

Featured Speakers - Esteemed Judges



Hon. M. Christina Armijo
Chief U.S. District Judge, District of New Mexico

Chief Judge Armijo was appointed to the United States District Court by the President in 2001, after unanimous confirmation by the United States Senate. Prior to her appointment to the Federal bench, she served on the New Mexico Court of Appeals from 1996 to 2001. She received her undergraduate and juris doctor degrees from the University of New Mexico. In October 2013 she completed a six year term as a member of the national Committee on the Administration of the Federal Magistrate Judge System, having been first appointed to that position in 2007 by Chief Justice John Roberts. She has served as Chief Judge of the District of New Mexico since 2012.



Hon. James O. Browning
U.S. District Judge, District of New Mexico

Judge Browning was appointed by President George W. Bush in August of 2003. Judge Browning is currently a director of the Christian Scholarship Foundation. He also served as president of The H. Vearle Payne American Inn of Court from 2008 to 2010, and remains on its Board. Judge Browning has been on the Board of Directors of the Tenth Circuit Historical Society since 2009. Judge Browning delivered the John Field Simms, Sr. Memorial Lecture at the University of New Mexico School of Law in April 2013. In February 2011, the Chief Justice appointed Judge Browning to the Dodd-Frank study working group, which produced the Administrative Office of the Court's report required under Dodd-Frank. He served as chairman of that working group in 2012-2013.

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Hon. C. LeRoy Hansen
Senior United States District Judge, District of New Mexico

Judge Hansen was appointed by President George H.W. Bush on March 9, 1992. He was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on September 25, 1992, and received his commission on October 2, 1992. Judge Hansen is a native of Iowa, graduated from the University of Iowa in Iowa City with his bachelor's degree in 1956 and later graduated from the University of New Mexico School of Law with his J.D. degree in 1961. After law school, Judge Hansen clerked for former Justice Irwin Moise of the New Mexico Supreme Court from 1961 to 1962. In 1962, Judge Hansen entered into private practice where he worked until joining the court.



Hon. William P. Lynch
U.S. Magistrate Judge, District of New Mexico

Judge Lynch has served as a U.S. Magistrate Judge since 2005, following ten years as a district judge for the New Mexico Fifth Judicial District. He received his juris doctor degree from the University of Illinois and a Master of Judicial Studies degree from the University of Nevada Reno. Judge Lynch has authored several publications, and his most recent article on testimony from treating physicians is found in *The Review of Litigation*.



Hon. J. Miles Hanisee
Appellate Judge, New Mexico Court of Appeals

Since 2011, Judge J. Miles Hanisee has served the New Mexico Court of Appeals, having twice been appointed by Governor Susana Martinez. A member of the New Mexico Bar for 20 years, he earned his Juris Doctor degree at Pepperdine University and a Bachelor of Arts in English from Louisiana State University. For 11 years, Judge Hanisee served as a federal prosecutor in the United States Attorney's Office, after which he founded the Law Office of J. Miles Hanisee, LLC. He has authored numerous opinions on a diverse range of legal topics in his tenure on the Court of Appeals.



Hon. William P. Johnson
United States District Judge, District of New Mexico

Judge Johnson was born and raised in Roanoke, Virginia. He attended college at the Virginia Military Institute where he earned his B.A. in 1981. He accepted a reserve commission in the United States Army Reserve and then attended law school at Washington & Lee University where he earned his J.D. in 1985. In August of 2001, President George W. Bush nominated Judge Johnson to a vacancy on the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico and in December of 2001, the United States Senate confirmed Judge Johnson's nomination to the federal bench. Although Judge Johnson's duty station is in Albuquerque, since joining the federal court he has spent a considerable amount of time in Las Cruces presiding over border related cases. Additionally, Judge Johnson has sat by designation on the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit and has been designated to preside over cases in the U.S. District Courts for the Districts of Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Kansas and Western Oklahoma.

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Hon. Kenneth J. Gonzales
United States District Judge, District of New Mexico

Judge Gonzales was sworn in as United States District Judge on August 9, 2013. He was nominated by President Barack Obama for the position on January 4, 2013, and unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate on June 17, 2013. Prior to becoming the newest federal judge in New Mexico, Judge Gonzales served as the United States Attorney for the District of New Mexico. He was nominated for that position also by President Obama and unanimously confirmed on April 30, 2010. He was sworn in on May 3, 2010. Judge Gonzales serves in the United States Army Reserve, Judge Advocate General Corps, proudly serving in the rank of Major and is assigned to the 410th Civil Affairs Battalion, Fort Bliss, Texas. He received both his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of New Mexico. He grew up in the Pojoaque Valley, and is a proud 1983 graduate of the Pojoaque Valley High School.

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Hon. Karen B. Molzen
Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge, District of New Mexico

Judge Molzen has been the Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge since 2011. A former cancer researcher, Judge Molzen shifted her focus to law and graduated third in her class after working on the New Mexico Law Review, winning jurisprudence awards in business association, criminal procedure, and legal writing. Her juris doctorate degree is from the University of New Mexico where she also serves as adjunct professor at the UNM School of Law.

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Hon. Stephan M. Vidmar
U.S. Magistrate Judge, District of New Mexico

Judge Vidmar was appointed to the federal bench in December 2011. He obtained a BS in engineering from the United States Military Academy in 1974. After serving as an Army officer for five years, he attended the University of Michigan Law School. While in law school he served as Editor-in-Chief of the University of Michigan Journal of Law Reform. After graduating from law school in 1982, Judge Vidmar accepted an associate position at Miller Stratvert, PA, which was then a 9-lawyer firm in Albuquerque. Judge Vidmar spent the next 29 years as a litigator at MSPA, primarily representing doctors in medical malpractice cases and insurance companies in bad faith actions. He was elected President and Managing Director of MSPA in 2008 (by then a 38-lawyer firm with offices in four cities) and served in that position until his appointment to the bench in 2011.

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The Second, Best Federal Bar Seminar Ever

Friday, May 1, 2015

Albuquerque Convention Center
Albuquerque, New Mexico



*The United States District Court
for The District of New Mexico*

Morning Session

- 8:00 – 8:15 Registration
- 8:15 – 8:30 Welcoming Remarks, Hon. James O. Browning, District Judge, U.S. District Court, District of New Mexico
- 8:30 – 9:30 Evidence, Prof. Stephen A. Saltzburg, George Washington University Law School
- 9:30 – 9:45 Morning Break
- 9:45 – 10:45 Supreme Court Update, Panel led by Dean David J. Herring with Prof. George Bach, Prof. Dawinder “Dave” S. Sidhu & Andrew G. Schultz, Esq.
- 10:45 – 11:45 Preservation of Issues for Appellate Review, Hon. J. Miles Hanisee, Appellate Judge, New Mexico Court of Appeals & AUSA Laura Fashing
- 11:45 – 1:30 Lunch break

Afternoon Session

CIVIL LAW PROGRAM

- 1:30 – 2:30 Experts and Discovery Issues, Panel led by Hon. William Lynch, U.S. Magistrate Judge with Jonlyn Martinez, Esq. & Richard Rosenstock, Esq.
- 2:30 – 2:45 Afternoon break
- 2:45 – 3:45 The Court’s View on Effective Motions Practice, Panel led by Hon. Karen Molzen, Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge with Charles R. Peifer, Esq. & Andrew G. Schultz, Esq.
- 3:45 – 4:45 Effective Strategies for Settlement Conferences, Panel led by Hon. Stephan M. Vidmar, U.S. Magistrate Judge with Philip B. Davis, Esq. & H. Brook Laskey, Esq.

CRIMINAL LAW PROGRAM

- 1:30 – 3:00 *Gideon: A multi-media presentation*, Paul Rashkind, Esq., Assistant Federal Public Defender, S.D. FL
- 3:00 – 3:15 Afternoon break
- 3:15 – 4:45 *Trending Topics in Criminal Law:*
- *Spice, the Moving Target*
AUSA Joel Meyers & AFD John Butcher
 - *Drugs - 2: Amendment to USSG 2D1.1*, AUSA Bill Pflugrath, FPD Steve McCue and USPO Richard Bohlken

Featured Speakers

Richard Bohlken - Assistant Deputy Chief U.S. Probation Officer, Albuquerque, NM

Mr. Bohlken began his career as a Probation/Pretrial Officer with the New Mexico Corrections Department. In 2000, he became a U.S. Probation Officer with the District of New Mexico, including promotions to Sentencing Guideline Specialist and Supervising U.S. Probation Officer. In 2010, Mr. Bohlken was named the Tenth Circuit Representative to the Probation Officers Advisory Group (POAG) to the U.S. Sentencing Commission (USSC), becoming the Chairperson for the POAG in 2014.

John V. Butcher - Assistant Federal Public Defender for the District of New Mexico

Mr. Butcher has served as the visiting Federal Public Defender to the United States Sentencing Commission and to the Office of Defender Services in Washington, D.C. He was a former member of the Practitioners Advisory Group for the United States Sentencing Commission. He also served as the Federal Public Defender for the Districts of Northern and Eastern Oklahoma and was the federal law clerk to the Honorable John B. Wooley in Wichita, Kansas. He was also the former Deputy Public Defender for Sedgewick County, Kansas. Mr. Butcher graduated from Vanderbilt University School of Law and the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Joel R. Meyers - Supervisory Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico

Mr. Meyers joined the United States Attorney’s Office in August of 2008 and supervises the Organized Crime Section. He is also the Office’s International Coordinator. Prior to joining the Office, he served as an Assistant District Attorney in New York City for over 10 years. He has completed dozens of felony trials from white collar fraud to homicide and organized crime. His recent practice utilizes all aspects of electronic surveillance and focuses on offenses involving narcotics and other dangerous drugs. He has also guided the prosecution of many medical providers, including physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and pharmacists. Mr. Meyers has familiarized himself with many of the emerging issues involving synthetic controlled substances and their analogues. Mr. Meyers is a 1997 graduate of Washington University in St. Louis where he received his J.D. and an M.A. in East Asian Studies. Mr. Meyers received his undergraduate degree in English (with a minor in Japanese) in 1993 at the State University of New York in Albany.

Dean & Professor David J. Herring

David J. Herring is Dean and Professor of Law at the University of New Mexico School of Law. He previously served as Professor of Law at the University of Pittsburgh from 1998 to 2005, where he taught Constitutional Law, Lawyering, Antitrust, and the Child Welfare Law Clinic course. Among his accomplishments as dean were leading the School’s successful capital campaign and recruiting strong teachers and scholars to join the faculty clinic. Herring and the school’s clinic students were instrumental in starting the Allegheny County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program, which trains volunteers to represent the interests of children in child welfare court proceedings. He received CASA’s first Children’s Voice Award for Excellence in Child Advocacy. Herring served as a board member for the legal services organization (KidsVoice) that provides legal representation for all dependent children in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, and played an instrumental role in the development of KidsVoice’s nationally recognized law/social work team model of representation for children.

Professor George Bach

George Bach teaches constitutional law, federal jurisdiction, evidence, trial practice, employment and labor law, and clinic. He also supervises the Externship Program. During and after law school, Bach worked for K. Lee Peifer (‘77), litigating in civil rights, union-side labor law and employee-side employment law. In 2005, Bach became the first staff attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico. In 2009, he teamed up with Matthew L. Garcia (‘05) and formed the firm of Bach & Garcia. He is now of counsel at Garcia Ives Nowara. A former president of the New Mexico Lesbian and Gay Lawyers Association, Bach was honored with a Santa Fe Human Rights Alliance “Treasure” Award in 2007 for his work in the LGBT community. In 2009, U.S. Rep. Martin Heinrich nominated him to the New Mexico State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. In 2014, he was appointed to the New Mexico Supreme Court’s Access to Justice Commission.

Laura Fashing

Assistant United States Attorney for the District of New Mexico. She has served in the office since October 1996 has prosecuted white collar crimes, immigration crimes, and narcotics offenses. She has been assigned to the appellate division since September 2001 and has served as the Appellate Chief since June 2010. Before joining the United States Attorney’s Office, she worked in the New Mexico Attorney General’s Office and also in private practice in Albuquerque and Los Angeles. She clerked for United States District Judge Irving Hill in Los Angeles. She received her J.D. degree from Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California, Berkeley, and her B.A. degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

Professor Dawinder “Dave” S. Sidhu

Dawinder “Dave” S. Sidhu joined the law school community in 2011. From 2013-2014, Sidhu was on leave, serving as a fellow at the Supreme Court of the United States. As a Supreme Court Fellow, Sidhu was assigned to the U.S. Sentencing Commission, an independent agency within the federal judiciary, and was the recipient of a Distinguished Service Award. Sidhu teaches and writes in the areas of constitutional law, criminal law, and national security. He has taught at the Georgetown University Law Center and the University of Baltimore School of Law, and has held research posts at the Oxford University Faculty of Law, among other institutions.

Stephen A. Saltzburg - Professor, George Washington University Law School

Professor Saltzburg joined George Washington University in 1990, where he founded and directed the master’s program in Litigation and Dispute Resolution. In 2014, the American Bar Association awarded Professor Saltzburg the American Bar Association Grassroots Advocacy Award for his outstanding efforts in support of some of the association’s most important policy positions as they relate to criminal justice. Professor Saltzburg has held several government positions and is the author of numerous books and articles on evidence, procedure, and litigation.

Jonlyn Martinez - Attorney, Albuquerque, NM

Ms. Martinez has been practicing law in Albuquerque since 1996 and her downtown firm specializes in insurance, litigation, and employee rights.

Richard Rosenstock - Attorney, Santa Fe, NM

Mr. Rosenstock is a graduate of George Washington University and earned his juris doctorate degree from the University of California, Berkeley. His current practice consists almost exclusively of federal civil rights cases, but he brings a varied legal background including general practice, federal civil rights litigation, and environmental issues. Mr. Rosenstock has been awarded the New Mexico Bar Association’s Courageous Advocacy Award for his work in Rio Arriba County and has twice been chosen Cooperating Attorney of the Year at the New Mexico Civil Liberties Union.

Charles R. Peifer - Attorney, Albuquerque, NM

Mr. Peifer joined his current law firm after serving as New Mexico’s Chief Assistant Attorney General, where he supervised the work of the 30 lawyers in the Attorney General’s four civil law divisions and represented executive agencies and members of the judiciary in the State Supreme Court. In addition to his current focus on areas of litigation such as civil, commercial, insurance and employment; Mr. Peifer’s other areas of private practice included the defense of medical malpractice, products liability, general tort, and employment cases. Mr. Peifer is an honors graduate of the Johns Hopkins University and a magna cum laude graduate of Cornell Law School.

Andrew G. Schultz - Attorney, Albuquerque, NM

Mr. Schultz serves as Chair of the Rodey, Dickason, Sloan, Akin & Robb, P.A., firm’s Complex and Commercial Litigation practice group. His primary practice is in the areas of complex civil litigation, class actions and civil rights. His degrees include a B.A., with honors, from Swarthmore College, a M.S., with highest distinction, from Carnegie-Mellon University, and a J.D., summa cum laude, from the University of New Mexico where he graduated first in his class, was Order of the Coif and served as Lead Articles Editor of the New Mexico Law Review.

Philip B. Davis - Attorney, Albuquerque, NM

Mr. Davis is a 1978 graduate of UNM Law School and a former law clerk to United States District Judge Edwin L. Mechem. He has been in private practice since 1981, representing plaintiffs almost exclusively. A Legal Director/Legal Panel Member of the ACLU of New Mexico since 1984, his private practice primarily involves civil rights litigation, including police misconduct, employment, first amendment, whistleblower and discrimination cases. Mr. Davis serves as a mediator in federal and state cases throughout New Mexico.

H. Brook Laskey - Attorney, Albuquerque, NM

Mr. Laskey is a 1992 graduate of Penn State University and a 1996 graduate of Case Western Reserve University School of Law. After 17 years in private practice focusing on defending gas companies and the manufacturers of gas products, he opened a new law firm which specializes in cases involving fires and explosions. Mr. Laskey is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates. In addition, he is AV-rated by Martindale Hubbell and has been listed in The Best Lawyers in America for many years.

Paul Rashkind - Assistant Federal Public Defender, Southern District of Florida, Miami, Florida

Mr. Rashkind is the Chief of Appeals and Supervisory Assistant Federal Public Defender in the Southern District of Florida, Miami, FL. He has a bachelors and juris doctorate degrees from the University of Miami. He is a Board Certified Criminal Trial Lawyer and has been a contributing editor of the American Bar Association’s Criminal Justice magazine, and author of “Cert Alert,” a quarterly column reviewing Supreme Court cases.

Bill Pflugrath - Assistant U.S. Attorney, Department of Justice, Albuquerque, NM

Mr. Pflugrath has been assigned to the Narcotics and Immigration Section of the U.S. Attorney’s Office since 2002. Prior to this, he was an ADA for Bernalillo County. He is a graduate of the University of California Hastings College of the Law and did graduate studies at the University of California, Berkeley, and the U.S. Army War College.

Steve McCue - Federal Public Defender, District of NM, Albuquerque, NM

Mr. McCue graduated from Harvard College and the University of Colorado School of Law. He served for two years as an Assistant Public Defender for the State of New Mexico in Roswell, Santa Fe, and Albuquerque. Mr. McCue has practiced with the Federal Public Defender’s office since 1986 and has been the Defender since 1999.