

Land Grants, Acequias and the Law

Continuing Legal Education Workshop

« Speaker Bios and Contact Information »

Arturo Archuleta, Program Manager

New Mexico Land Grant Council and UNM Land Grant Studies Program

Arturo Archuleta is the program manager for the New Mexico Land Grant Council and the University of New Mexico Land Grant Studies Program. He holds a Master's Degree in Community and Regional Planning from the University of New Mexico and has been working in Spanish and Mexican community land grants for over 15 years.

Contact: carchuleta02@law.unm.edu | <https://lgc.unm.edu/about>

Jacobo Baca, Ph.D., Adjunct Faculty and Research Historian

New Mexico Land Grant Council, UNM Land Grant Studies Program, and UNM Chicana and Chicano Studies Program

Jacobo D. Baca is an heir to multiple community and private land grants, including the Town of Tomé and the Santa Cruz de la Cañada, and was raised an acequia parciante in northern New Mexico. He holds Bachelors, Masters, and Doctoral degrees in history from the University of New Mexico, where he wrote his dissertation *Somos Indígena: Ethnic Politics and Land Tenure in New Mexico, 1694-1965*, which examined changes in Hispano and Pueblo Indian land tenure in the Tewa Basin of north central New Mexico across three centuries. Currently, he serves as the Research Historian for the UNM Land Grant Studies Program and New Mexico Land Grant Council and teaches for the Chicana & Chicano Studies Department at UNM.

Contact: jacobobaca@unm.edu | <https://lgc.unm.edu/about>

Hector Balderas, New Mexico Attorney General

Hector Balderas is serving his second term as New Mexico's Attorney General and is a Certified Fraud Examiner. As the chief law enforcement officer and chief civil officer for the State of New Mexico, Hector has transformed the Office of the Attorney General to focus on keeping our children and families safe, empowering New Mexican families and small businesses for financial success, and protecting New Mexico's pristine environment.

As Attorney General, Balderas transformed the Special Prosecutions Division, Special Investigations Division, New Mexico Human Trafficking Task Force, and expanded the New

After law school Hector became a Bernalillo County Assistant District Attorney, was elected to a seat in the New Mexico House of Representatives at age 29, and then served two terms as New Mexico's State Auditor. As State Auditor, Balderas had oversight of \$60 billion in assets

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collectively held by over 1,000 government entities in New Mexico. He immediately pursued an aggressive agenda designed to protect taxpayer funds and hold government agencies accountable. During his time as State Auditor, Hector's effort to target corruption yielded historic results. His special audits and investigations exposed rampant financial mismanagement of taxpayer funds throughout many government agencies and schools.

Contact: <https://www.nmag.gov/contact-us.aspx>

David Benavides, Land and Water Rights Project Director ***New Mexico Legal Aid***

David Benavides is director of the land and water rights project for New Mexico Legal Aid, a position he has held for 31 years. He received both his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of New Mexico, and, upon graduating from law school in 1990, was awarded a Skadden, Arps Public Interest Law Fellowship to begin his work with acequias and land grants on land and water rights. David has advised countless acequia and land grant officials on resource protection and governance matters. His work has additionally included representing acequias in gaining legal recognition for their water rights and their historic water-use customs, and to have greater decision-making authority in local water decisions. He has assisted land grants in retaining their common lands against various legal threats, and in 2008 coauthored a legal history of New Mexico land grants for the New Mexico Attorney General. He lives outside of Santa Fe.

Contact: davidb@nmlegalaid.org | (505) 982-9886, ext. 7007

David Garcia, Acequia Education and Outreach Coordinator ***New Mexico Acequia Association***

David F. García, Ph.D. is a cultural anthropologist, a graduate of UT Austin 2016, and a musician who reflects on the public spaces and cultural movements related to land-based knowledges in the US southwest / northern Mexican borderlands. He received a MA in Spanish at UNM in 2008 and taught Spanish language at UNM in the Spanish as heritage language program. Born in the Española Valley, he and his family have been parciantes on the Acequia de los Salazares for more than 6 generations, where they grow various crops in their hoop house and apple orchard. He is proud that his first job at age 15 was as a peón de la acequia, and today he continues this work as an advocate for acequias with NMAA. In addition, he has played violin with the ritual dance drama of Los Matachines de Alcalde for the last 25 years. He sees music and the arts as a vehicle to participate and promote community engagement in the NM acequia movement as well as immigrant rights activism. He was among the principal collaborators of the formation of NMAA's Escuelita de las Acequias which promoted better communication and

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resolana among acequeros to better organize and share local knowledge to keep up with the demands and challenges of today's world.

In his spare time, he has played in numerous local bands, the Al Hurricane band and the Blue Ventures, or as a duet with Jeremías Martínez. He has participated in the community folk dramas Los Pastores and Los Comanches, as well as NMAA' Teatro de las Acequias. He composes canciones, corridos, entregas de novios and has written some of the first décimas in New Mexico since the 1950s. He says, "I see my work as a "promotor de la cultura" promoting knowledge and dialogue about our shared cultures, languages, histories and lifeways."

Contact: davidfgarcia@lasacequias.org | (505) 995-9644 | <https://lasacequias.org/>

Representative Miguel P. Garcia (D)

Miguel P. Garcia, resident of Ranchos de Atrisco is a New Mexico State Representative (1997-present), serving the District 14 communities and neighborhoods of Atrisco, Armijo, Barelás, Five Points, South Broadway, Alamosa, and West Central neighborhoods. He has served as Chairman of the House for the Local Government, Land Grants, and Cultural Affairs committees (2016-present). He has served as Co-Chair and founder of the Legislative Land Grant Interim Committee (2003-present). Prior to being an elected as Representative in 1996, Garcia served as a community and civic leader in Atrisco and the South Valley.

Contact: miguel.garcia@nmlegis.gov | (505) 986-4844

Paula Garcia, Executive Director New Mexico Acequia Association

Paula Garcia is Executive Director of the New Mexico Acequia Association. During two decades of her service, acequias in New Mexico have built a movement around the principle that water is life, *agua es vida*. Through her leadership, acequias have strengthened community self-determination through local water governance, have enacted policy reforms protecting rural, agricultural water rights, and have fought for clean water to flow in our rivers. With the NMAA Team, she has also established innovative youth and leadership development projects and farm apprenticeships that seek to strengthen the next generation of farmers and ranchers who are caretakers of water, land livestock, and native and heirloom seeds. With her family, Paula cares for a small ranch and traditional gardens characteristic of the subsistence agriculture of her ancestors. When not living and breathing acequias, Paula can be found hiking, playing classical piano, and cooking a simple meal based on some variation of corns, beans, and chile. Her son is a first-year student of the United World College which is dedicated to global peace and sustainability through education.

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Contact: lamorena@lasacequias.org | (505) 995-9644 | <https://lasacequias.org/>

LM García y Griego, Ph.D, Principal Investigator ***UNM Land Grant Studies Program***

Dr. LM García y Griego is Associate Professor of History and Chicana and Chicano Studies and Director of the Land Grant Studies Program at the University of New Mexico. He also serves as Lead Principal Investigator of the New Mexico Land Grant Council. After his A.B. at Princeton University and M.A. in demography at El Colegio de México (Mexico City) he received his Ph.D. in history from UCLA in 1987. He has provided expert testimony or served as an advisor on cases regarding international migration, aboriginal claims, and New Mexico land grants heard before federal or New Mexico district courts. He currently serves on the Board of the Acequia Madre de Carnuel.

Contact: mgarciay@unm.edu | (505) 225-0043

Adrian Oglesby, Director ***UNM SOL Utton Transboundary Resources Center***

Adrian Oglesby began his tenure as the Director of Utton Center in 2014. He is a graduate of the University of New Mexico School of Law and has practiced water law since 2000, including working with the Utton Center on many projects. Adrian's legal career has been focused on river and riparian restoration, agricultural preservation, efficient water management, governmental accountability, and fish and wildlife conservation. He has advised irrigation districts, acequias, Pueblo and tribal governments, farmers, environmental organizations, and local water providers. He established and managed the New Mexico Living Rivers Program for The Nature Conservancy and served as a Special Assistant Attorney General for the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission. He is currently the Chair of the Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program. He is a past Vice Chair of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, past Chair of the Natural Resources, Energy and Environmental Law section of the New Mexico State Bar, and past President of the New Mexico Riparian Council.

Contact: oglesby@law.unm.edu | (505) 280-7958 | <https://uttoncenter.unm.edu/>

Enrique Romero Esq., Director of Legal Services ***New Mexico Acequia Association***

Enrique Romero is the Director of Legal Services at the New Mexico Acequia Association. Upon completing his JD from Notre Dame Law School in 2014, Enrique received the Thomas L. Shaffer Public Interest Law Fellowship. During his fellowship, Enrique was a staff attorney for New Mexico Legal Aid's Land and Water Program and focused on advising acequias on their legal rights and obligations. Since joining the New Mexico Bar in 2014, Enrique has worked

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with countless acequia officers—commissioners and mayordomos—and parciantes throughout New Mexico. Enrique grew up in the Pojoaque and Española Valleys and frequently returns home to Nambe, New Mexico where his family irrigates land served by the Acequia la Nueva.

Contact: enrique@lasacequias.org | <https://lasacequias.org/>

Stephanie Russo Baca, Ombudsman/Staff Attorney ***UNM SOL Utton Transboundary Resources Center***

Stephanie Russo Baca joined the staff of the Utton Center in fall 2018. Since her graduation from UNM School of Law in 2017, Stephanie has been associated with the Barncastle Law Firm in Las Cruces, New Mexico. She worked previously with the Utton Center as a student research assistant during law school for her 2L and 3L years and as a paralegal following graduation. She holds both the Indian Law and Natural Resources and Environmental Law Certificates, served on the Tribal Law Journal as a staff member and editor, and received the Dean's Award upon graduation. Stephanie also participated in the Madrid Summer Law Institute in 2015. As staff attorney, Stephanie assists the activities of the Joe M. Stell Ombudsman Program, the statewide program that provides impartial adjudication information and procedural guidance to unrepresented water right claimants in the state of New Mexico. Stephanie also contributes to the Utton Center's overall mission of providing objective research-based public service to New Mexico's communities on issues related to energy, climate change, ecological conservation, food systems, and international natural resource management.

Contact: russobaca@law.unm.edu | (505) 916-8681 | <https://uttoncenter.unm.edu/>

Novela Salazar, Assistant Attorney General ***New Mexico Office of the Attorney General***

Novela Salazar is the current Assistant Attorney General for the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Division at the New Mexico Office of the Attorney General and has been in her role since 2019. Raised in Cuestacitas, New Mexico and an heir to the Embudo Land Grant, she grew up on her family farm instilled with traditional, hardworking values. Novela received her Bachelor's degree from New Mexico State University and her JD from Gonzaga University School of Law. Following graduation from Gonzaga, she returned home to work in New Mexico. With a background in public interest and civil rights work, and familiar with the struggles rural communities face, Novela is eager to continue bringing positive change to the marginalized populations of New Mexico.

Contact: nsalazar@nmag.gov | (505) 490-4837