

# EAGA Business Builder

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## Today's speaker was Mark Abramson— Los Ranchos Gun Shop



Mr. Abramson grew up in Warren, Ohio. In today's presentation, Mark didn't provide details about his growing up activities and experiences, presumably because he had already admitted to way too much in his previous EAGA presentations. If you did not experience those discussions, you should make some time to visit with Mark about his interesting childhood (and young adult life). Today, Mark made a brief stop in 1973 when he met his wonderful wife for the first time; he then jumped to the Mark and Mindy Abramson wedding year 35 years ago; before fast forwarding to Toledo Ohio in 2014. In March of that year, the Abramsons sold their home in Ohio and had about 10 days to vacate the premises for the new owner. Mark was willing to get a temporary living facility and figure out the future. Mindy already knew the future, and at her direction, they headed to this part of the world.

It was not unfamiliar territory though, the Abramsons had been here once, maybe twice before. In Ohio, Mark was an Employee Benefits attorney for a not-so-small firm. He was still working for them in 2014 when he acquired an Albuquerque mailing address. After about 6 months of laying low, the law firm's partners finally figured out why Mark was not in the office every day. Then, for another period of time, Mr. Abramson was a frequent flyer/long range commuter. But that life became tedious, so he has now scaled that Ohio work back a bit. He is still licensed to practice in Ohio and New Mexico, but the Ohio part is not as much as before. And why not, Mark has a new job here too. He's the proud owner of Los Ranchos Gun Shop. Although most of the gun shop owners in our state are very happy to provide legal advice to patrons, Mark, the licensed lawyer, is the only gun shop owner that can be sued for providing the advice. But Mark has a substantial amount of knowledge about many subjects other than Employee Benefits Law and owning a gun shop. One important topic, about which Mark has been getting (albeit grudgingly) educated, is the New Mexico political arena. His gun owner hat is the primary driver behind the need for political learning, but whatever required the first step, Mr. Abramson, as always, dives right in. In the most recent New Mexico legislative session, they passed the "Red Flag" law. Formally named the Extreme Risk Protection Order, the legislation became law when signed by governor Lujan-Grisham in February. Mark spent quite a bit of time in Santa Fe attempting to educate our representatives about the obvious pitfalls of the legislation. New Mexico's legislators are very interested in constituent participation in the political process...so long as the particular matter is of no real importance to the legislator. The politicians do not want general public input on matters that they (the politicians) want to push through. This Red Flag Law is one of those things where input from constituents was not allowed to any meaningful degree. That is a sad situation for any political activity, but in this case the results were particularly worrisome. In today's presentation, Mark provided a summary of the new law's stated intentions; and the processes it directs. Tragic occurrences, such as the Parkland School shooting, cause rational people to feel the need to find a way to keep it from happening again. The intent of this red flag law is to provide the general public with a way to minimize opportunities for an individual to use a firearm and cause harm to others. It allows any extended family member to file a formal complaint that an individual is dangerous to the general public. The complaint is submitted to a law enforcement agency which then sends an officer to determine if there is probable cause to refer the matter to a judge. If the officer does determine that to be the case, then a petition is filed with the court to have guns taken from the 'dangerous' individual. If the judge concurs, there will be an order issued to confiscate all firearms and ammunition from that person...now a "defendant". Law enforcement personnel will then go to the defendant's home and will take any guns and ammunition that they find. All discovered firearms will be taken and will be put into the law enforcement agency's evidence storage room. It is likely that all the property will be treated in the same manner, without special care being given to fragile conditions or collectables. Within 72 hours, an inventory will be submitted. Within another 10 days, the defendant will be able to appear in court and 'prove' that they are not a danger to the community. The defendant can represent themselves at the hearing, although that is not advisable. The cost of an attorney is the responsibility of the defendant. If the judge rules against the defendant, the property is retained in the evidence storage for a year, at which time the defendant, again at their own cost, can re-appear before the court and attempt to prove that the situation has changed and the defendant is now not a danger to the community. If the judge again rules against the defendant, the process repeats for one more time. If the hearing at the end of the second year results in the same conclusion by the judge, then the defendant is ordered to dispose of their firearms because they can't own them anymore. This law is an example that, in some cases, the rush to find a solution to a potentially undesirable situation will blind people to the undesirable collateral affects of the actions they are proposing. The Extreme Risk Protection Order does provide a family member (including those possibly too far out on the family tree branches) the ability to notify law enforcement agencies of a potentially dangerous individual. This law, however, allows the government to regulate, or even void, a person's civil rights. The law overrides an individual's right to protection against unreasonable search and seizure; it restricts, without a due process or guarantee of representation, the right to own firearms; and it removes the standard of one's presumed innocence. We should all be very hesitant to allow the government to regulate a person's guaranteed rights, no matter the intended benefit of those restrictions. Mark advises that all gun owners should become knowledgeable about this law and how it works, and should plan ahead using that knowledge. If you would like to know more about the red flag law, you can give Mr. Abramson a call at 505-345-4276. You could also use that number to contact Mark to discuss a variety of other topics for which he has a good amount of information. Those would include how to research a business for potential purchase (no Los Ranchos is not for sale at this time); How the gun registration process works, including the history of its implementation; Anything gun related; and What are the duties, responsibilities, and personal rewards of being the Chairman of Boy Scouts Of America National Shooting Sports (a position that he now holds). While you are gathering knowledge from Mark, don't forget to inquire about the adventures of Young Mark Abramson of Warren Ohio.

Contact information for Executive Director: Mario Hernandez

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## Business Leads:

- STRIPES BURRITO CO. has gone into the old gas station at Claremont & Wyoming NE.
  - KAMIKAZE has opened at Wyoming & Comanche (an Asian/Southwestern fusion eatery).
  - R. GREENLEAF store opening @10250 Cottonwood Dr. NW, Ste. J (a CBD store)
- Lionel Specter—Zeon Signs

## Reciprocity:

None written down

- ◆ Board Members please note that there will be a meeting right after breakfast on March 10th.
- ◆ March 17th will be “Prospective Member Day”. We request that you bring someone who you feel would be a positive addition to our organization. We are looking for quality members. Remember that the By-Laws require representatives be an owner or upper level management of the organization. Please let Mario know if you intend to bring a guest. He wants to be able to make sure that there is a sufficient amount of food and space available.
- ◆ We are in the early stages of getting our annual golf tournament planned. Look for more information in weeks to come.
- ◆ Rick Reese is heading up this year’s printed membership directory. Please see Rick for any edits to your profile
- ◆ First announcement for a prospective new member:

High Desert Food Services, LLC dba Kolache Factory  
Representative: Bob Rundle  
Category: Bakery Cafe  
Sponsor: Tom McMahon; Robert Biernacki

If you have an objection this company becoming a member, or if you have information that you feel should be considered during the review process, please contact Membership Committee Chairman, Jack Zipper ([jdzipper@comcast.net](mailto:jdzipper@comcast.net) or via phone at 505-259-5959) as soon as possible.

## Badge Board Greeters

- Mar 10th Tim Baca—Kangen Water Center
- Mar 17th Steve Grant—Downtown Historic Bed & Breakfast
- Mar 24th Bruce Hoover—Business Environments
- Mar 31st
- Apr 7th Paul Losey—Covenant Schools of America
- Apr 14th
- Apr 21st Kale Isaacson—Fyzical-Albuquerque

## Upcoming Speakers

- Mar 10th Nestor Romero—The Payroll Company
- Mar 17th Randy Baker—DRB Electric
- Mar 24th Jeff Bentley—Bentleys Auction
- Mar 31st
- Apr 7th
- Apr 14th
- Apr 21st Kevin Gullick—SealMaster

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