



**Bridge the Gap Mentorship Program**  
**New Lawyer Application Form**  
**(Deferment/Exemption/Fee Payment)**

**Deferment, Exemption, and Fee Payment: see page 2**

**Fee Waiver/Fee Deferment/Fee Assistance: see page 3**

**Complete Parts 1 and 2. Note:** A lawyer newly admitted to practice law in the state of New Mexico must submit this application form if the newly admitted lawyer has never practiced law or has practiced for fewer than two years in another jurisdiction. You must either enroll in the Bridge the Gap Mentorship Program and be linked with a mentor, or you must seek a temporary deferment or permanent exemption from the Supreme Court rule (see Rule 24-110, NMRA found at the BTG website).

**Part I-Personal Information:** Completion and submission of this form will stand as your signature.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Business Name (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Business Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
 City(ies) or County(ies) in which I intend to practice law:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 List Legal Areas of Interest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date Sworn In:

**Part II-Select a Program Option:** Select to enroll in the Bridge the Gap Mentorship Program now, defer your enrollment, or seek an exemption from the requirements of the program. **Note:** Mentors must be approved and appointed by the New Mexico Supreme Court and the New Mexico Commission on Professionalism. Mentor applications are available at the BTG website.

**Read all 12 program options and select one option.**

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a new attorney working with a mentor in my law office or my organization.  
 I certify that my mentor is NOT my direct supervisor.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Mentor Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Mentor Email

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a new attorney with an active license working as a solo practitioner or in a small firm. I would like to select the following attorney (from outside my firm) to serve as my mentor.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Mentor Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Mentor Email

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a new attorney with an active license working in a law office or legal organization and have not yet decided on a mentor. I will select a mentor from the pre-approved mentor list or nominate a mentor for approval, and submit a "Mentor-New Lawyer Request" form (available at the BTG website). If I cannot find a suitable mentor, the Bridge the Gap Mentorship Program coordinator can help me select one.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a new attorney with an active license working as a solo, in a small firm, or in a larger firm. I would prefer that more than one attorney mentor myself and several other new lawyers at the same time. This type of mentoring requires approval from the BTG Program Administrator.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a new attorney with an active license not working in a law office or legal organization or I am currently unemployed in the legal profession. I will select a mentor from the pre-approved mentor list or nominate a mentor for approval, and submit a "Mentor-New Lawyer Request" form (available at the BTG website). If I cannot find a suitable mentor, the Bridge the Gap Mentorship Program coordinator can help me select one.

### Deferment

\_\_\_\_\_ Clerkship Deferment:

I am employed as a judicial clerk or \_\_\_\_\_ until the following dates: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_. At the completion of my clerkship, I will enroll in the Bridge the Gap Mentorship Program within thirty (30) days.

I request deferment for    **1** or    **2** years (check one). (NOTE: Please calendar this. It is your responsibility to contact BTG when you are ready to begin the program.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Active Military Deferment: I am on active military duty outside of the state of New Mexico.

\_\_\_\_\_ Not Practicing Law or Unemployment Deferment:

I am on active status but currently unemployed or not practicing law and request deferment from enrollment in the Bridge the Gap Mentorship Program for no longer than six months. At the completion of my deferment, I will enroll in the Bridge the Gap Mentorship Program within thirty (30) days. Deferrals may be allowed on the basis of financial hardship or other good cause. A new lawyer who is denied a temporary deferral may petition the Commission on Professionalism for review. The Commission's decision is final.

\_\_\_\_\_ Inactive Status-Temporary Deferment:

I am not currently practicing law in New Mexico and am on inactive status. If I am a New Mexico resident and I elect to change from inactive status to active status, I will then immediately enroll in the Bridge the Gap Mentorship Program within thirty (30) days.

### Exemption

\_\_\_\_\_ Non-Resident and Non-Practicing Exemption:

I am not a New Mexico resident or my principle place of law practice is not New Mexico. I will comply with the applicable New Mexico minimum continuing legal education requirements under Rule 18-201 NMRA. See Rule 24-110 (A)(2).

\_\_\_\_\_ Practiced Elsewhere for Two Years or More Exemption:

I was admitted to the state(s) of \_\_\_\_\_ on the following date(s): \_\_\_\_\_. I have been actively engaged in the practice of law for a minimum of two or more years in the last five years prior to my admission to practice law in the State of New Mexico.

\_\_\_\_\_ Limited License Exemption

I am practicing law in New Mexico under a limited license, pursuant to Rule 15-301.1 NMRA or Rule 15-301.2 NMRA.

I understand that if I am granted a deferral, I must enroll in the Bridge the Gap Mentorship Program no later than thirty (30) days after the expiration of the deferral period and that I must complete the Bridge the Gap

Mentorship Program requirements by December 31 of the first full calendar year following the expiration of the deferral period.

### Fee Payment

**Fees** \$150 Program Administration Enrollment Fee Due March 1 of your first full mentorship year  
\$150 Program Administration Completion Fee Due December 1 of your first full mentorship year

Make checks payable to State Bar of New Mexico and mail to:

Bridge the Gap Mentorship Program,  
State Bar of New Mexico, PO Box 92860, Albuquerque, NM 87199-2860.  
To pay by credit card or to receive an invoice, call 505-797-6015

### Fee Deferment/Fee Assistance/Fee Waiver

I am interested in applying for (check all that apply):

- Fee Deferment Only:** Complete this section if you are applying for fee deferment, regardless of whether you are applying for waiver and/or assistance.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print name), agree to pay the \$300 Bridge the Gap Mentorship Program fee per the schedule I select below. If I am unable to make payments for 90 days and do not request another fee deferment with different terms, my name will go before the Commission on Professionalism for action by the Supreme Court of New Mexico, which may affect my license to practice law in New Mexico.

I will pay \$ \_\_\_\_\_ monthly for \_\_\_\_\_ months to meet the fee obligation for the Bridge the Gap Mentorship Program. This fee will be used for materials, program development and administration.

*Whenever the executive director of the State Bar of New Mexico shall certify in writing to the Supreme Court that a new lawyer has failed or refused to comply with the provisions of Rule 24-110 NMRA, the Supreme Court shall issue a citation to the new lawyer requiring the new lawyer to show cause before the Court, within fifteen (15) days after service of such citations, why the new lawyer should not be suspended from the right to practice in the courts of this state. Service of the citation may be by personal service or by first class mail postage prepaid.*

- Fee Assistance or Fee Waiver:** By checking this option, I understand that the program manager will attempt to obtain fee assistance for me. If that fails, I will be considered for fee waiver or fee deferment. (Note: Fee assistance is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis for those who qualify for specific fee assistance programs.)
- I understand that if I am offered fee assistance, I may be asked to comply with specified criteria requested by the entity funding the assistance.
- I understand that the program manager may contact me to evaluate whether I fit the criteria for specific fee assistance programs.

### Personal Statement

Attach a brief statement indicating why you are in need of financial assistance, deferment or waiver.

Completion and submission of this form will stand for your signature.

Mail, email, or fax the completed form to:

Bridge the Gap Mentorship Program  
Elizabeth Aikin, Program Coordinator  
5121 Masthead NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109  
via email: [bridgethegap@nmbar.org](mailto:bridgethegap@nmbar.org)  
via fax: 505-797-6074

Administrative use only:	
ID	
ID	

For Administrative Use Only

Verifications	Date/Staff Member	Type of verification/Notes
Is the New Lawyer Application complete?		
Has Mentor been vetted?		
MATCH APPROVED: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		
Date entered in matching spreadsheet:		
Date Imis rel file created:		