

# UNM School of Law Update:

- Community Governance Attorney Program
- Summer Fellowships
- Continuing Legal Education Courses

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PRESENTATION TO LAND GRANT INTERIM COMMITTEE

AUGUST 13, 2020

GABE PACYNIAK, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

UNM SCHOOL OF LAW

# Community Governance Attorney Act Program (SB 244)

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- **Legislation enacted in the 2019 Legislative session**
- **Established Community Governance Attorney Act Program**
  - Tuition waiver for up to 2 3<sup>rd</sup> year UNM Law Students
  - Tuition forgiven if students provide 2 years of pro-bono legal work to benefit land grants, acequias, colonias
- **Established fund that would pay for up to 50% of CGA attorney positions for providing pro-bono legal services**
- **Established CGA Commission to select students, NGOs**
  - Commission staffed by UNM Law
- **HED lead implementing agency**

# Funding was not Successfully Appropriated into CGA Fund

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- **CGA Act established non-reverting fund for the program, including for NGO positions**
- **2019 legislature appropriated funds, but final language did not specify CGA Fund**
  - \$50,000 to “establish” CGA program
  - \$200,000 to “to provide legal services for land grants-mercedes, acequias and indigent persons in colonias”
  - DFA ruled that funds could not be deposited in CGA Fund, and would revert at the end of July 2020
- **In 2020, HED requested funds that would fund first two CGA attorneys.**
  - Legislature did not appropriate funding in the budget
- **Without CGA funds, the CGA attorney positions are not funded**

# In Spring 2020, Governor Appointed CGA Commissioners

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## **Commission Members:**

- Macario Griego (Gov.'s appointee - Land Grants)
- Ramon O. Vigil (Gov.'s appointee - Acequias)
- Oscar Vasquez-Butler (Gov.'s appointee - Colonias)
- Mario Suazo, HED CFO (HED designee)
- Adrian Oglesby, Utton Center Executive Director (Law School designee)

**In March 2020, UNM Law hosted informational briefing for Commissioners**

# Next Steps

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## **Commission:**

- Utton Center received \$5,000 to staff the Commission
- Will be reaching out to Commissioners to host first public meeting in September, October
- Commission will need to develop rules, provide input on regulations

## **HED:**

- Has worked with Law School to start drafting regulations
- Will need to develop regulations, model contracts for program

# Summer Community Governance Fellowships

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- **After discussion with stakeholders, HED decided to spend a portion of \$200,000 for legal service to fund summer fellows**
- **7 fellows worked with 3 organizations from May 18 to June 26 (6 weeks)**
  - 3 fellows at NM Acequia Association
  - 2 fellows at NM Legal Aid
  - 2 fellows at UNM School of Law NREL Clinic
- **Total funding \$42,187.50**
- **Overall, positive reviews from NGOs, Fellows**

# Continuing Legal Education: Land Grant and Acequias Program

- Utton Center, Land Grant Studies Program, planned CLE for March 13, 14
- Aimed at lawyers, judges, board members
- Substantial RSVPs
- Had to postpone at the last minute
- Will be rescheduling, potentially virtual fall 2020 event

*Save the Date!*

## Land Grants, Acequias and the Law CLE

Join experts in the field of land grant and acequia law to cover a variety of issues unique to these communities. Special keynotes by Representative Miguel P. Garcia and the NM Attorney General's Office.

This two-day program has been approved by MCLE for 7.5 General and 2.0 Ethics/Professionalism credits



## *Registration Information*

**Attorneys & Judges:** \$100 for one day / \$125 for both days

**Non-Profit Attorneys:** \$50 for one day / \$75 for both days

**Public Attendees & Students:** \$25 flat rate



Sponsored by the UNM School of Law, Natural Resource and Environmental Law Program and the Utton Center  
In Cooperation with UNM Land Grant Studies Program, NM Acequia Association, NM Land Grant Consejo, NM Legal Aid

# Previous Agenda

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- Entre la Historia y la Ley: Land Grant History and Law
- What Came Prior to Prior Appropriation?: Acequia Culture, History and the Law
- Ethics — More than Tom Catron: Land Grants and the Unethical Practices of Attorneys in New Mexico
- From Diversion to Desague: Contemporary Issues Surrounding the Acequia Easement
- Land Grants-Mercedes in Statute from the Territorial Period to Present
- Land Grants-Merced Common Land: Statutes, Case Law and Public Policy
- Ethics — Good Land Grant and Acequia Governance

**Presenters: Profs. LM García y Griego & Jacobo D. Baca, Arturo Archuleta, David Benavides, Paula Garcia, Enrique Romero, Adrian Oglesby**

**Keynotes: Rep. Miguel Garcia, Deputy A.G. Tanya Maestas**