

# YLD...In Brief

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

April 2010

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## YLD PROGRAM CHAIRS

ABA/YLD 2010 Fall Conference Host Committee -  
**Roxanna Chacon and Martha Chicoski**  
Bridge the Gap 2010 -  
**Roxanna Chacon and Martha Chicoski**  
Law Day Call-in Programs 2010 -  
**Albuquerque: Keya Koul Las Cruces: David Lutz**  
**Farmington: Kinder Shamhart**  
**Roswell: Jared Kallunki**  
Homeless Legal Clinic - **Albuquerque: Laurel Nesbitt**  
**Las Cruces: Steven Almanza**  
**Santa Fe: Donna Lynch**  
*In Brief* - **Roxanna Chacon and Martha Chicoski**  
Junior Judges - **Albuquerque: Martha Chicoski**  
**Santa Fe/Northern NM: Tina Cruz**  
7th Judicial District: **Matt Page**  
YLD/UNM Law Mock Interview Program -  
**Alex Russell and Martha Chicoski**  
Summer Fellowship Program -  
**Samantha Jarrett and Brent Moore**  
UNM Law/YLD Mentorship Program -  
**Keya Koul and Sarita Nair**  
Wills for Heroes -  
ABA/YLD Representative - **Roxanna Chacon**  
**Albuquerque: Samantha Jarrett and Martha Chicoski**  
Voices Against Violence -  
**Keya Koul and Martha Chicoski**

## Greetings from the Chair



Martha Chicoski

As the chair of the Young Lawyers Division (YLD), I am honored to address our YLD members, as well as other members of the State Bar.

Members of the State Bar who are under the age of 36 or who have been practicing law in any state for fewer than five years are members of this division.

YLD strives to promote the integrity and respect of the legal profession, provide services and outreach to its members, and support and encourage public service. In doing so, we try to help bridge the gap between law school and the practice of law for our members while encouraging them to get involved with, and give back to, their communities.

In the upcoming year, YLD will continue many of its long-standing and successful service projects: YLD/UNM Law Mock Interview Program; Law Day Call-In Program; Junior Judges; UNM Law Summer Fellowship Program; Wills for Heroes; Homeless Legal Aid clinics in Las Cruces, Santa Fe and Albuquerque; and YLD/UNM Law Mentorship Program. On behalf of the YLD board, many thanks to our wonderful volunteers who make these programs successful. During the 2010-2011 academic year, we will launch Voices Against Violence, a program designed to educate young lawyers about the epidemic of domestic violence and to engage them in efforts to respond to and prevent domestic violence in their communities.

We are thrilled to host the American Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division 2010 Fall Conference October 14-16 at the El Dorado Hotel in Santa Fe. The ABA YLD is the largest young lawyer organization in the world with over 150,000 members and 300 affiliated groups. It is committed to assuring it is best able to represent the newest members of the profession, ensuring that it reflects the society it serves, and providing young lawyers with the tools and opportunities for professional and personal success.

During the 2010 Fall Conference, 250-350 young lawyers and their guests from New Mexico and across the country will come together in Santa Fe to connect, collaborate and learn. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the talented people and the breathtaking landscape of our state. For more information on the event, sponsorship opportunities, and to get involved with the Host Committee, please feel free to contact your YLD representative or me.

In closing, I would like to welcome Sarah Maestas Barnes, Samantha Jarrett, Jared Kallunki, Keya Koul, and Kinder Shamhart to the YLD board. The mix of new energy and leadership along with YLD's strong history of community service programs and networking events for our members is bound to make for another successful year.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Meet the Board ..... 2-4

## Meet the Board



### Martha Chicoski

Martha Chicoski serves as YLD Region 5 director as well as the Division's chair. ABA/YLD experience includes: co-chair of the Host Committee for the Fall 2010 Conference in Santa Fe, Affiliates Assistance Team Member (2008), and Minorities in the Profession Committee Scholar (2007). Chicoski works as a trial attorney with Or-

raj, Anderson and Obrey-Espinoza as staff counsel for Farmers Insurance Exchange and Affiliates. Previous experience includes the Public Safety Division of the Albuquerque City Attorney's Office, Robles, Rael & Anaya PC, Walz and Associates, and the New Mexico Public Defender Department. Chicoski received a J.D. from Suffolk University Law School and a B.A. in criminal justice from George Washington University. She is admitted to practice in New Mexico and Massachusetts as well as before the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico. During free time, she enjoys running, skiing, hiking and hanging out with her "monkeys," Doug Flutie and Ty Webb.



### Ernestina ("Tina") Cruz

Ernestina ("Tina") Cruz is a partner at the Narvaez Law Firm PA, a civil defense firm in Albuquerque. Her law practice has concentrated in the areas of employment law, civil rights, education law, and insurance defense. She represents public entities and corporations in New Mexico's federal and state courts and employers at the administrative level before the New Mexico Hu-

man Rights Bureau, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the City of Albuquerque's Human Rights Office. In addition, Tina has handled appeals before the New Mexico Court of Appeals and Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. She is a graduate of UNM (B.A. and J.D.) and the University of Notre Dame (M.A.). She currently serves as an ABA/YLD General Practice Solo Committee Scholar. She has served on the YLD board of directors since 2008 and next year she will serve as the chair. Tina is originally from El Valle, a rural community in northern New Mexico.



### Alex Russell

Alex Russell serves as YLD director-at-large Position 4 and vice-chair. He is chair of the Criminal Law Section of the State Bar, chair-elect of the Trial Practice Section, member of the Lawyer's Professional Liability and Insurance Committee, and member of the H. Vearle Payne American Inn of Court. Russell is also a member of the American

Bar Association Young Lawyer Division's Affiliate Assistance Team for 2010-2011. Russell is an experienced trial attorney and maintains a private law practice concentrated on general business and real estate law, wills and trusts law and criminal defense law. He is a graduate of St. Mary's University School of Law and Bucknell University. Russell is admitted to practice in New Mexico and the District of Columbia as well as the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico.



### Sarah L. Maestas Barnes

Sarah L. Maestas Barnes serves as YLD Region 2 director (1st, 4th, 8th, and 10th Judicial districts) for the Young Lawyers Division. Barnes earned her J.D. from the UNM School of Law in 2005 and her B.A. from UNM in 2002. Barnes is a contract attorney and works primarily on civil litigation matters and New Mexico land grant issues.

She previously worked for Butt, Thornton & Baehr PC where she practiced in the areas of commercial litigation, insurance and bad faith litigation, and workers compensation. She is a member of the New Mexico Hispanic Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the Hispanic National Bar Association, and the Phi Delta Phi Legal Fraternity. Barnes is also the vice-president of the New Mexico Land Grant Council. She resides in Santa Fe with her husband, 21-month-old daughter, and two boxers, and is expecting a second child in June.

## Meet the Board



### Roxanna Chacon

Roxanna Chacon is a native of Las Cruces and a staff attorney for the 3rd Judicial District Court. Prior to this position, she practiced in the area of civil litigation for law firms in Albuquerque and Las Cruces. Chacon received her bachelor's degree from New Mexico State University and her law degree from the UNM School of Law. She is a former chair of the Young Lawyers Division

and is the current district representative for the American Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division. She was appointed by the Doña Ana County Bar Association to serve on the board of directors for New Mexico Legal Aid. In addition, she serves on the board of the New Mexico Hispanic Bar Association and the UNM School of Law's alumni board. Chacon was named the Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year by the State Bar of New Mexico in 2003.



### Samantha Jarrett

Samantha Jarrett is an associate attorney with the Albuquerque office of Jackson Lewis LLP, a national labor and employment firm. Jarrett is a New Mexico native and a 2005 graduate of the UNM School of Law. She graduated from Occidental College in Los Angeles, California, where she received a B.A. in urban and environmental policy. Jarrett's legal practice focuses

on counseling and representing employers 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, and other state and federal employment laws. Jarrett also has a background in Health Care Law, civil litigation and practice before administrative agencies. She serves as YLD director-at-large Position 5.



### Jared Garner Kallunki

Jared Garner Kallunki is the managing attorney of the Roswell office of New Mexico Legal Aid. He practices in a wide range of civil matters related to poverty law including family law, landlord/tenant, and public benefits. Kallunki attended the University of Alabama and graduated with a B.A. in political

science and an M.A. in international relations and comparative politics. He earned his Juris Doctorate from the Thomas Jefferson School of Law. Kallunki serves on the Chaves County, Lea County, Eddy County, and 12<sup>th</sup> District Pro Bono committees. He lives in Roswell with his wife of 13 years, Tiesha, and his two children, Detroit and Joaquin. Kallunki currently serves as YLD Region 3 director.



### Keya Koul

Keya Koul has a B.A. in Spanish with a minor in biology from Smith College, an M.A. in medieval Spanish literature from UCLA, and a JD from Southwestern Law School. Koul is an attorney with the law firm of Castle Meinhold & Stawiariski and practices real estate and bankruptcy law. She has been involved with several YLD projects including being a member of the

Planning Committee for the 2nd Annual Justice for All Ball, co-chairing the UNM Law School/YLD mentorship program, and participating in Ask-a-Lawyer Day. Koul serves as director-at-large Position 1 on the YLD board. Most recently, she has been appointed as the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division's (YLD) 2010–2011 assistant editor for *The Affiliate* newsletter and as one of the inaugural ABA Touch 10,000 Ambassadors for 2010.



### David Lutz

David Lutz was born in Las Cruces and graduated from Onate High School in 1993. He attended Claremont McKenna College and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts, *summa cum laude*, in history in 1997. David attended Cornell Law School and graduated with a J.D., with specialization in international legal affairs in 2000. He worked as an associate at Baker Botts LLP in

Dallas from 2000 until 2003. David returned to New Mexico in 2004. He is currently a partner at Martin, Lutz, Roggow, & Eubanks PC in Las Cruces.

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### Mateo "Matt" S. Page

Mateo "Matt" S. Page is an assistant district attorney for the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District in Torrance County where he prosecutes primarily DWI, domestic violence, and juvenile cases. He received his B.A., *summa cum laude*, in political science from UNM in 2000 where he was a Presidential Scholar, and his J.D. from the University of Washington School of Law in Seattle in 2004.

Upon graduating from law school and becoming a member of the Washington State Bar, he and his family returned to New Mexico where he practiced Indian law and environmental law in Corrales. Page previously worked as a prosecutor for the 12th Judicial District and the 2nd Judicial District where he was assigned to the Metropolitan Court Division for two and half years. Currently, Page lives in Moriarty with his wife, Heather, and his three sons, Royal, Lincoln, and Cotton, and his daughter Torrance. He serves as YLD director-at-large Position 2.



### Kinder Shamhart

Kinder Shamhart, is the newly-elected Region 1 director, serving San Juan and McKinley counties. She currently serves as an assistant district attorney with the 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney's Office in Farmington. She currently works within the Children's Court as an assistant children's court attorney and also prosecutes truancy and worthless check matters. Shamhart

is a 2003 graduate of Oklahoma Christian University and a 2008 graduate of the University of Tulsa College of Law, where she served as managing editor of the *Energy Law Journal* and special events chair of the TU Law Women's Law Caucus. While at TU Law, Shamhart was also a member of the Rogers Inn Chapter of Phi Delta Phi and the Hudson-Hall-Wheaton Inn of the American Inns of Court.

## SAVE THE DATE!

# American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division 2010 Fall Conference

October 14-16

El Dorado Hotel in Santa Fe

More details to follow.

