



A Message from **New Mexico State Bar Foundation President** *Stefanie K. Davis*

Greeting Peers and Fellow Advocates,

My name is Stefanie K. Davis, and I am proud to introduce myself as this year's President of the New Mexico State Bar Foundation ("the Bar Foundation"). I recognize the gravity and significance this role carries, and I intend to rise to this occasion in close collaboration with the New Mexico State Bar Foundation Board as we expand on the many achievements of my predecessors.

For those who may not know me, I'd like to provide a brief introduction. I was born and raised in Gallup, N.M. (once a Bengal, always a Bengal!) and received my undergraduate degree from the University of New Mexico. I attended law school in Washington, DC, where I lived with my husband until 2017, when we returned to New Mexico. I have spent my entire career in public service, working to ensure that people experiencing homelessness, persons with disabilities and veterans, among other underserved populations, get the legal and social support they need. And that career path was driven by growing up here, seeing the unmet needs of so many of our fellow New Mexicans and wanting to play a role in addressing those needs.

I want to pay tribute to the Bar Foundation's recent Past Presidents. I am preceded by esteemed members of New Mexico's legal community, including Gerald G. Dixon (2024), Hon. Carl J. Butkus (2022 – 2023) and this year's State Bar of New Mexico President, Aja N. Brooks (2021). I am honored to follow in the footsteps of these individuals, each of whom I profoundly respect for their commitment to justice and steadfast approach to cultivating and strengthening helpful and robust resources for New Mexicans seeking legal assistance. Their efforts have collectively laid strong groundwork for the Bar Foundation and its programs as they are known today.

At its core, the New Mexico State Bar Foundation "advances the legal community's commitment to serve the legal profession and people of New Mexico." Empowered by contributions from the legal community, the Bar Foundation has been a legal resource for the public and is supported by our legal community's passion for public service. Two of the Bar Foundation's longest-standing programs—the Legal Resources for the Elderly Program ("LREP") and the Center for Legal Education ("CLE")—continue to exemplify the Bar Foundation's central purpose.

The Legal Resources for the Elderly Program, which has been assisting the New Mexico senior community and providing families with peace of mind for over 34 years, served over 4,000 New Mexicans in 2024 alone. Going on its fourth decade of service, the Legal Resources for the Elderly Program has proven a strong and robust resource, and the Bar Foundation will continue to proudly promote as a key program for years to come.

In addition to our legal service programs, the Center for Legal Education provides attorneys with the sharpened tools they need for impassioned advocacy for New Mexicans through insightful and educational programming. Your support of the Bar Foundation's CLE programs helps fund our legal service programs. For instance, in 2024, the Center for Legal Education facilitated over 70 programs fulfilling the Equity in Justice CLE Credit, whose mandate was implemented by the New Mexico Supreme Court. The Center for Legal Education is constantly evolving and is committed to supporting legal professionals with quality legal education.

Since 2022, one of the Bar Foundation's most significant and successful programs is the Modest Means Helpline. Due to its high call volume, the Modest Means Helpline recently expanded its efforts by hiring additional staff and increasing its hours of operation. Having benefitted nearly 14,800 New Mexicans as of January 2025, the Modest Means Helpline has become a critical legal resource in New Mexico for residents with limited fiscal means. I look forward to its continued growth and success in 2025.

One of the Bar Foundation's goals for 2025 is to increase our fundraising efforts for the Bar Foundation's programs. Following our successful annual Golf Classic in 2024, I'm pleased to announce our 2025 Golf Classic will be held this Fall. Stay tuned for registration and more information and other exciting fundraising events.

All these efforts and accomplishments go towards one distinct goal: supporting the needs of the public with legal resources and vital programs. I look forward to working with my Bar Foundation colleagues and with all of you to strengthen our programs and expand the legal assistance available to low- and moderate-income New Mexicans. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Stefanie K. Davis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stefanie" being the most prominent part.

Stefanie K. Davis
President, New Mexico State Bar Foundation