pretrial matters and evidentiary proceedings on delegation from a district judge; (4) taking of felony pleas; and (5) trial and disposition of civil cases upon consent of the litigants. Comments from members of the bar and the public are invited as to whether the incumbent magistrate judge should be recommended by the panel for reappointment by the court. Comments may be submitted by email to MJMSP@nmcourt.uscourts.gov. Questions or issues may be directed to Monique Apodaca, 575-528-1439. Comments must be received by Feb. 21.

Second Judicial District Notice of Reassignment of Cases

Pursuant to Rule 1-088.1 NMRA, the Second Judicial District Clerk of Court hereby serves notice that a mass reassignment of all cases previously assigned to the Hon. Gerard Lavelle, Division XI, will be automatically reassigned to the Honorable Bryan Fox, Division XI, effective Dec. 21, 2024. Individual notices will not be sent out. Any party may file a peremptory excusal within ten (10) days the completion of this publication; the final publication will occur on Jan. 22.

Second Judicial District Family Court Judicial Nominating Commission Candidate Announcement

The Second Judicial District Court Judicial Nominating Commission convened at 9 a.m. (MT) on Jan. 14 at the State Bar Center located at 5121 Masthead Street N.E., Albuquerque, N.M., and completed its evaluation of the ten applicants to fill the vacancy on the Second Judicial District Court due to the retirement of the Hon. Stan Whitaker, effective Dec. 21, 2024. The Second Judicial District Family Court Judicial Nominating Commission recommends the following applicants to Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham: **Matthew Chavez, Judge Shonnetta Estrada, Kristopher Houghton, Rose Osborne, Jeremy Pena and Niki Tapia-Brito.**

Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court Announcement of Vacancies

Two vacancies on the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court exist as of Jan. 1, 2025, due to the retirements of the Hon. Linda S. Rogers and the Hon. Frank A. Sedillo, effective Dec. 31, 2024. The Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court Judicial Court Nominating Commission will meet at 8 a.m. (MT) on Jan. 27 at the State Bar Center, located at 5121 Masthead St. NE, Albuquerque, N.M., to interview applicants for the position.

STATE BAR NEWS Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee Notice of Quarterly Meetings

The State Bar of New Mexico's Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Committee invites the legal community to join its quarterly virtual meetings, held at noon (MT) on the second Thursday of the month of each meeting's occurrence. The meeting dates are: Feb. 13, May 8, Aug. 14 and Nov. 13. To join each meeting, visit the following link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88217409805?pwd=jaQkbVViEuekbz1Hd1ap6a5iEjXRUI.1>.

Board of Bar Commissioners Appointment of Commissioner in the Third and Sixth Judicial Districts

One vacancy exists on the Board of Bar Commissioners in the Third and Sixth Judicial Districts. Pursuant to Rule 24-101(F), vacancies of district bar commissioners shall be filled by appointment of the Board of Bar Commissioners, and district bar commissioners so appointed shall serve until Dec. 31. An election of a district bar commissioner to fill the unexpired term shall be held with the next regular election of bar commissioners following the appointment to fill the vacancy. The Board of Bar Commissioners will make an appointment at its February 28th meeting. Active status members with a principal place of practice (address of record) in these districts are eligible to apply. The 2025 Board of Bar Commissioners meetings are scheduled for: Feb. 28 (Albuquerque), May 15-17 (Las Cruces, in conjunction with a board retreat), July 31-Aug. 2 (Sandia Resort, in conjunction with the State Bar of New Mexico Annual Meeting), Oct. 24 (Albuquerque) and Dec. 10 (Santa Fe). Members interested in serving on the Board should submit a letter of interest and resume to bbc@sbnm.org by COB (MT) on Feb. 14.

December Meeting Summary

The Board of Bar Commissioners of the State Bar of New Mexico met on Dec. 11 at the Inn & Spa at Loretto in Santa Fe, N.M. Action taken at the meeting follows:

- Approved the Oct. 24, 2024 Meeting Minutes;
- Discussed Rule 24-101(A) NMRA, Objective #4, Be Cognizant of the Needs of Individual and Minority Members

of the Profession, Including the Full and Equal Participation of Minorities and Women in the State Bar of New Mexico and the Profession at Large; reviewed direct and indirect public engagement by the State Bar and discussion questions; will revisit at the Feb. 2025 meeting;

- Received an update on the 2024 Annual Meeting and reviewed a summary of the survey results and discussed plans for the 2025 Annual Meeting, which will be held July 30-Aug. 2 at Sandia Resort & Casino;
- Received an update on the 2023-2025 Three-Year Strategic Plan;
- The Board went into executive session;
- Appointed Jennifer Salazar to the NM Access to Justice Commission for a three-year term;
- Reappointed Judge Carl Butkus (Ret.) to the New Mexico State Bar Foundation Board for a three-year term;
- Approved the 2025 Supreme Court Board and Committee Liaisons;
- Received a report on the joint meeting of the Executive Committees of the State Bar and Bar Foundation;
- Received a report on the Executive Committee, which approved the agenda for the meeting;
- Received a report from the Finance Committee, which included: 1) approved the Oct. 23 Finance Committee meeting minutes and the Dec. 3 Special Finance Committee Meeting Minutes; 2) accepted the Oct. 2024 Financials; 4) approved an intercompany adjustment as debt forgiveness to the Bar Foundation for the CLE content provided at the Annual Meeting; 5) reported that there were no challenges to the 2025 Budget; and 6) received a report on the 2025 licensing renewals;
- Received reports from the President and President-Elect of the State Bar;
- Received the 2025 BBC Meeting Schedule: Feb. 28, May 15-17 (in conjunction with a Strategic Planning Retreat), July 30-Aug. 2 (in conjunction with the State Bar of NM Annual Meeting), Oct. 24 and Dec. 10 (in conjunction with the new officer swearing-in ceremony);
- Received a report from the President of the NM State Bar Foundation and an update on the fundraising efforts for the year; Stefanie K. Davis will be president of the Bar Foundation in 2025;
- Received a report from the Executive Director;
- Received reports from the Senior Lawyers, Young Lawyers, and Paralegal Divisions, Bar Commissioner Districts,

Featured Member Benefit



The Solutions Group partners with the New Mexico Lawyer Assistance Program to offer comprehensive, state-wide Employee Assistance Program (EAP) services to members of the New Mexico legal community and their immediate family members.

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and Supreme Court Board and Committee Liaisons; and

- Presented awards to Commissioners Benjamin Sherman (Second Judicial District) and Randy Taylor (YLD Chair) whose terms expired this year. A gift was presented to President Atkins for her service as president this year. President Atkins presented gifts to the Board and staff acknowledging their contributions to the Board and the State Bar.

Note: The minutes in their entirety will be available on the State Bar's website following approval by the Board at the Feb. 28 meeting.

License Renewal and MCLE Compliance Due Feb. 3, 2025

State Bar of New Mexico annual license renewal and Minimum Continuing Legal Education requirements are due Feb. 3. For more information, visit www.sbnm.org/compliance. To complete your annual license renewal and verify your MCLE compliance, visit www.sbnm.org and click "My Dashboard" in the top right corner. For questions about license renewal and MCLE compliance, email license@sbnm.org. For technical assistance accessing your account, email techsupport@sbnm.org.

Save the Date for the State Bar of New Mexico's 2025 Annual Meeting

The State Bar of New Mexico's 2025 Annual Meeting will take place at Sandia Resort & Casino in Albuquerque, N.M. from July 31 through Aug. 2. This year's keynote speaker is Bryan Stevenson, a widely acclaimed public interest lawyer who has dedicated his career to helping the poor, the incarcerated and the condemned. Bryan Stevenson is the author of the critically acclaimed New York Times Bestselling book, *Just Mercy*. More information and registration will be coming soon to <https://www.sbnm.org/AnnualMeeting2025>.

New Mexico Lawyer Assistance Program Monday Night Attorney Support Group

The Monday Night Attorney Support Group meets at 5:30 p.m. (MT) on Mondays by Zoom. This group will be meeting every Monday night via Zoom. The intention of this support group is the sharing of anything you are feeling, trying to manage or struggling with. It is intended as a way to connect with colleagues, to know you are not in this alone and feel a sense of belonging. We laugh, we cry, we BE together. Join the meeting via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/attorneysupportgroup>.

New Mexico State Bar Foundation Pro Bono Opportunities

The New Mexico State Bar Foundation and its partner legal organizations gratefully welcome attorneys and paralegals to volunteer to provide pro bono service to underserved populations in New Mexico. For more information on how you can help New Mexican residents through legal service, please visit www.sbnm.org/probono.

UNM SCHOOL OF LAW Invitation to John Field Simms, Sr. Memorial Lectureship in Law

You are invited to attend the John Field Simms, Sr. Memorial Lectureship in Law with lecturer, Amy Howe, on Jan. 30 at 5:30 p.m. (MT) at the UNM School of Law Forum. Register for the lecture at <https://forms.unm.edu/forms/simms>.

Law Library Hours

The Law Library is happy to assist attorneys via chat, email, or in person by appointment from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (MT) Monday through Friday. Though the Library no longer has community computers for visitors to use, if you bring your own device when you visit, you will be able to access many of our online resources. For more information, please see lawlibrary.unm.edu.

OTHER NEWS

N.M. Legislative Council Service Legislative Research Library Hours

The Legislative Research Library at the Legislative Council Service is open to state agency staff, the legal community, and the general public. We can assist you with locating documents related to the introduction and passage of legislation as well as reports to the legislature. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (MT), with extended hours during legislative sessions. For more information and how to contact library staff, please visit https://www.nmlegis.gov/Legislative_Library.

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A Message from **State Bar of New Mexico President**

Aja N. Brooks

Greetings Friends and Colleagues,

The beginning of a new year offers a meaningful moment to reflect on the past while preparing for the future. As I think about the magnitude of serving as the first Black president in the history of the State Bar of New Mexico (“the State Bar”), I am deeply moved by the many individuals whose guidance and assistance made this historic moment possible. It is an incredible honor to assume this esteemed role and to stand on the shoulders of those who have laid the groundwork for the path I now tread. Looking ahead to 2025, I am excited to work alongside Allison H. Block-Chavez (President-Elect), Lucy H. Sinkular (Secretary/Treasurer), my fellow Bar Commissioners and the State Bar’s professional staff to build upon the many achievements of my predecessors, while laying the foundation for even greater progress to come.

First and foremost, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our past Presidents, each of whom have been instrumental in shaping the nearly 140-year legacy of our State Bar. I am especially thankful to Erinna M. “Erin” Atkins, the 2024 State Bar President, who has been a steadfast mentor and friend and performed her presidential duties with compassion, grace, and humility. Erin is a “first” in her own right, serving as the first woman State Bar President from Southern New Mexico. She, along with other inspirational women, including Carla C. Martinez, Ernestina R. “Tina” Cruz and Carolyn A. Wolf have profoundly shaped my vision of the kind of leader I aspire to be.

I must also acknowledge the significant role played by two organizations that have been vital to my growth within the legal profession: the New Mexico Black Lawyers Association and the New Mexico State Bar Foundation. Serving as President of both has been an invaluable opportunity to deepen my commitment to our community. I am immensely grateful to the founders and incorporators of the New Mexico Black Lawyers Association—Raymond Hamilton, Judges Angela and Tommy Jewell and Hannah Banks Best—whose unwavering support has made this all possible. I look forward to working closely with 2025 State Bar Foundation President Stefanie K. Davis to continue to advance its essential civil legal services for the public, including the Modest Means Helpline, Legal Resources for the Elderly and Free Legal Answers.

This year brings exciting opportunities for the State Bar to assist the legal community through both new programming and ongoing projects. One highlight is the 2025 Annual Meeting, which will take place at Sandia Resort & Casino in Albuquerque from July 31 to August 2. We are thrilled to welcome our keynote speaker Bryan Stevenson, a renowned public interest lawyer and bestselling author, who has dedicated his life to advocating for the marginalized and underserved. I hope that his inspirational message will both motivate and fortify you to continue to do what is right, and remember that we are all deserving of love and mercy. Please save the date and stay tuned for more details at www.sbnm.org/AnnualMeeting2025.

The State Bar plans to host a Law Day Leadership Summit: a one-day event designed to bring together leaders of the State Bar, voluntary and district bar associations, law student groups, the judiciary and more. This gathering will provide an opportunity to explore effective leadership strategies, exchange information and ideas and share best practices across our organizations. We invite leaders from all over the state to join us for this collaborative and worthwhile event, as we know we are stronger together than we are apart (date and time forthcoming).

The introduction of the mandatory Equity in Justice (EIJ) Credit in 2024 marked a transformative step toward educating our licensees on the disparities and inequities within the legal system, and on how we can actively work to dismantle them in order to promote greater access to justice for all. I commend the New Mexico Supreme Court for its leadership in this area. Through the Bar Foundation, we facilitated over 70 courses last year to assist attorneys and legal professionals in fulfilling this requirement, and we are excited to continue offering innovative EIJ programming in 2025.

You may have already noticed, but this year brings an evolutionary shift in how we communicate with New Mexico's legal community. As of Jan. 1, the *Bar Bulletin* has transitioned to an entirely digital format. This change reflects our commitment to meeting the demands of a modern technological landscape by utilizing eco-friendly production methods to offer enhanced accessibility and timely updates. This milestone marks the beginning of a new era for the publication, enabling us to better meet our licensees' needs.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as the 2025 President of the State Bar of New Mexico. I am a steadfast believer in the nobility of our profession and our responsibility to help others through our work. Let us continue to support one another and uphold the principles of justice and equity that underlie our democracy. I am confident that the future is bright, and together, we have the collective strength to shape it.

Together Towards Justice,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aja Brooks". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Aja" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Brooks".

Aja N. Brooks
President, State Bar of New Mexico

2025 STATE BAR OF NEW MEXICO

New Officer Swearing-In Ceremony



New Mexico Supreme Court Chief Justice David K. Thomson swears in 2025 State Bar of New Mexico President Aja N. Brooks

2025 State Bar of New Mexico (“State Bar”) **President Aja N. Brooks**, **President-Elect Allison H. Block-Chavez**, and **Secretary-Treasurer Lucy H. Sinkular** were sworn into office on Dec. 11, 2024, at the New Mexico Supreme Court in Santa Fe, N.M. by Chief Justice David K. Thomson. Senior Justice Michael E. Vigil, Justice C. Shannon Bacon, Justice Julie J. Vargas and Justice Briana H. Zamora were also present at the swearing-in ceremony, each of whom gave inspiring remarks to the incoming President, President-Elect and Secretary-Treasurer.

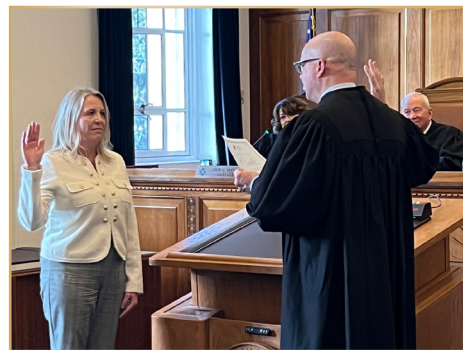
During the opening of his remarks, Chief Justice Thomson stated, “I want to extend my congratulations to each of you and sincere appreciation by the court for all of your hard work, both those in current office and those that have joined us today that have held the office previously.” Chief

Justice Thomson individually recognized 2024 President Erinna M. “Erin” Atkins for her successful year of leadership of the State Bar of New Mexico.

At the end of her speech at the ceremony, 2025 President Brooks remarked, “Standing before you as the first Black President of the State Bar of New Mexico, in its 139-year existence, is both humbling and deeply significant.” She added that it’s “a reminder of how far we have come and how much further we have to go to ensure equity, opportunity and justice for all.”



Chief Justice Thomson swears in 2025 President-Elect Allison H. Block-Chavez



Chief Justice David K. Thomson swears in 2025 Secretary-Treasurer Lucy H. Sinkular



2025 President Brooks poses with her family at the New Mexico Supreme Court



Lucy H. Sinkular, Aja N. Brooks and Allison H. Block-Chavez



Gavel exchange: 2024 President Erinna M. “Erin” Atkins (right) passes the gavel to her successor, Aja N. Brooks (left)

Legal Education Calendar

January

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>23 REPLAY: Why Are We Still Having to Talk About This? Civility and Professionalism
1.0 EP
Webinar
Center for Legal Education of NMSBF
www.sbnm.org</p> | <p>24 REPLAY: 2024 Annual Meeting Highlights - Brand and Reputation Management for Lawyers with Camille Vasquez
1.5 G
Webinar
Center for Legal Education of NMSBF
www.sbnm.org</p> | <p>28 REPLAY: A Step Toward Solving the Housing Crisis: Eviction Records Sealing in New Mexico
1.0 EIJ
Webinar
Center for Legal Education of NMSBF
www.sbnm.org</p> |
| <p>23 REPLAY: Recent New Mexico Developments in the Law of Torts
1.0 G
Webinar
Center for Legal Education of NMSBF
www.sbnm.org</p> | <p>24 REPLAY: 2024 Annual Meeting Highlights - Equity and Ethics
1.0 EIJ, 1.5 EP
Webinar
Center for Legal Education of NMSBF
www.sbnm.org</p> | <p>29 A Day in the Life: Practical Examples of Artificial Intelligence in Law Firms
1.0 G
Webinar
Center for Legal Education of NMSBF
www.sbnm.org</p> |
| <p>23 Discovering Implicit Biases in Jury Selection
1.0 EIJ
Webinar
Center for Legal Education of NMSBF
www.sbnm.org</p> | <p>27 2024 Ethics and Social Media Update
1.0 EP
Teleseminar
Center for Legal Education of NMSBF
www.sbnm.org</p> | <p>30 Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and How Attorneys Can Combat Bias
1.0 EIJ
Webinar
Center for Legal Education of NMSBF
www.sbnm.org</p> |
| <p>23 2025 Trial Skill Workshop: Bail Boot Camp
15.2 G
Live Program
Administrative Office of the US Courts
www.uscourts.gov</p> | <p>27 REPLAY: A True History of Public Accommodation Law - Contrasting Supreme Court Approaches
1.0 EIJ
Webinar
Center for Legal Education of NMSBF
www.sbnm.org</p> | <p>30 How to Practice Series: Family Law
6.0 G
In-Person & Webinar
Center for Legal Education of NMSBF
www.sbnm.org</p> |
| <p>23 Empowering Family Law Clients: An Income Tax Perspective, Part 2 of 3
1.0 G
Online Via Zoom
Volunteer Attorney Program
New Mexico Legal Aid, Inc.
https://www.cognitofirms.com/VAPECHO/VAPCLEECHO</p> | <p>28 Courtroom Technology and the Visual Trial: The Rust Shooting
1.0 G
Webinar
Center for Legal Education of NMSBF
www.sbnm.org</p> | <p>30 Empowering Family Law Clients: An Income Tax Perspective, Part 3 of 3
1.0 G
Online Via Zoom
Volunteer Attorney Program
New Mexico Legal Aid, Inc.
https://www.cognitofirms.com/VAPECHO/VAPCLEECHO</p> |
| | <p>28 REPLAY: Going Beyond Compliance: Ethics, Inclusive Practices, and Disability Rights
1.0 EP
Webinar
Center for Legal Education of NMSBF
www.sbnm.org</p> | <p>31 Basic Mediation Sp. 2025
30.0 G, 2.0 EP
Live Program
University of New Mexico School of Law
lawschool.unm.edu</p> |

February

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>12 Assessing Injury Causation: The Role of the Biomechanical Engineer
1.0 G
Web Cast (Live Credits)
New Mexico Defense Lawyers Association
www.nmdla.org</p> | <p>14 Is This My Job? Ethical Issues for Prosecutors of Sensitive Victim Crimes
1.5 EP
Live Program
New Mexico Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs
www.nmcasap.org</p> | <p>20 Navigating the Maze: Strategies for Insurance Company Interactions
6.0 G
Web Cast (Live Credits)
New Mexico Trial Lawyers Association & Foundation
www.nmtla.org</p> |
|---|---|--|

Listings in the *Bar Bulletin* Legal Education Calendar are derived from course provider submissions and from New Mexico Minimum Continuing Legal Education. All MCLE approved continuing legal education courses can be listed free of charge. Send submissions to notices@sbnm.org. Include course title, credits, location/course type, course provider and registration instructions. For a full list of MCLE-approved courses, visit <https://www.sbnm.org/Search-For-Courses>.

STATE BAR OF NEW MEXICO 2025 Annual Meeting

July 31 – August 2
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Featuring Keynote Speaker Bryan Stevenson!



BRYAN STEVENSON is a widely acclaimed public interest lawyer who has dedicated his career to helping the poor, the incarcerated, and the condemned. Bryan Stevenson is the founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative, a human rights organization in Montgomery, Alabama. Under his leadership, EJI has won major legal challenges eliminating excessive and unfair sentencing, exonerating innocent death row prisoners, confronting abuse of the incarcerated and the mentally ill, and aiding children prosecuted as adults.

Bryan Stevenson is the author of the critically acclaimed New York Times bestseller, *Just Mercy*, which was named by Time Magazine as one of the 10 Best Books of Nonfiction for 2014 and has been awarded several honors, including the American Library Association's Carnegie Medal for best nonfiction book of 2015 and a 2015 NAACP Image Award. *Just Mercy* was adapted as a major motion picture and the film won the American Bar Association's 2020 Silver Gavel Award as well as four NAACP Image Awards. Mr. Stevenson is also the subject of the Emmy Award-winning HBO documentary *True Justice*. He is a graduate of the Harvard Law School and the Harvard School of Government.

More information and registration coming soon!

www.sbnm.org/AnnualMeeting2025





Opportunities for Pro Bono Service CALENDAR

February

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>15 Legal Fair
In-Person
New Mexico Legal Aid
bit.ly/NMLALegalFairSignUp
Location: Chaparral</p> | <p>20 Legal Fair
Virtual
New Mexico Legal Aid
bit.ly/NMLALegalFairSignUp
Teleclinic</p> | <p>27 Legal Fair
In-Person
New Mexico Legal Aid
bit.ly/NMLALegalFairSignUp
Location: Grants</p> |
|---|--|--|

March

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>14 Legal Fair
In-Person
New Mexico Legal Aid
bit.ly/NMLALegalFairSignUp
Location: Roswell</p> | <p>15 Legal Fair
In-Person
New Mexico Legal Aid
bit.ly/NMLALegalFairSignUp
Location: Hobbs</p> | <p>28 Legal Fair
In-Person
New Mexico Legal Aid
bit.ly/NMLALegalFairSignUp
Location: LLP</p> |
|---|---|---|

If you would like to volunteer for pro bono service at one of the above events, please contact the hosting agency.



Resources for the Public CALENDAR

January

- 22 Consumer Debt/Bankruptcy Workshop**
Virtual
State Bar of New Mexico
Call 505-797-6094 to register
Location: Virtual

February

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>5 Divorce Options Workshop
Virtual
State Bar of New Mexico
Call 505-797-6022 to register
Location: Virtual</p> | <p>5 2025 New Year's Resolution: Promoting the Legal Fitness and Health of Your Small Business - Best Practices to Protect Yourself from Undue Personal Liability
State Bar of New Mexico
Register Here: https://bit.ly/MMHSmallBusinessWebinar-Feb2025
Webinar</p> | <p>11 Legal Resources for the Elderly Workshop
Virtual
State Bar of New Mexico
Call 505-797-6005 or 1-800-876-6657 to register
Location: Virtual</p> |
|--|---|---|

Listings in the *Bar Bulletin* Pro Bono & Volunteer Opportunities Calendar are gathered from civil legal service organization submissions and from information pertaining to the New Mexico State Bar Foundation's upcoming events. All pro bono and volunteer opportunities conducted by civil legal service organizations can be listed free of charge. Send submissions to probono@sbnm.org. Include the opportunity's title, location/format, date, provider and registration instructions.

FORMAL OPINION

Electronic decisions may contain computer-generated errors or other deviations from the official version filed by the Court of Appeals.

Filing Date: 12/19/2024

No. A-1-CA-41992

**IN THE MATTER OF ISAAC MATA,
a person alleged to be in need
of mental healthcare.**

STATE OF NEW MEXICO,
Petitioner-Appellee,

v.

ISAAC MATA,
Respondent-Appellant.

**APPEAL FROM THE DISTRICT COURT
OF DOÑA ANA COUNTY**

Robert Lara, District Court Judge

Raúl Torrez, Attorney General
Santa Fe, NM

Lawrence M. Marcus, Assistant Solicitor General
Justin Lauriano, Honors Attorney
Albuquerque, NM

for Appellee

Elliot A. Mohler
Las Cruces, NM

for Appellant

► Introduction of Opinion

Respondent Isaac Mata appeals his involuntary commitment for a period not to exceed thirty days under the provisions of the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code (the Code), NMSA 1978, §§ 43-1-1 to -25 (1976, as amended through 2024). We affirm.

Jane B. Yohalem, Judge
WE CONCUR:
Kristina Bogardus, Judge
Jacqueline R. Medina, Judge

To read the entire opinion, please visit the following link: <https://bit.ly/A-1-CA-41992>

FORMAL OPINION

Electronic decisions may contain computer-generated errors or other deviations from the official version filed by the Court of Appeals.

Filing Date: 12/23/2024

No. A-1-CA-41919

STATE OF NEW MEXICO,

Plaintiff-Appellant,

v.

ASAD P.,

Child-Appellee.

**APPEAL FROM THE DISTRICT COURT
OF DOÑA ANA COUNTY**

Shannon Murdock-Poff, District Court Judge

Raúl Torrez, Attorney General

Santa Fe, NM

Van Snow, Deputy Solicitor General

Albuquerque, NM

for Appellant

Bennett J. Baur, Chief Public Defender

Allison H. Jaramillo, Assistant Appellate Defender

Luz C. Valverde, Assistant Appellate Defender

Santa Fe, NM

for Appellee

► Introduction of Opinion

Child was charged by delinquency petition under the Delinquency Act, NMSA 1978, §§ 32A-2-1 to -33 (1993, as amended through 2024), with thirteen counts relating to a stolen vehicle, flight from law enforcement, and the death of another person. Nine judges recused before our Supreme Court assigned a judge from a different judicial district, and all the while, Child remained in custody. After the final judge assignment, Child filed a motion to dismiss, because the thirty-day period to hold an adjudicatory hearing set forth in Rule 10-243(A) NMRA had expired, and the State had not requested an extension. The district court granted Child's motion, and the State appeals. It is undisputed that the State did not seek an extension of the time to adjudicate under Rule 10-243. Dismissal with prejudice is mandatory "[i]n the event the adjudicatory hearing of any person does not commence within the time limits provided" in the rule, "including any court-ordered extensions." Rule 10-243(F)(2). Nevertheless, we conclude that Rule 10-107(B)(1)(b) NMRA afforded an additional mechanism for the extension of time and that the brief lapse in time did not prejudice Child. Under the circumstances of this case, we reverse and remand for reinstatement of the charges.

Katherine A. Wray, Judge

WE CONCUR:

Kristina Bogardus, Judge

Jane B. Yohalem, Judge (specially concurring).

To read the entire opinion, please visit the following link: <https://bit.ly/A-1-CA-41919>

FORMAL OPINION

Electronic decisions may contain computer-generated errors or other deviations from the official version filed by the Court of Appeals.

Filing Date: 12/23/2024

No. A-1-CA-40415

**RICHARD J. VALLE, Personal Representative of
the ESTATE OF OSVALDO CONEJO GONZALES,
JR., Deceased; OSVALDO CONEJO, SR.; and
FLOR GONZALES,**
Plaintiffs-Appellees,

v.

**NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION and STATE OF NEW MEXICO,**
Defendants-Appellants,
and
CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE,
Defendant.

**APPEAL FROM THE DISTRICT COURT
OF BERNALILLO COUNTY**

Elaine P. Lujan, District Court Judge

Romero Law
Geoffrey R. Romero
Albuquerque, NM

Zebrowski Law
Paul Zebrowski
Thomas A. Biscup
Albuquerque, NM

for Appellees

Jennings Haug Keleher McLeod LLP
Thomas C. Bird
Chris Marquez
Albuquerque, NM

for Appellants

► Introduction of Opinion

The New Mexico Department of Transportation and the State of New Mexico (collectively, Appellants) appeal the district court's orders granting summary judgment against Appellants and denying Appellants' motion for reconsideration and for permission to respond to requests for admissions. On appeal, Appellants argue that the district court erred by (1) granting summary judgment because material issues of fact concerning damages and comparative negligence remained disputed, despite Appellants' failure to answer the complaint or respond to the requests for admissions; and (2) denying Appellants leave to withdraw their admissions by default and to file responses on the ground that Appellants had not demonstrated excusable neglect. Concluding as to the second issue that excusable neglect is not the proper standard applicable to requests to withdraw admissions made pursuant to Rule 1-036(B) NMRA, we reverse and remand for further proceedings. We accordingly do not reach the first issue.

Gerald E. Baca, Judge
WE CONCUR:
Jennifer L. Attrep, Chief Judge
Jane B. Yohalem, Judge

To read the entire opinion, please visit
the following link: <https://bit.ly/A-1-CA-40415>

FORMAL OPINION

Electronic decisions may contain computer-generated errors or other deviations from the official version filed by the Court of Appeals.

Filing Date: 12/23/2024

No. A-1-CA-41524

STATE OF NEW MEXICO,

Plaintiff-Appellee,

v.

BRIANA RUIZ,

Defendant-Appellant.

**APPEAL FROM THE DISTRICT COURT
OF LEA COUNTY**

Mark Sánchez, District Court Judge

Raúl Torrez, Attorney General
Santa Fe, NM

Meryl E. Francolini, Assistant Attorney General
Albuquerque, NM

for Appellee

Bennett J. Baur, Chief Public Defender
Mary Barket, Assistant Appellate Defender
Santa Fe, NM

for Appellant

► Introduction of Opinion

Defendant Briana Ruiz appeals the decision made by the district court denying her motion challenging the preliminary hearing proceedings and the magistrate court's finding of probable cause felony charges because the district court lacked jurisdiction. Defendant contends that the district court has jurisdiction to consider her motion and erred in its determination not to review the merits of that motion. Defendant requests a reversal of the district court's ruling and a remand for the consideration of her motion. We affirm.

Kristina Bogardus, Judge
WE CONCUR:
Jacqueline R. Medina, Judge
Jane B. Yohalem, Judge

To read the entire opinion, please visit the following link: <https://bit.ly/A-1-CA-41524>

MEMORANDUM OPINION

This decision of the New Mexico Court of Appeals was not selected for publication in the New Mexico Appellate Reports. Refer to Rule 12-405 NMRA for restrictions on the citation of unpublished decisions. Electronic decisions may contain computer-generated errors or other deviations from the official version filed by the Court of Appeals.

No. A-1-CA-41160
State of New Mexico
v.
Patrick Meadows

Introduction of Opinion

Defendant Patrick Meadows was convicted by a jury of two counts of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon for stabbing two men, Coleman Mohon and Bobby Richards (collectively, Victims), contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 30-3-5(C) (1969). He appeals his convictions arguing that the State committed a Brady violation in failing to disclose the existence of photographs that were lost, and that the district court erred in failing to grant his motion for a mistrial. We affirm.

Kristina Bogardus, Judge
WE CONCUR:
Zachary A. Ives, Judge
Gerald E. Baca, Judge

To read the entire opinion,
please visit:
<https://bit.ly/A-1-CA-41160>

No. A-1-CA-40121
State of New Mexico
v.
Luis Ledesma-Lozano

Introduction of Opinion

Defendant Luis Ledesma-Lozano was convicted by a jury of criminal sexual penetration in the third degree (CSP III), contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 30-9-11(F) (2009). Defendant does not challenge his conviction in this appeal. Instead, Defendant challenges the district court's designation of his conviction for CSP III as a serious violent offense for purposes of New Mexico's Earned Meritorious Deductions Act (the EMDA), NMSA 1978, § 33-2-34 (2015). **View full PDF online.**

Gerald E. Baca, Judge
WE CONCUR:
Kristina Bogardus, Judge
Jacqueline R. Medina, Judge

To read the entire opinion,
please visit:
<https://bit.ly/A-1-CA-40121>

No. A-1-CA-40235
State of New Mexico
v.
Ramon Lozano

Introduction of Opinion

Defendant Ramon Lozano appeals his conviction, following a jury trial, for trafficking a controlled substance (by possession with intent to distribute) (NMSA 1978, § 30-31-20(A)(3) (2006)). Defendant raises a single claim of error on appeal—that he received ineffective assistance of counsel and was thus deprived of his right to a fair trial. We affirm.

Jennifer L. Attrep, Chief Judge
WE CONCUR:
Kristina Bogardus, Judge
Gerald E. Baca, Judge

To read the entire opinion,
please visit:
<https://bit.ly/A-1-CA-40235>

MEMORANDUM OPINION

This decision of the New Mexico Court of Appeals was not selected for publication in the New Mexico Appellate Reports. Refer to Rule 12-405 NMRA for restrictions on the citation of unpublished decisions. Electronic decisions may contain computer-generated errors or other deviations from the official version filed by the Court of Appeals.

No. A-1-CA-40575
State of New Mexico
v.
Errick Begay

Introduction of Opinion

This Court issued an opinion on October 30, 2024, which is hereby withdrawn and replaced with this opinion, following the denial of Defendant Errick Begay's motion for rehearing. Defendant appeals one of his six convictions for criminal sexual penetration of a minor (CSPM) in the first degree (child under thirteen years of age), NMSA 1978, § 30-9-11(D) (1) (2009), and his conviction for criminal sexual contact of a minor (CSCM) in the third degree (child under thirteen years of age), NMSA 1978, § 30-9-13(C)(1) (2003). Defendant raises a single issue on appeal—that these two convictions violate double jeopardy. We affirm.

Jennifer L. Attrep, Chief Judge
WE CONCUR:
Jacqueline R. Medina, Judge
Katherine A. Wray, Judge

To read the entire opinion,
please visit:
[https://bit.ly/
A-1-CA-40575-Updated](https://bit.ly/A-1-CA-40575-Updated)

No. A-1-CA-41506
State of New Mexico
v.
Kerry Begay, Jr.

Introduction of Opinion

Defendant Kerry Begay, Jr. appeals his conviction for battery upon a peace officer, contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 30-22-24(A) (1971), arguing that the jury was not properly instructed on the element of lawful discharge of duty, resulting in fundamental error. Defendant contends the jury should have been instructed on the lawful discharge standard articulated in *State v. Phillips*, 2009-NMCA-021, ¶ 16, 145 N.M. 615, 203 P.3d 146, which asks, "(1) whether the officer is discharging his duties, and (2) whether the officer's discharge of his duties is lawful[,] . . . [as] measured by his actual legal authority, including common-law, statutory, or constitutional limitations on the officer's authority." **View full PDF online.**

Megan P. Duffy, Judge
WE CONCUR:
J. Miles Hanisee, Judge
Gerald E. Baca, Judge

To read the entire opinion,
please visit:
<https://bit.ly/A-1-CA-41506>

No. A-1-CA-41069
Sally Dyer
v.
City of Albuquerque

Introduction of Opinion

Plaintiffs Sally Dyer and Mandi Abernathy appeal from the district court's judgment, following a bench trial, in favor of Defendant City of Albuquerque, ex rel. Albuquerque Police Department (the City) on Plaintiffs' claims of retaliation under New Mexico's Whistleblower Protection Act (WPA), NMSA 1978, §§ 10-16C-1 to -6 (2010). The City has filed a cross-appeal seeking reversal of the district court's judgment in favor of Plaintiff Teresa Romero on her claims of discrimination and retaliation under New Mexico's Human Rights Act (NMHRA), NMSA 1978, § 28-1-1 to -15 (1969, as amended through 2024). For the reasons set forth below, we affirm in part and reverse in part.

Kristina Bogardus, Judge
WE CONCUR:
J. Miles Hanisee, Judge
Gerald E. Baca, Judge

To read the entire opinion,
please visit:
<https://bit.ly/A-1-CA-41069>

A Guide to



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The State Bar of New Mexico's Digital Communications

As part of our mission to serve New Mexico's legal community, the State Bar of New Mexico is dedicated to ensuring that licensees are up-to-date with the latest information and announcements via regular digital e-newsletters and email communications. From news pertinent to New Mexico courts to pro bono opportunities, our emails cover a variety of legal information.



Bar Bulletin

The State Bar of New Mexico's official publication, the Bar Bulletin, is published on our website on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. The day that the *Bar Bulletin* is published online, an email is distributed to State Bar of New Mexico licensees that links to the new issue. To publish your notices, announcements, classifieds or articles in the *Bar Bulletin*, contact notices@sbnm.org.

eNews

Sent out each Friday morning, our weekly eNews e-newsletter is a comprehensive email containing a variety of information and announcements from the State Bar of New Mexico, the New Mexico State Bar Foundation, New Mexico courts, legal organizations and more. To advertise in eNews, please email marketing@sbnm.org. To have your organization's announcements or events published in eNews, please contact enews@sbnm.org.

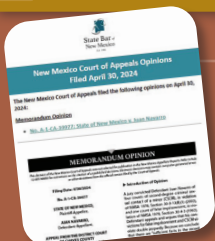


Member Services Spotlight

Emailed each Tuesday morning, our weekly Member Services Spotlight e-newsletter contains announcements and events from each of the State Bar's Sections, Committees and Divisions. To highlight your Section, Committee or Division's latest news, email memberservices@sbnm.org.

CLE Weekly Roundup

Distributed each Wednesday morning, the CLE Weekly Roundup provides a highlight of the New Mexico State Bar Foundation Center for Legal Education's upcoming CLE courses with information regarding the date and time of the course, credits earned and link to register. For more information regarding the CLE Weekly Roundup, please contact cleonline@sbnm.org.



New Mexico Court of Appeals Opinions

As a licensee benefit, the State Bar of New Mexico distributes introductions to the New Mexico Court of Appeals' published opinions with links to the full opinions the day they are published. For more information regarding the Court of Appeals opinions distribution, please contact opinions@sbnm.org.

Pro Bono Quarterly Newsletter

Disseminated quarterly, the State Bar of New Mexico's Pro Bono Quarterly e-newsletter provides the New Mexico legal community with an overview of initiatives to provide pro bono legal services for New Mexican residents in need. For more information on the newsletter or to advertise your pro bono or volunteer opportunity, contact probono@sbnm.org.



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Full Time Attorneys

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Attorney Senior

The Eleventh Judicial District and Magistrate Courts has an immediate opening for an Attorney Senior (Staff Attorney). This position is based at the Gallup District Court, but may also be located at our Aztec District Court. The role involves handling highly complex and diverse legal work while providing support to judges and staff in San Juan and McKinley Counties. Salary for this position will be based upon the New Mexico Judicial Branch Salary Schedule with a target starting pay rate of \$111,999 annually \$53.846 p/hr. For a full job description and to download the required forms or application, please visit the Judicial Branch Career page at <https://www.nmcourts.gov/careers.aspx>. Resumes, with the required Resume Supplemental Form or Application, and supporting documentation may be emailed to 11thjdchr@nmcourts.gov, faxed to 505-334-7762, or mailed to Human Resources, 103 S. Oliver Drive, Aztec NM 87410. This position is open until filled.

General Counsel

The New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA) in Santa Fe is seeking a qualified individual for the General Counsel position that will report to the Deputy Director. This position provides legal counsel and services to NMFA and manages the day-to-day operations of the Legal department. Provides legal interpretation of legislation, policies, practices, and procedures related to NMFA or NMFA-administered boards. Chairs or sits upon various agency management teams; directs or participates in synergistic decision-making to further the mission of the organization; promotes innovation and creativity to help define objectives and determine operational strategies. The General Counsel will research legal issues related to numerous local government functions, programs and projects, including environmental concerns, property rights, water rights and related matters; drafts and issues opinions and legal interpretations; advises in alternative courses of action; assists outside/contract counsel in preparation of briefs or other legal documents for court cases involving NMFA at the trial and appellate level. Provides technical advice and information to legislators; attends legislative hearings and committee meetings to offer testimony and interpretations of proposed legislation; drafts or assists in drafting legislation for or on behalf of NMFA. Monitors all contracts for services provided to NMFA for compliance with contract terms, conditions and agency policies and procedures. Previous experience coordinating financing transactions as well as disclosure and reporting for investors and creditors is required. Experience providing legal and programmatic advice and counsel with respect to corporate, property, banking, finance, federal and state programs, and general legal issues is needed. NMFA is New Mexico's partner in building economic prosperity and stronger communities. The ideal candidate will have a J.D. degree from an accredited university and 8-10 years of progressively responsible experience as a practicing attorney; 5 years of which must have been in local or state government, or agencies closely affiliated with local or state government. Previous experience in local government legal issues; bond and loan processing, banking, contract, real estate, legal guidelines related to government processes and methods, as well as an understanding of legislative processes of state and municipal government are highly desired. Interested candidates may submit a cover letter and resume to the attention of the HR Director, New Mexico Finance Authority, 207 Shelby St., Santa Fe, NM 87501 or via email at nmccollum@nmfa.net.

Plaintiff Associate Attorney-Parnall Law Firm

OPENING STATEMENT: · \$25,000 sign-on bonus (payable in 3 parts at 3, 6 and 12 months of employment). Excellent compensation, up to \$200,000 to \$400,000 per year or more; Outstanding environment/culture/dynamic – “Top Place to Work”. MISSION STATEMENT: Fighting for Justice for the wrongfully hurt. VALUES: The 5 ‘T’s: Team, Talent, Truth, Tenacity, and Triumph. We believe these values are the reason we are the largest personal injury firm in NM and have received the Best Places to Work Award (Albuquerque Business First) in 2019-2024 and Top Place to Work Award (Albuquerque Journal) in 2020-2024. RESPONSIBILITIES: You will be representing clients injured from the beginning (intake) to the end (disbursement) of their cases and all stages in between, resolving cases through negotiation before litigation, through litigation, and trial. You will be able to concentrate on "attorney" work, with the support of a team of assistants, including intake, investigators (retired police officers), pre-litigation case managers, medical records/demand drafting assistants, litigation paralegals, and settlement/subrogation paralegals. You will also have the support of a team of collaborative and creative attorneys. Organization and attention to detail are paramount to this position, along with the willingness and ability to regularly interact with clients, adjusters, and other lawyers/paralegals over the phone and/or in person. QUALIFICATIONS: Preferred but not required: 3+ years experience in litigating personal injury cases (plaintiff or defense); Ability to become licensed in New Mexico, either through reciprocity, transferring UBE score to New Mexico, or taking the bar exam; Ability to relocate to Albuquerque, New Mexico (relocation assistance provided); Be available in the office from Monday through Friday, 8 to 5 (and more as required for caseload). BENEFITS: Sign-on bonus (as described above); Relocation Assistance; Compensation range \$200,000- \$400,000 per year; A positive, fulfilling, caring environment where learning and growing are encouraged; Opportunities for community outreach throughout the year; Medical/Dental/Vision Benefits, 401k, PTO, Bonus Pay. CLOSING ARGUMENT: Parnall Law is the largest and best-reviewed personal injury law firm based in New Mexico. We treat our clients with compassion and advocate for them by maximizing compensation caused by the wrongful actions of others. Our goal is to ensure our clients are satisfied and know Parnall Law has stood up and fought for them by giving them a voice. We are seeking highly motivated and passionate attorneys to join our growing team to represent more injured New Mexicans in the fight for Justice. Watch a two-minute video at [HurtCallBert.com/attorney-careers](https://www.hurtcallbert.com/) or contact JennyGarcia@ParnallLaw.com.

Various Assistant City Attorney Positions

The City of Albuquerque Legal Department is hiring for various Assistant City Attorney positions. Hybrid in person/remote work schedule available. The Legal Department's attorneys provide a broad range of legal services to the City and represent it in legal proceedings in court and before state, federal and administrative bodies. Current open positions include: General Counsel: The City is seeking attorneys to provide a broad range of general counsel legal services to various City departments, boards, commissions, and agencies. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, drafting legal opinions, reviewing and drafting ordinances and executive/administrative instructions, reviewing and drafting contracts, and providing general advice and counsel on day-to-day operations for various Departments throughout the City; Land Use and Enforcement Division: The City is seeking an attorney to enforce traffic violations and provide general counsel support to various Departments and programs, including, but not limited to, Animal Welfare and automated speed enforcement. The City is also seeking an attorney to handle appeals of land use decisions; Land Use and Enforcement Division: The City is seeking an attorney to provide legal services to the City's Planning Department and represent it in its enforcement of the City's ordinances related to land use, housing and building standards, and nuisance abatement; Air Quality Attorney: The City is seeking an attorney for the Real Estate and Operations Division. This attorney will serve as general counsel to the City's Environmental Health Department ("EHD") regarding Air Quality issues throughout Bernalillo County including at federal and state facilities; General Counsel to APD: The City is seeking an attorney to advise APD regarding policies, procedures and training, review and negotiate contracts, review uses of force, draft legal opinions, review and draft legislation and administrative instructions. Additional duties may be assigned based on experience; Utilities/PRC: The City is seeking an attorney to represent it in matters regarding franchise and right of way agreements, public utilities, broadband and telecommunications, and will appear before the Public Regulation Commission ("PRC"); Labor/Employment Attorney: The City is seeking an attorney to represent it in litigation related to employment and labor law in New Mexico State and Federal Courts, before the City of Albuquerque Personnel Board, and before the City of Albuquerque Labor Board; Litigation Division: The City is seeking attorneys to join its in house Litigation Division, which defends claims brought against the City. Attention to detail and strong writing and interpersonal skills are essential. Preferences include: experience with litigation, contract drafting and review, government agencies, government compliance, and policy writing. Salary based

upon experience. For more information or to apply please send a resume and writing sample to Angela Aragon at amaragon@cabq.gov.

Commercial Litigation Associate: Albuquerque

At Brownstein, we pride ourselves on having the top legal minds in the industry, powerful policy knowledge and best-in-class business acumen to solve businesses' toughest challenges. Brownstein is a law and lobbying firm that has been making moves for more than 50 years to stay at the vanguard of its industry. You'll find this firm at the heart of many of the most important cases, the most significant deals and the country's most pivotal legislation. With 12 offices, 600+ employees and 300+ attorneys and policy professionals nationwide, we're committed to creating strong relationships with not only our clients, but with each other and our communities. At Brownstein, we're committed to defending our client's best interests—whether that's in or out of the courtroom, through trial or appeal, in federal or state court. With a strong track record, senior representation and extensive geographic reach, there's no better litigation team to tackle our client's biggest challenges. At Brownstein, we approach every case with a strategy that meets the client's needs and expectations. Depending on our early case evaluation and litigation risk analysis, we can determine if pre-litigation dispute resolution is the best route forward. But when a case does progress to the courtroom, it's our preparation and experience that help us achieve the right results. Are you looking for camaraderie, collaboration and a challenge? If so, we want you at Brownstein. We are looking for a Commercial Litigation Associate with 2-5 years of experience to join the firm's Albuquerque office. Ideal candidates should have a proven track record in legal research and writing, including, but not limited to, the drafting of briefs, complaints, pretrial motions, memoranda and discovery requests. Superior analytical abilities, strong verbal and interpersonal skills, and the ability to work in a team environment required. Judicial clerkship preferred. New Mexico bar admission preferred. Please submit a cover letter, resume, writing sample, and law school transcript. Brownstein is an equal opportunity employer. Please apply here: <https://www.bhfs.com/careers/lateral-attorneys>

Associate Attorney

RILEY | KELLER | ALDERETE | GONZALES, an AV-rated Albuquerque civil defense firm formed in 1982, seeks an associate attorney trial position. We seek a person with civil experience, including communication and writing skills. The position is full-time with the prospect of a virtual work setting and flexible schedule. We offer an excellent salary, benefits and pension package. Please submit a resume, references and writing samples to our Office Manager by fax, (505) 883-4362 or mvelasquez@rileymlaw.com.

Attorney Associate (Full Time; At-Will) #10115019

Foreclosure Settlement Program

The Second Judicial District Court is accepting applications for a Full Time At-Will Attorney Associate position. This position will be assigned to the Foreclosure Settlement Program (FSP) and will operate under the direction of the Chief Judge, the Presiding Civil Judge, Managing Attorney, and/or Supervising Attorney. The Attorney Associate will facilitate settlement conferences between lenders and borrowers in residential foreclosure cases pending before the Court and will be responsible for conducting status conferences, settlement facilitations and reporting of statistical data to Court administration. Communications occur telephonically, by email, by video conference and in-person. The Attorney Associate is independent and impartial and shall be governed by the Rules of Professional Conduct, Mediation Procedures Act, NMSA 1978 §44-7B-1 to 44-7B-6, and Mediation Ethics and Standards of Practice. The Attorney Associate will coordinate with program administrative staff to support the FSP. Qualifications: Must be a graduate of a law school meeting the standards of accreditation of the American Bar Association; possess and maintain a license to practice law in the State of New Mexico and have three (3) years of experience in the practice of applicable law, or as a law clerk. Experience in settlement facilitation/mediation and residential mortgage foreclosure matters and loss mitigation is strongly encouraged. Target Pay: \$50.605 hourly, plus benefits. Send application or resume supplemental form with proof of education and one (1) writing sample to 2ndjobapply@nmcourts.gov or to Second Judicial District Court, Human Resource Office, 400 Lomas Blvd. NW, Albuquerque, NM, 87102. Applications without copies of information requested will be rejected. Application and resume supplemental form may be obtained on the New Mexico Judicial Branch web page at www.nmcourts.gov. OPEN UNTIL FILLED.

Personal Injury Associate

Caruso Law Offices, an ABQ plaintiff personal injury/wrongful death law firm, has an immediate opening for an associate with 3+ yrs. litigation experience, including arbitration, bench and/or jury trial. Must have excellent communication, organizational, and client services skills. Good pay, bonuses, benefits and profit sharing. Send confidential response to Mark Caruso, mark@carusolaw.com or 4302 Carlisle NE, ABQ NM 87107 or fax 505-883-5012. See our website at www.carusolaw.com

Associate Attorneys

Modrall Sperlberg, one of New Mexico's largest law firms, is searching for Associate attorneys to join our general civil litigation practice. The ideal candidates should have a minimum of 2 to 3 years of civil litigation experience with excellent research, writing, and verbal advocacy skills. Qualified applicants must have experience working on large cases, including conducting legal research, drafting briefs, taking and defending depositions, arguing in court is preferred. Strong academic credentials required. Candidates must be admitted, or eligible for admission to the New Mexico Bar. As one of New Mexico's largest firms, we are able to offer associate attorneys high quality, challenging work and outstanding career opportunities. Please send a letter of interest and resume to attyapplicants@modrall.com. All inquiries will be kept confidential.

Attorney – Civil Litigation

Join Sutin, Thayer & Browne where you can grow your legal practice and thrive while having flexibility and support! We have been New Mexico's trusted choice for legal services for over 75 years and we're seeking to energize the traditional big law firm model. You'll be part of a supportive team where excellence meets a vibrant workplace culture. Our teams handle everything from business transactions to litigation with a unique, client-focused approach and a collaborative spirit that sets us apart. Here's what we offer: competitive compensation structure, flexible remote work, and opportunities for growth and mentorship. We have a fantastic benefits package including medical, dental, and vision insurance, 401(k) matching, profit sharing, and employer-paid life and long-term disability insurance. Join us and dive into diverse areas of law while looking forward to one day leading a team. Ready to grow with us? Let's make it happen! We are looking to hire a full-time Attorney with at least 4-5 years of relevant experience to join our Litigation practice. A book of business is NOT required. Interest in commercial and governmental law is a plus. To apply, please send please send a letter of interest, résumé, and writing sample to both: Eduardo Duffy, Recruiting Chair, at EAD@sutinfirm.com and Danielle Smith, HR Manager, at DSS@sutinfirm.com

Paralegal-Office of General Counsel

The State Bar of New Mexico seeks qualified applicants to join our team as a full-time (40 hours/week) Office of General Counsel Paralegal. The successful applicant will provide clerical and administrative support to the General Counsel and the OGC Deputy Director. This position will support all functions of the OGC including Regulatory Programs, Committees and Commissions, and other programs such as the Access to Justice Fund Grant process and Commission, Fee Arbitration, IOLTA and Bridge the Gap Mentorship. \$21-\$24/hour, depending on experience and qualifications. Generous benefits package included. This position qualifies for partial telecommuting. Qualified applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to HR@sbnm.org. Visit www.sbnm.org/SBNMjobs for full details and application instructions.

Executive Paralegal

BatleyRiley Family Law seeks an experienced, mature, critical thinker to hire as an Executive Paralegal. This position will support one to two attorneys and the Firm's Certified Divorce Financial Analyst. It will include both case management (billable work) and supportive tasks that assist attorneys in preparing for hearings, mediations, and trials. You will interact with clients, opposing counsel, and court personnel; draft pleadings, prepare discovery, and maintain files, schedules, and email management. We have a fast-paced environment with a strong emphasis on teamwork. Our ideal candidate is a solid team player who possesses strong organizational skills, knowledge of legal/financial documents, is detail-oriented, and a disciplined self-starter who embraces technology. The position may include some Firm administrative tasks, as needed. Experience in family law, document management systems and hourly billing is strongly preferred. Family law is rewarding work and offers the ability to make a difference in the lives of others. If you possess the required skills and are eager to contribute to a dynamic legal team, we encourage you to apply. Our Team enjoys a competitive salary package DOE, including the opportunity to earn bonuses, early closure on most Fridays and employer matched 401k. We also offer health, dental and vision insurance, gym membership and behavioral health support together with paid-time off and sick leave in a friendly, collegial, professional environment. Come join a great Team on the road to your forever career! Please submit your resume to bobbie@batleyfamilylaw.com.

Bilingual Telephone Helpline Intake Screener

The New Mexico State Bar Foundation seeks qualified applicants to join our team as a full-time (40 hours/week) Bilingual Telephone Helpline Intake Screener. The successful applicant will answer Bar Foundation Legal Helplines incoming calls, conduct/complete intakes and establish case files in the Legal Services Programs electronic case management systems. Fluency in Spanish is required. \$18-\$20/hour, depending on experience and qualifications. Generous benefits package included. This position qualifies for partial telecommuting. Qualified applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to HR@sbnm.org. Visit www.sbnm.org/SBNMjobs for full details and application instructions.

Paralegal

Paralegal position in established commercial civil litigation firm. Prior experience preferred. Requires knowledge of State and Federal District Court rules and filing procedures; factual and legal online research; trial preparation; case management and processing of documents including acquisition, review, summarizing, indexing, distribution and organization of same; drafting discovery and related pleadings; maintaining and monitoring docketing calendars; oral and written communications with clients, counsel, and other case contacts; proficient in MS Office Suite, AdobePro, Powerpoint and adept at learning and use of electronic databases and legal software technology. Must be organized and detail-oriented professional with excellent computer skills. All inquiries confidential. Salary DOE. Competitive benefits. Email resumes to e_info@abrfirm.com or Fax to 505-764-8374.



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MEET OUR GOAL!

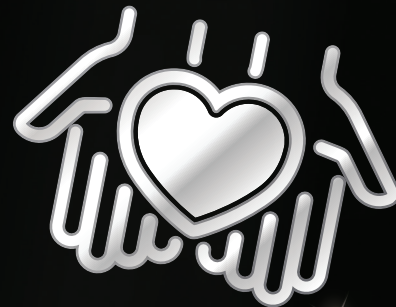
Our goal is to raise 10% more in donations this year to support our civil legal service programs.

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100%

100% of your donation to the New Mexico State Bar Foundation is tax deductible and supports programs and resources promoting access to civil legal services to underserved New Mexicans, including:

- ★ **Legal Resources for the Elderly Program** – The Foundation’s premier legal service program for senior citizens in New Mexico for over 33 years. **In 2024, LREP assisted 4,000 New Mexicans!**
- ★ **Modest Means Helpline** – The Foundation’s most widely used resource for New Mexicans of limited financial means has **provided a benefit to over 11,200 residents as of August 2024!**



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