

Pro Bono Committee Award

Eighth Judicial District Pro Bono Committee

The Pro Bono Committee, chaired by District Court Judge Jeffrey Shannon in the Eighth Judicial District Court, is designed to assist and provide a range of services to low income and pro se litigants. It has expanded the hours of service to staff the Help Desk in Taos with a paralegal during all business days. The Committee adapted to COVID-19 challenges and the barriers of a remote and rural area by offering telephonic and virtual Legal Fairs, Family Law Clinics and Pro Bono Consultations. Its Judges are highly committed to providing genuine assistance to our neighbors. Accordingly, they have set the goals and range of action for its Committee to pursue innovative ways to facilitate access to justice.



Back: Chief Judge Emilio Chavez. From left to right: CEO Karl Brooks, paralegal (Help Desk) Dolores Romo, paralegal (Domestic Relations/Domestic Violence Division) Holly Healy, Court Manager III Lauren Felts-Salazar and Program Manager Gino Unzueta San Miguel. Not in the photo but part of our Committee: Domestic Relations Hearing Officer (Commissioner) Corrie Darr, District Court Judge Jeffrey Shannon, Program Specialist Anita Manning, and Statewide Pro Bono Coordinator Jaime Mayfield.

CLE Presenter of the Year

Nicholas H. Mattison: for presenting the VAP sponsored Defending Debt Collections CLE and numerous VAP consumer debt clients with vital advice and counsel following the CLE.



NICHOLAS H. MATTISON is a partner at Feferman, Warren & Mattison, a consumer protection law firm. His practice includes individual cases and class actions against fraudulent car dealers, predatory lenders, abusive debt collectors, and other businesses that rip off consumers. Mr. Mattison has always felt that one of the best parts of his job is working together with other attorneys, especially legal aid attorneys, who are dedicated to working for New Mexico's most voiceless and vulnerable people. Prior to joining his current firm, Mr. Mattison clerked for the Honorable Edward L. Chavez on the New Mexico Supreme Court, and worked for four years in the Window Rock office of DNA-People's Legal Services, where he fought for the rights of people living in poverty in the four corners region.

Special Recognition

Ronald T. Taylor



VAP would like to give special recognition to volunteer attorney **RONALD T. TAYLOR** for having the most pro bono cases accepted and for judgements exceeding \$100,000 for VAP clients.