



*2026 Hooding Ceremony
Juris Doctor Degree Candidates*

*Saturday, May 16, 2026
The University of New Mexico
School of Law – Bratton Hall*

University of New Mexico School of Law Hooding Ceremony for the Class of 2026

PROCESSIONAL.....Pomp and Circumstance

OPENING REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER.....Camille Carey, Dean

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS.....Xochitl Torres Small

HOODING CEREMONY.....Camille Carey, Dean

Faculty Members

Kieran Raney, President, Student Bar Association

PRESENTATION OF THE CLASS OF 2026

AND CLOSING REMARKS.....Camille Carey, Dean

RECESSIONAL

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO SCHOOL OF LAW

Camille Carey, Dean

JURIS DOCTOR

Requirements Completed, Semester I, 2025-2026

Allison, Case - B.A., Fort Lewis College, 2019
Campbell, Michael -
Cisco, Mariela -
Flack, Winter - B.A. University of New Mexico, 2022
Green, Eli - B.A., Brandeis University, 2020
Lobato, Raphael -
Lopez, Kevin -
Martin, Rosalie -
Mitchell, Trey -
Nguyen, Julie -
Peoble, Samuel - B.A. New Mexico Highlands University, 2022
Reyes, Victor -
Saenz, Crystal -
Smead, Natalie - B.A. Sociology and History, UNM 2020

Requirements Completed, Semester II, 2025-2026

Aragon, Dennis -
Armijo, Marlene - B.A., University of New Mexico, 2015; M.P.A., University of New Mexico, 2017; M.S.L., University of New Mexico School of Law, 2022
Arredondo, Aidan -
Beasley Sriro, Katie - B.S., Indiana University, 2014; M.S.W., University of Michigan, 2021
Beetley, Rudy - B.A., University of California, Berkeley, 2017
Behnken, John -
Benallie, Melissa - B.A. Political Science, minor in Spanish (Fort Lewis College), 2006. M.A. International Development & Social Change (Clark University), 2009
Bernier, Magdalene -
Berry, Sydney - B.S., University of Houston, 2022
Black, Taylor - B.A., Metropolitan State University of Denver
Blevins, Zoe - B.A., Human Rights, University of Connecticut, 2022
Campos, Amanda - B.A., New Mexico State University, 2022
Cannady, Alexander -
Christman, Alyssa - B.A., University of New Mexico, 2022
Cordova-Magoch, Adrien -
Delara, Cameron -
DeWees, Bodee -
Doyle, Brendon - B.A., University of Michigan, 2022
Dunn, Caroline - B.A., University of New Mexico, 2021
Durham, Maya - B.A., University of New Mexico, 2021
Edwards, Lily -

Estrada, Nicolas - Political Science, B.A., University of New Mexico, 2023 History, B.A., University of New Mexico, 2023

Flores, Austin - B.A., University of New Mexico, 2017

Garcia, Bianka - B.A., University of Texas at El Paso 2022

Garcia, Gabriella - B.S., Political Communication, University of Texas at Austin, 2022. B.A., Spanish, University of Texas at Austin, 2022

Ghatalia, Janvi - B.A., University of New Mexico with a concentration in Accounting

Gomez, Sophia - B.A., University of Texas at El Paso, 2023

Green (Hernandez), Siboney -
Greenlaw, Marshall -

Griego, Jacob - B.B.A., University of New Mexico, 2023

Guadarrama, Karina - B.A. in Communication with an Emphasis in Media Production. B.S. in Ethnic Studies

Herndon, James - M.S. Chemistry, University of Oklahoma, 2018; B.S. Chemistry, New Mexico State University

Hight, Kaitlyn - B.A., Texas Tech University, 2021

Hobson, Chase -

Jamison, Jr., Vernon - B.S. Northern Arizona University; B.S. Northern Arizona University; M.S. Northern Arizona University

Jordan, Taylor - B.A. University of Utah

Lavin, Evan - B.A., University of New Mexico, 2021

Leachman, Mason - B.A. in Public Relations, Texas Tech University, 2021; B.A. in Russian Language and Culture, Texas Tech University, 2021

Leitner, Stella - B.A., Georgetown University, 2020

Leung, Katherine - B.A., Princeton University, 2020

Lonergan, David - B.A., Trinity University, 2021

Love, Donald - A.A.S., Central New Mexico Community College, 2021; B.A., University of New Mexico, 2022

Luna, Cassandra - B.A., Grand Canyon University, 2021

Martinez, Kaylie - B.B.A., B.A. New Mexico State University 2018

Martinez, Lauren - B.A., University of New Mexico, 2021; M.B.A., University of New Mexico, 2022

Moats, Jordan - B.A., University of New Mexico, 2020

Morningstar, Aryn - B.S., Colorado State University, 2022

Myers, Monika - B.A., BYU, 2003; M.A., the University of Arizona, 2005; Ph.D. the University of Arizona, 2009

Noor, Sarah - B.A. in Philosophy, Arizona State University, 2022

O'Connell, Daniela - B.A., California State University, Northridge, 2011; M.A. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 2014

Ortega, Angélica - B.A., Loyola Marymount University, 2019

Ortiz, Evan - B.A., University of New Mexico, 2021

Oyinatumba, Dallas - B.A. Journalism and Mass Communications, New Mexico State University, 2021. B.A. Sociology, New Mexico State University, 2021

Padilla, Danilo -

Payette, Elise - B.A., University of New Mexico, 2016

Pueblo, Hollis - B.A., Brigham Young University, 2017; M.A., Brigham Young University, 2023

Quintana, Michael - B.A. Psychology, B.A. Criminology, University of New Mexico, 2018

Rabin, Ellen -

Raney, Kieran - B.A., Cornell College, 2016

Rodriguez, Sarah - B.A., University of New Mexico, 2020
Rosenberg, Camella -
Rosenberg Cobos, Jordan - B.A., University of Southern California, 2016. M.L.,
Tsinghua University, 2020. M.A., Johns Hopkins University, 2020
Rose-Wyatt, Stella - B.A., Hofstra University, 2023
Rtaimate-Lagdani, Fouad - B.B.A. in International Management, University of New
Mexico, 2015; M.B.A., University of New Mexico, 2020
Smagacz, Sarah -
Smith, Davis - Bachelors of Public Relations
Smith, Erik -
Swanteson-Franz, Rachel - B.S., University of New Mexico, 2017
Tullar, Caitlyn -
Tuttle, August - B.A., University of New Mexico, 2020
Valero, Julia - B.A., Saint Olaf College, 2018
Vallejos, Niko - B.A., University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, 2022
Walker, Jonah -
West, Everett - B.A., Philosophy, Political Science, University of New Mexico, 2019
Wilson, Elias - B.A., University of New Mexico 2017. M.A., University of Arizona 2022
Zwiener, Luke -

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

JURIS DOCTOR

Allison, Case - I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my family, friends, and professors for their unwavering support and encouragement throughout my legal education. Your guidance, patience, and belief in me have been instrumental in transforming what was once only a dream into a reality. I am profoundly thankful for the kindness, understanding, and strength you have shared with me during this journey. This accomplishment would not have been possible without you.

Aragon, Dennis -

Armijo, Marlene - My love and admiration to my family for their unwavering love and support for the last three years. You all made this journey through law school bearable. You made me believe I could do this. I would also like to dedicate this degree to my Dad and beautiful niece Maddie Mae Miller, who I wish more than anything could have been here today.

Arredondo, Aidan -

Beasley Sriro, Katie - To my husband, Nathan Sriro: I am blessed beyond words to have you as my teammate in life. Thank you for being my rock through two graduate degrees. To my parents, Jon and Kelley Beasley: thank you for holding me to high standards, teaching me to care for others, and insisting I learn Spanish—I am who I am because of you. To my in-laws and extended family: thank you for your constant love and support. And to Sara Koplik and UNM Hillel: thank you for reminding me my family has a place in New Mexico. Tzedek, tzedek tirdof.

Beetley, Rudy - To my law professors: thank you for your guidance. To my law journal colleagues: thank you for your hard work and friendship. To my family: thank you for your support. To my partner Audrey: thank you for your encouragement, patience, and good humor.

Behnken, John -

Benallie, Melissa - I would like to say ahé'hée to Shíma dóo Shizhé'é (Mom & Dad) for all the love, encouragement, guidance, and support in this law school journey. A huge appreciation to my big sister, bro in law, yazh ! Love to my brand new puppy! Supportive friends & family! Importantly, to my ancestors & loved ones who are not here but always with me! To the Diné Nation for the financial support!

Bernier, Magdalene -

Berry, Sydney - To my biggest supporters, thank you for riding with me during these last three years. You all have my deepest gratitude and I love each of you, deep.

Black, Taylor - I am profoundly grateful to my entire family for their constant support, encouragement, and belief in me. I could not have done this without them. I owe my deepest thanks to my parents, whose love, guidance, and sacrifices have made this achievement possible. Thank you for everything you have done for me.

Blevins, Zoe - Thank you to all of my friends and family for the endless support these the past three years, especially my mother. She has pushed me to live life to the fullest and go after every dream I have. Thank you for being the ultimate role model in my life in showing me what it means to be a true leader.

Campbell, Michael - B.A., Northern Michigan University

Campos, Amanda - To my mother, who never stopped believing me and has made me the person I am today. To my father, who has supported me and stood by me even when I wasn't the easiest to be around. To all my friends who I have made in Law School, it's been a crazy experience that I will never forget.

Cannady, Alexander -

Christman, Alyssa - I'm grateful to those who supported me over the past three years, including family, friends, and mentors. Their encouragement, guidance, and support helped me stay focused and continue moving forward, especially when faced with challenges along the way.

Cisco, Mariela -

Cordova-Magoch, Adrien -

Delara, Cameron -

DeWees, Bodee -

Doyle, Brendon - Thank you to my family, friends, and instructors who supported and guided me throughout these past few years. I couldn't have done it without you all.

Dunn, Caroline - To my mom, dad, and brother, (and my cats) thank you for always supporting me and being a shoulder to lean on. The meals you brought and the ways you showed up carried me more than you know. To my best friend, I would not have made it through this without you by my side. To my mentors, professors, and friends, thank you for your invaluable guidance and words of encouragement when I needed them most.

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Edwards, Lily -

Estrada, Nicolas - Thank you to my parents, Daniel and Debra, for their love and support throughout law school. Thank you to Angie, whose support meant so much to me along the way. I am especially grateful to my grandparents, Tulio and Carol and Joe and Vera, who have been a source of inspiration in both my work and my life. I am also deeply grateful to my family, friends, professors, and mentors for their guidance and encouragement.

Flack, Winter - I am grateful for my family and friends for encouraging me and standing by me through the stresses of law school. Also, the many inspiring professors, administrative staff, and support staff at UNM School of Law.

Flores, Austin - I could not have earned this degree without the love and support of my beautiful fiancé Dr. Maria Mendez, my parents Judy Wells and Andrew Flores, my “sister-mom” Kate and her husband Brett, my sister Kiersey, my nieces Jenna and Jazz, the Flores, Ponce-Mendez, and Lyssy families, the Forte and Pecos River Valley boys, Kendall Alexander, my colleagues at the law school and NMDOJ, and the WSRJJ, Wolf Judo, and Sandia Judo clubs.

Garcia, Bianka - I want to give a big thank you to my mom, dad, and brother for supporting me through law school. I would not have been able to do it without them.

Garcia, Gabriella - I want to thank my family for their unconditional support throughout my law school journey. Your encouragement, patience, and unwavering belief in me carried me through it all. This accomplishment is as much yours as it is mine. I truly couldn't have done it without you.

Ghatalia, Janvi - I would like to take this opportunity to extend my deepest and sincere gratitude to my mom and dad for their unwavering support. If it wasn't for the sacrifice you made to leave India, I wouldn't be up here today. And to my sister, Desna, who's been my inspiration through it all. I could not have done this without your constant belief in me and your unwavering love and support.

Gomez, Sophia - I'd love to thank my friends and family for their love and support. Thank you to my Mom, Jose, Ben, David, and the puppies for being my loudest cheerleaders. I could not have done it without you. Me gustaría agradecer a mis amigos y familiares por todo su amor y apoyo.

Green, Eli -

Green (Hernandez), Siboney -

Greenlaw, Marshall -

Griego, Jacob - To my grandparents, parents, and family, thank you for your support. Thank you for always encouraging and believing in me. To my friends and colleagues, thank you for reminding me to enjoy life and that the world was bigger than the dark spots. To my mentors and educators, thank you for seeing and recognizing my value and paving the way for me. My success is yours. I promise to make you proud.

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Hight, Kaitlyn - I would like to thank my parents for always encouraging me to pursue my education. Thank you to my friends for the study sessions and game nights. Special thanks to Fred for his unwavering emotional support and for helping me think outside the (litter) box. And finally, to my husband: thank you for keeping me grounded and reminding me of what truly matters.

Hobson, Chase -

Jamison, Jr., Vernon - I am deeply grateful to my family, friends, and mentors who have supported me throughout these past three years of law school. This past year has been especially challenging, but your support and encouragement have meant everything to me. Your patience, belief, and constant reminders of my purpose carried me through the most difficult moments. This achievement is not mine alone it reflects the strength and support you have all given me along the way.

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Lavin, Evan - I am eternally grateful for the support of my family and friends, you have made this achievement possible. I would not be here today without all of your help and encouragement. Special thanks to my amazing wife Alicia, who graduated last year, for always giving me the right advice and handing down so many of the textbooks I needed.

Leachman, Mason - Thank you to my family, all of you, for catching me when I fell and inspiring me to pursue a new dream. It's because of you, especially mom, dad and Emily, I'm here today. I had the best professors and friends in law school and will miss all of you — thank you, too. Lastly, thank you to my fiancé, Devin, for defying gravity with me yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Leitner, Stella - Danke, Mom, fuer deine Unterstuetzung, endlose Begeisterung, und die vielen Stunden, die Du mir am Telefon geschenkt hast. Thank you, Dad, for encouraging me to dive head-first into my passions and, sometimes, to swim against the current. Carrie, thank you for your friendship. You make the hard things less hard. Sam, thank you for giving me the best reason to take a break from the textbooks and enjoy the things I love.

Leung, Katherine - To Claire, thank you for being my wife, partner, and hero. You see the best version of me and lift me up to be that person. Thank you to my family, Susan, Jimmy, and Elizabeth, and everyone in Albuquerque, Raleigh, and Hawaii for encouraging and supporting me. Thank you to my scholarship donors, the Stelzners, Modrall, and the Senior Lawyers Division, and to my mentors and friends at UNM, Rodey, and Weems. Brussel sprouts forever!

Lobato, Raphael -

Lonergan, David - I want to thank my parents for always being there to support me throughout my life and eventually law school. Thank you to my family, who have kept a close eye on my progress through law school. Thanks also to the friends that I have made over the last three years. Lastly, I would like to thank my girlfriend Natalie for putting up with me through law school and for keeping me sane.

Lopez, Kevin -

Love, Donald - I want to thank my parents and loved ones for their support throughout the past three years. The encouragement and belief that they had in me pushed me through times where I doubted myself. My graduation today is not possible without their support and I will always be grateful for the support and belief that they had in me. Thank you.

Luna, Cassandra - Thank you to my family for always being there for me and supporting my goals. I would not be the person I am today without you all. I love you dearly! Thank you to my partner for dealing with all of the struggles law school entails alongside me. Finally thank you to all of my lovely professors for your work and the community you have built at the law school. Finally, my beloved law school friends, thank you for being the strongest community and support. You all made law school bearable and I could NOT have survived without you all!

Martin, Rosalie -

Martinez, Kaylie - To the friends who supported me through every step of this journey, your encouragement and comfort fed me when I needed it most. To my law school family, I would do law school three times over if it meant having the privilege of meeting each of you three more times. You're amazing people. Mom and Dad, the sacrifices you've made for me are seen, felt, and so appreciated. This moment and my heart are yours.

Martinez, Lauren - Thank you to my parents for their constant love and support. Thank you to my friends for making this journey memorable and thank you to my sister for always being there to listen. Isaac, thank you for being my rock and helping me achieve my dream.

Mitchell, Trey -

Moats, Jordan - To my family, Denell, Nathan, and Kimmie, thank you for your unconditional love and support. To Cassie, Kaylie, and Sophi, thank you for being the best law school besties anyone could ask for. To Shanna, thank you for encouraging me to chase this dream. And to my fiancé, Dokyun Kim, your unwavering support throughout this journey is why I am here today. You and Teddy make everything easier, I love you.

Morningstar, Aryn - I would like to thank my husband, Reed, and daughter, Katherine for supporting me during my law school career. I would also like to thank my parents for helping out whenever possible and entertaining Katherine though many a finals season.

Myers, Monika - With gratitude to Hailey Fortin, Winter Flack, and Ellen Rabin for their academic support. This degree would not have been possible without the support of my parents, Dave and Wendy, and my siblings, Carrie and Mike. Above all, I am grateful for Chris, Aubrianna, Jacob, and Daniel.

Nguyen, Julie -

Noor, Sarah - I would like to thank my parents for their love and support over the past three years; I would not be walking this stage today without them. Attending UNM SOL has been an incredible experience. I am so grateful to my peers and professors for their kindness, encouragement, and the unforgettable memories we've shared. I have grown so much because of you all and I am so excited for the bright future ahead of us.

O'Connell, Daniela - My deepest gratitude goes to my husband, whose steady support, patience, and encouragement made this journey possible. Through long nights, demanding semesters, and constant balancing of responsibilities, he has been my foundation. I am also profoundly grateful for my children, whose presence has brought perspective, purpose, and joy to every step of this process. This accomplishment is as much theirs as it is mine.

Ortega, Angélica - I am deeply indebted to my family, and my husband, who have provided me with unwavering support and encouragement throughout the pursuit of my J.D. I am also grateful for Laura Gómez and members of the New Mexico Hispanic Bar Association for their mentorship. Lastly, I acknowledge the lawyers who have come before me in my family, Roberto Ortega, (UNM School of Law, 1987) and Arturo Ortega (Georgetown Law School, 1950).

Ortiz, Evan - I am grateful for the steadfast support of both my parents these last three challenging years. Also, thank you to Professor Joshua Kastenbergh for taking the time to reach out to his 1L students as soon as classes began and set up fun opportunities to meet outside of class to help ease everyone into the Law School experience. And to Professor Natalie Martin for positive support and encouragement in my Writing Seminar and for taking the time to teach a class on financial literacy.

Oyinatumba, Dallas - I dedicate this achievement to my support system. To Mom and Dad for your love, support and prayers; today would not be possible without you. To, my siblings, for breathing life back into me. To Nat and Ali, for being the best cheerleaders and reminding me there is life outside of law school. To my professors, for encouraging me to reach my potential. To my classmates who became family for making this experience unforgettable.

Padilla, Danilo -

Payette, Elise - Thank you to my mom and dad, my best friend Sarah, Andy, and all my loved ones who encouraged me and believed I could become a lawyer. Thank you to the incredible friends I met during law school, you impacted my experience beyond words, and I am so grateful to have you in my life. Thank you to the professors and mentors who challenged and supported me during this experience and into the next steps of my career.

Peoble, Samuel - All glory to God for getting me through. Also want to thank my family, friends, and professors, but I especially want to thank my Jamine for being there from my first torts lesson to my final paper and the best law dog.

Pueblo, Hollis - Thanks to Nic and Marlene for making me feel welcome. Thanks to Rachel for always quoting Lord of the Rings with me. Thanks to my family for getting on a video call with me every week. And thanks to Rosalie for being my movie theater buddy, to Lauren for being my front row friend, and to Stella for being the best climbing partner. I couldn't have done it without you.

Quintana, Michael - My family for supporting and believing me when I experienced self-doubt.

Rabin, Ellen -

Raney, Kieran - What a wild fantasy law school was, those few years ago. At first, only a vision without reflection. But now, my gratitude goes to those with the courage to live authentically: you inspired me to do the same. I am so grateful to find myself amongst an ever-growing family, new and old. Boundless love and thanks goes to my too-many-to-name-loved-ones: my love is with you, wherever we go. May we be like the wild geese.

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Rodriguez, Sarah - I am forever grateful for my family, friends, and professors who have helped make this day possible. To my dad, thank you for your unwavering support and belief in me. To my husband, thank you for your patience and encouragement. To my two sons, thank you for being my greatest inspirations, strongest motivators, and my biggest blessings. All glory to God!

Rosenberg, Camella -

Rosenberg Cobos, Jordan - I want to first thank my parents for being my inspiration to attend law school. Thanks to my friends, colleagues, professors, and staff members who made these past three years a little easier and a lot more fun under the Tiwa sun!

Rose-Wyatt, Stella - I could not have survived law school on my own. Thank you, Adam, Mam, Wendy, Jimbo, Brenna, Kristi, Julie, Caspian, Drew, Ava, Rachel, Caroline, Christy, Rebecca, and everyone else who has been there to lift me up. I am who I am because of your continued support and love. Thank you to my late mom, Elizabeth, and my late dad, Don, for celebrating even my smallest accomplishments.

Rtaimate-Lagdani, Fouad - From the bottom of my heart, I want to express my deepest gratitude: To the late Anthony D. Jenkins, who served as an admissions officer at UNM Law School, whose guidance was transformative in launching my legal journey. To Prof. Maryam Ahranjani, whose support made THE difference silently. To Beth Kaimowitz, whose advice was invaluable. To my outstanding professors and the dedicated staff, for your kindness, professionalism, and support. You know who you are.

Saenz, Crystal -

Smagacz, Sarah -

Smead, Natalie - Justin and Hayden: thank you for being there to help with everything. I could not have done this without you both. Mom and Dad: thank you for making sure I never fell behind, even as early as second grade when you had to buy me Hooked on Phonics. Jessica, Lara, Brea, Phoebe, Cassia, Jessye: thank you for helping fight my anxieties. Joseph: thank you for your love and support (especially through bar prep!).

Smith, Davis - Davis would like to thank Tiffeny Smith, Jude Smith, Geoff Romero. and Sherry Romero.

Smith, Erik -

Swanteson-Franz, Rachel - Thank you Mom, Dad, Natalie, and Jonathan for your never ending love and support of me—words are not enough. Thank you to my dear law school and non-law school friends without whom I could not have survived. Thank you to my professors, supervisors, and mentors for your belief in me. Thank you, John and Carla for your support and cheerleading. Last, but certainly not least, thank you to my partner Brian who makes every day better.

Tullar, Caitlyn -

Tuttle, August - I want to thank my parents, my classmates, and my girlfriend for their support over the last three years. Without them I would have really struggled to get this far. Law school can be overwhelming and being able to share some of those feelings with my friends in and out of school was incredibly helpful in helping me overcome whatever difficulties cropped up.

Valero, Julia - Thank you to my family, partner, friends, and community!

Vallejos, Niko - To my parents, thank you for being my biggest supporters and making this possible. I couldn't have reached this milestone without your guidance in showing me what it means to be resilient. To my late brother, DeVon: I missed you every step of the way, and I know you would have been the first one cheering today. Everything I achieve, I do in honor of the love and strength you all have given me.

Walker, Jonah -

West, Everett - My Family for believing in me, even when I didn't believe in myself.

Wilson, Elias - I would like to thank my parents, Bob and Lisa, for their support and encouragement throughout law school. I am grateful to my brother, Keenan, for reminding me to have fun and keeping me up to date on the latest NBA news. I thank my wife, Harman, for inspiring me to think big and for her love and support. Finally, I thank the friends, professors, and staff who made these past three years easier.

Zwiener, Luke -

Scan QR code for virtual program
Scroll to bottom to click link

