



EL PASO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

Rule of Law Statement of the El Paso County Bar Association

As the legal profession in our community, the El Paso County Bar Association and its members have been dedicated to advancing the rule of law, supporting the integrity of the judiciary, upholding the importance of the separation of powers, and protecting the right to due process for all. These principles are the foundation of our legal system and the bedrocks of American democracy.

In light of the recent wide-scale affronts to these principles and rights, we are compelled to speak out against these unprecedented attacks which undermine and weaken these principles of democracy and basic rights of us all. We support and pledge to defend these principles and rights:

Respect for the Rule of Law – We are a nation of laws, not men. All individuals and institutions are accountable to the law, which is fairly applied and enforced. Our agreement as citizens to obey the law to maintain our social order is an essential part of our social contract. With our rights as citizens comes our responsibility as citizens to respect the rule of law. This means that, in return for the benefits of social order, we agree to live according to certain laws and rules, and paramount of these is the Constitution of the United States. It ensures that no one is above the law, preventing arbitrary use of power and securing equality before the law. Undermining respect for the rule of law invites chaos instead of social order.

Judicial Integrity – Judges must be able to apply and enforce the law, making decisions based on the law, free from undue influence or personal attacks. It is essential to the integrity of our judicial system that their orders be followed and respected. Parties who disagree with an order have the right to appeal to a higher court, but do not have the right to threaten or intimidate the judge.

Right to Due Process - The right to due process requires that when the government acts in a way that denies a person of life, liberty, or property, the person must be given notice, the opportunity to be heard, and a decision by a neutral decision-maker based on the law. The right to due process has been a fundamental constitutional right for over 200 years of our legal history.

Separation of Powers – American democracy relies on the balance between co-equal branches of government, legislative, executive and judicial, each fulfilling its distinct role which are a check and balance to the arbitrary use of power.

Dated: May 14, 2025

EL PASO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION



Alexis Litle, President

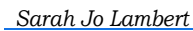


Philip Shadwick, President elect



Teresa Drexler (May 11, 2025 08:36 MDT)

Teresa Drexler, Immediate Past-President



Sarah Jo Lambert (May 7, 2025 14:56 MDT)

Sarah Jo Lambert, Secretary



M. Addison Freebairn (May 7, 2025 15:57 MDT)

M. Addison Freebairn, Treasurer

Trustees



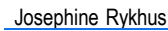
Tom Bagby (May 12, 2025 08:25 MDT)

Tom Bagby



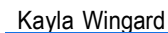
Keeley DeBack (May 12, 2025 09:49 MDT)

Keeley DeBack



Josephine Rykhous (May 7, 2025 15:38 MDT)

Josephine Rykhous



Kayla Wingard (May 14, 2025 12:49 MDT)

Mag. Kayla Wingard

Amendment: An edit was made to this statement on June 27th, 2025 to change “resident” to “person” in the **Right to Due Process** paragraph as approved by the El Paso County Bar Association Board of Directors on June 27th, 2025.