



Women in The Courtroom IX A View from the First Chair



Friday, November 7, 2025

Albuquerque Jewish Community Center
5520 Wyoming, Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

5.5 NM MCLE Credits (3.5 General, 1 Ethics, 1 EIJ)

As women ascend into more lead counsel positions, perspectives can change. Join us for the ninth installment of Women in the Courtroom, NMDLA's signature seminar crafted specifically for New Mexico women litigators. This full-day CLE offers practical tools, fresh insights, and real-world strategies designed to elevate your litigation skills and professional growth—whether you're in a law firm, public agency, or corporate setting. This year's program highlights the unique challenges women face in the legal profession while providing an alternative model for success—one grounded in authentic communication, strategic thinking, and the strength of diverse leadership styles. Attendees will benefit from: In-depth discussions on litigation and trial strategies (Think bad faith, medical malpractice, the state of the defense bar and reptiles!); candid observations from accomplished women in law; advice for achieving balance in high-demand legal roles; and networking opportunities with a dynamic community of peers and mentors.

Who should attend? This seminar is ideal for all attorneys seeking to refine their litigation skills and support an inclusive legal culture. Law firm leaders, hiring managers, and clients interested in attracting and retaining top female talent are also encouraged to attend. Don't miss this engaging, defense-focused event that goes beyond the courtroom.

For more information, please visit www.nmdla.org or contact Program Chairs Carolyn Ramos cramos@ylawfirm.com and Allison Beaulieu abeaulieu@jshfirm.com.

.....➔ Register at  nmdla.org

 nmdefense@nmdla.org

We offer our most sincere thanks to the following firms and vendors for helping make Women in the Courtroom IX a huge success!



AVALON HEALTH ECONOMICS

Schedule

8:30-9:15

REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Sponsored by Riley|Keller|Gonzlaes

WELCOME – Allison Beaulieu & Carolyn Ramos, Program Chairs

9:30-11:00

Slaying the REPTILE Without Falling Off the EDGE! Understanding the evolution of the Reptile Strategy and the “Edge” Rebrand with Strategies for Countering Neuro-Persuasion Tactics

Robin D. Jackson Bernhard, Senior Partner, Co-Practice Chair - Reptile Practice Group
Luks Santaniello, Orlando, FL

11:00-11:15

BREAK

11:15-12:15

If you know, you know: What every policyholder defense attorney should know about bad faith law in New Mexico

Courtenay Keller, Riley|Keller|Gonzlaes

12:15-1:15

Luncheon – Ask-A-Client: Straight Talk with the Boss!

Melissa Grandon, Claims Manager, Acuity Insurance
Moderated By: Allison Beaulieu, Jones, Skelton & Hochuli, P.L.C.
Sponsored by: Avalon Health Economics

1:15-2:15

The Disappearing Defense Lawyer: The State of the Defense Bar in New Mexico

Carolyn Ramos, YLAW, P.C.

2:15-3:15

Defending the White Coat: Medical Malpractice in 2025 New Mexico

Holly Armstrong, The Rodey Firm

3:15-3:30

BREAK (AND A FEW MINUTES OF FUN)

3:30-4:30

Order in the Court: Confronting Bullying Tactics at Counsel’s Table

Hon. Elaine Lujan, Second Judicial District Court
Hon. Karen Ballard Molzen, United States District Court
Hon. Linda M. Vanzi, New Mexico Court of Appeals (Ret.)
Moderated By: Brenda Saiz, Saiz Chanez Sherrell + Kaemper

4:30-6:00

WINE TASTING RECEPTION

Sponsored by: YLAW, P.C. & Jones Skelton & Hochuli, P.L.C.