

# NEW MEXICO DEFENSE VERDICT



**Y**LA W associate attorney Ryan F. Adragna, with the assistance of partner Michael S. Jahner in the second chair, recently obtained a complete defense verdict in a four-day civil rights trial in New Mexico's Second Judicial District Court. YLA W defended two Albuquerque Police Officers against a multitude of claims stemming from a police-citizen encounter. The matter was initially removed to federal court, where YLA W successfully obtained summary judgment on all federal claims. The matter was remanded to New Mexico state court for the remaining allegations in the case, which included several intentional torts and novel claims under the New Mexico state constitution. Through effective motion practice, including grant of a motion to reconsider the week before trial, the court dismissed all state claims except the claim of false imprisonment. Trial proceeded on the false imprisonment claim. While trial lasted four days, the jury deliberated for less than twenty minutes. Returning to open court, the jury announced a verdict finding neither officer had falsely imprisoned the plaintiff, and finding in favor of each officer.



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