



## Jolly Good Clovis Lore



Attorney Kimberly Rudd shows off the legendary pirate flag outside her office door following a trial win.



Intern Alex Gras gets his moment with the Jolly Roger

Each LOPD office has its quirks and lore. In Clovis, it's a story of a hoisted pirate flag that triggered a call to the cops over concerns of a hostage situation and stories of the event in local news and the state's largest newspaper.

"Someone had this pirate flag and one of the attorneys wanted to take a picture," said Clovis Office Manager Melisa Fondrick, recalling the day from March 2007.

The office jokingly ran the Jolly Roger pirate flag, with its black background and skull and crossbones, up the flag pole outside the office building doors.

"But then it was time for them to go to court, so we all rushed in to go to court, and we forgot to put the flag down," Fondrick said. "Next thing I know, someone called the police department."

Clovis police and Curry County sheriff's deputies showed up at the LOPD office.

"They said they had gotten a phone call that we were being held hostage," Fondrick said. "I started laughing."

But not everyone thought it was funny.

In addition to calling police, one town resident upset that an American flag was not in sight, called the local newspaper, which ran a front page story. The story was then picked up by the Albuquerque Journal.

The tale has since taken on its own life within the office.

"Ever since then, we use the flag every time we win a case. We hang it over the door," said Fondrick. But only *inside* the building.

## Chief's message



I like the story of the Clovis Office and the pirate flag. Celebrating our hard work is important, especially because, so often, there's few other people who see our victories as that. Our victories don't always come with a resounding "Not Guilty." Often they are quiet and go unseen. One of the best victories is a dismissal of a weak case or of a mistaken charge against an innocent person. It may be an excellent plea that helps the client avoid incarceration. It may be placement in a treatment program, or release from custody, or return of someone's property. There are victories from those helping support direct client services: keeping the money flowing and salaries growing, getting job offers out, keeping computers online, organizing meetings and events. In so many ways, every day, we help people. And the wins are worth celebrating.

Do you have traditions in your office? If so, let Maggie know and we will try to include them in future newsletters. For today, let's celebrate the lore of the Clovis office and each person who gets to hoist the Jolly Roger (but not on the flag pole!).

— Ben

## Raises have landed

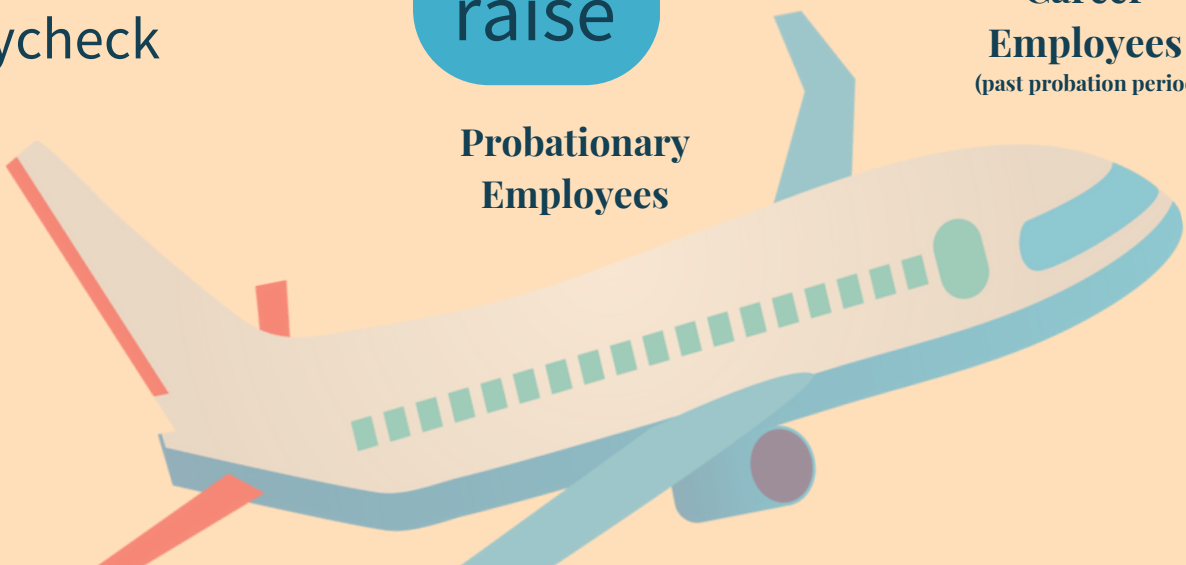
Three rounds of pay raises are now in your paycheck

13.4%  
raise

Probationary  
Employees

15.3%  
raise

Career  
Employees  
(past probation period)



# Paralegals Unite

Did you know paralegals can join the State Bar of New Mexico? The Paralegal Division was created by the Supreme Court rule in 1995 and serves paralegals with the following goals:

- to encourage a high order of ethical and professional attainment;
- to further education;
- to carry out programs within the State Bar;
- to establish fellowship among members.

To be eligible, an applicant must provide a degree, a certificate awarded by a national or state certifying entity, or other evidence of educational experience, an attorney affidavit verifying that you are currently employed as a paralegal under a supervising attorney and must take a minimum of 12 CLE hours annually.

There are quarterly meetings, fun activities (such as spa days or paint/wine nights), an annual luncheon and other events throughout the year which are free to members. In addition, you receive a Certificate of Membership and a State Bar card.

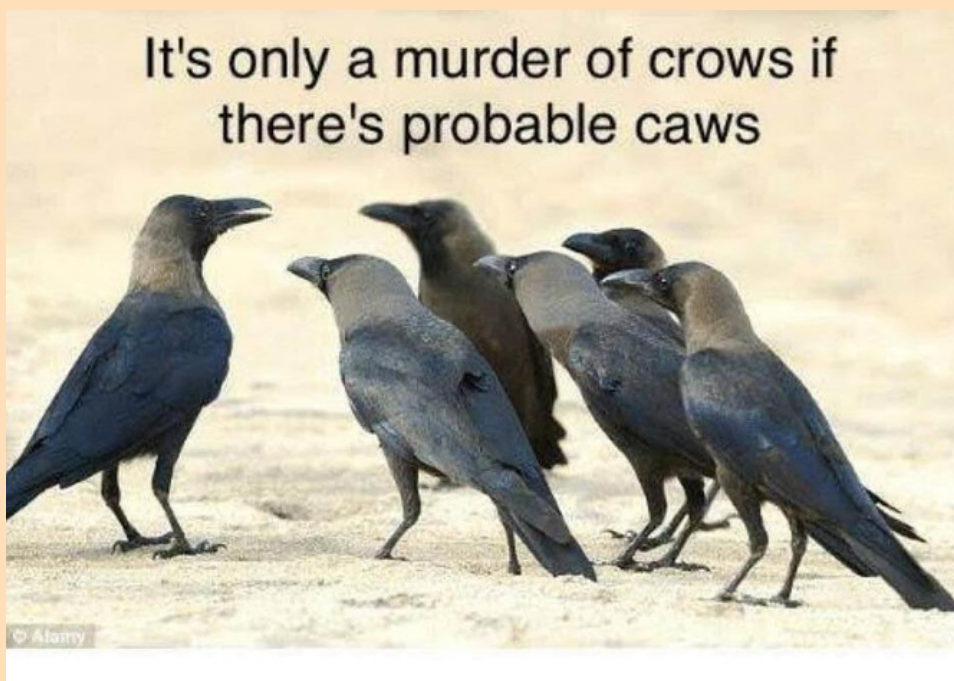
If interested, you will need to provide:

- A brief statement on why you wish to join the division and how the division can help develop your career.
- A completed membership application and required documentation.

Initial Membership dues can be waived by filling out a waiver application. If you have questions, you may reach out to Albuquerque paralegal Amanda Chino or visit [www.sbnm.org](http://www.sbnm.org) and search for paralegal division.



Albuquerque paralegal Amanda Chino joins paralegals from around the state at the State Bar of NM Annual Paralegal Luncheon.







# Comin' in hot LOPD conference pic roundup



LOPD's first in-person conference since COVID lockdowns was a success. About 200 attorneys, including contractors, attended over the three days.





From left, LOPD's Ariel White, contractor John Beckstead, LOPD's Lily Clark and Hillary Bernhardt and contractor Shane Goranson.



From left, LOPD's Charlie Stoll, PD Commissioner Jacqueline Flores, and Jonathan Ibarra.



LOPD's Deirdre Ewing visits with former LOPD attorney Max Kauffman in his new role with Disability Rights New Mexico.



From left, Zoe Psiakis, Karina Rodriguez, 12th District Defender Dayna Jones, and Michael Reeves.





LOPD admin team checks in Mark Peralta-Silva



From left, Jessica Insurriaga and Aanika Mike visit in the hallway with a photobomb in back by MCDU District Defender Ray Conley.



From right to left, appellate attorney Allison Jaramillo, Mary Barket and Thomas Lewis listen at the back of the ballroom.





Leon Richter-Freund visits with appellate attorney Mary Barket.



At left, Sarah Gallegos talks with Deputy Chief Philip Larragoite and appellate attorney Tania Shahani.



9th District Defender Ibukun Adepoju fits in some work during the conference despite best attempts at distraction by 3rd District Defender Kris Knutson.



# NM Criminal Defense Lawyers Association

The New Mexico Criminal Defense Lawyers Association is a leading voice for criminal justice reform in the state, fighting for a fair and just criminal legal system in the courts, at the legislature, and in our communities every day. In June, LOPD supervising attorney Jennifer Burrill, of Santa Fe, was elected president of NMCDLA after serving on the board of directors for approximately 15 years. She joined the board as a regional director, while she was a LOPD contract attorney based out of Clovis. Jennifer served as chair of the public information committee combating misinformation and supporting legislative reform efforts in the media for the past 6 years and continues to dedicate a significant amount of time to NMCDLA's CLE, legislative, and public information committees.



Jennifer Burrill

NMCDLA sprung to life following the New Mexico legislature passage of the New Mexico Public Defender Act in 1973 when the Criminal Law Section of the State Bar was struggling to serve both defenders and prosecutors. For the past 48 years the organization's primary role has been to educate defense attorneys through comprehensive continuing legal education programs, foster collaboration among private and public defenders by way of an active and engaged members only email listserve and member driven library, as well as advocating for fair and effective criminal justice reforms.

Today, NMCDLA is an ever-growing volunteer organization offering support to more than 500 criminal practitioners statewide, including attorneys, social workers, and investigators. Because of the overlapping interest of the two organizations, LOPD covers the NMCDLA membership dues for all LOPD attorneys. If you are interested in joining the NMCDLA listserve or in serving on one of NMCDLA's committees supporting personal and professional development of NMCDLA members, contact Jennifer or one of the board members listed in the blue box.



Chief Ben Baur, attorney and now Federal Judge Margaret Strickland and attorney Rory Rank at an Albuquerque CLE.



# NMCDLA Board

- **Jennifer Burrill**, President, LOPD Supervising Attorney Santa Fe
- **Jonathan Ibarra**, President-Elect, Legislative and Public Information Committee Member LOPD Supervising Albuquerque
- **Marc Lowry**, Vice President, Defender Wellness Committee Member
- **Brock Benjamin**, Treasurer, CLE Committee Member
- **Carter Harrison**, Secretary, Public Information Committee Member
- **Tova Indritz**, Director at Large, Membership Committee Member
- **Kelly Golightley**, Director at Large, CLE Committee Co-Chair and Public Information Committee Member, LOPD Contract Attorney – Rio Rancho/Albuquerque
- **Kitren Fischer**, Director at Large, NMCDLA CJCC Representative Santa Fe, Former Santa Fe LOPD
- **Christopher Dodd**, Director at Large, Former Albuquerque LOPD
- **Theresa Duncan**, Director at Large, Amicus Committee Member
- **Daniel Berg**, Director at Large (paralegal), CLE Committee Co-Chair
- **Brett Phelps**, Regional Director – Northeast, CLE and Public Information Committee Member, LOPD Contract Attorney – Las Vegas/Mora
- **Ramsey Younis**, Regional Director – Northwest, LOPD Managing Attorney Gallup
- **Dennis Candelaria**, Regional Director – Central
- **Ibukun Adepoju**, Regional Director – Southeast, CLE Committee Member, LOPD District Defender Clovis, Hobbs, Portales
- **Ramona Martinez-Salopek**, Regional Director – Southwest, Legislative Committee Chair, LOPD Contract Attorney – Las Cruces
- **Angelica Hall**, Immediate Past President, Membership Committee Chair and NMCDLA CJCC Representative Albuquerque

# Grins from LOPD-IT



## Defender Data Training

Every Thursday at 11am through  
12/28/23.

Emailing training suggestions to  
[LOPD-DefDataHelp@lopdnm.us](mailto:LOPD-DefDataHelp@lopdnm.us)

Via Zoom at  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87528901612?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87528901612?pwd=MjMvTU1KQlFKclpwS3FTeUdqTkhwUT09)  
[qTkhWUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87528901612?pwd=MjMvTU1KQlFKclpwS3FTeUdqTkhwUT09)

Meeting ID: 875 2890 1612  
Passcode: 785863

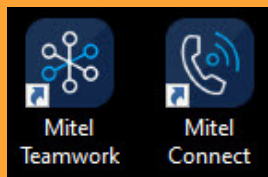
## Docking station issues?

The Surface docking station sometimes loses its ability to sync with the Surface pro and anything connected to it, including the ethernet, mouse, keyboard, monitors, speakers. A simple reset of the docking station will correct many of those types of issues.

1. Disconnect Surface from dock
2. Remove power cable from dock
3. Wait a minute to plug the power back into the dock; in the meantime reboot your surface
4. Plug the power cable back into the dock
5. Plug the surface back into the dock

## Starting Outlook in safe mode if your outlook freezes

- Click in the search bar
- Type outlook.exe /safe
- Outlook will/should start up.
- Close outlook and open as you regularly do and see if the problem has been fixed.



## Mitel Log-in Help

<https://portal.mitelcloud.com>  
User:First.Lastname@lopdnm.us  
Click on Forgot Password to reset



# Baby Love

Las Cruces attorney Lindsay McDonell-Benatar and her husband David Benatar welcomed Michael on June 22nd



## Alma Duran's new grandson

Magnus Del Villar, born to Alma's daughter-in-law Allie Del Villar, a trial attorney in Albuquerque, and her son, Luis. Magnus was born May 16th.



# NAPD Board elects LOPD's Cydni Sanchez



Deputy Chief Cydni Sanchez was recently elected President of the Board of Directors for the National Association of Public Defense, which serves as a national professional organization for more than 30,000 public defenders. Sanchez will be the first woman and first Latina to hold the position.



LOPD attorneys brought lunch to their soon-to-be Limited Practitioners taking the Bar this month.



# Social workers on the move



Aztec social worker Sonnie Rodriguez recently returned from the Color of Mitigation conference in Atlanta, where she joined other people of color in training and fellowship in their work as mitigation specialists.



Mitigation specialists work on criminal defense teams to provide client life history investigations to courts, juries and other decision makers.

Sonnie, at left, reports a conference that was “the most amazing time” with people she “found out are just like” her.



**Congrats Joy on the recognition for your passion for well-being.**

From the State Bar of New Mexico

“We only have one life, so we better make sure we’re spending it doing the things we love.”

— Joy Applewhite  
Hobbs office



Deputy Chief Jennifer Barela, left, and District Defender Ibukun Adepoju, center, attended a recruiting and collaborative conference with National Legal Aid and Defender Association and the Black Public Defender Association in Baltimore.

# Welcome to the LOPD team!

Antonia Herrera	Legal Associate	Karl Mundt	Public Defender 2
Estrella Maestas	Senior Secretary	Lena Guidi	Paralegal 1
Linda Stranich	Case Manager	Mark Regazzi	Public Defender 3
Lucy Brockman	Case Manager	Matthew Gonzales	Law Clerk
Maria Elena Gonzalez	Investigator 2	Yosheani Lujan	Paralegal 1
Maria Martinez	Secretary 1	Ashley Reymore-Cloud	Managing Attorney
Alexander Beattie	Public Defender 3	Franz von Hoffman	Public Defender 5
Dallas Alfaro	Law Clerk	Rhonda Reeves	Paralegal 2
Samuel Wilson	Law Clerk		
David Richter	Managing Attorney		
Eric Smiley	Public Defender 2		
James Altamirano	Public Defender 3		
Jose Castro	Investigator 2		

# LOPD Anniversaries

Celebrating 1, 5, 10,  
15, 20+ years

PART OF MAY  
JUNE  
JULY  
AUGUST

## 15 years

Tom Kelly  
CCLS

Ben Baur  
Chief

## 10 years

Jonathan Ibarra  
Maria Aldana Rodriguez  
Stephanie La Paz-Johnson

## 5 years

Daniela Martinez  
Cassandra Montoya  
Michael Monteagudo  
Lisa Robles

Michelle Patterson  
Veronica Fierro-Rosales  
Ashlee Placencio  
Marissa Prieto

## 1 year

Angelina Baca  
Juliann Lente-Abeita  
Katherine Garcia  
Kimberly Rudd  
Matthew O'Gorman  
Paul Tony  
Steven Trujeque  
Tashina Schultz  
James Tiu  
Nikki Berry

Jessica Turner  
Kate Thompson  
Melanie McNett  
Shawn Krause  
Stephanie Guerra  
Angelica Rosales-Pacheco  
Tess Williams  
Candyce Angel  
Joseph Salazar



# Farewells

## Retirement

Claudia Ortiz  
and  
Amy Jo English



Former Ruidoso  
Managing  
Attorney  
Stephen Ochoa  
is joining the  
bench in the  
12th.

## In Memorium



Las Cruces attorney Nicole Jones tells us that her step-father and former LOPD attorney Stephen G. Ryan has passed away. Jones says he was "the whole reason I went from a theatre major to a love for the law. "