Message from the President

BY ELANA TURNER GRAHAM, PRESIDENT, STATE BAR OF NEVADA

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

I was fortunate and excited to meet bar members at the most recent State Bar of Nevada Annual Meeting that took place from July 10 through 12 in beautiful Newport Beach, California. The theme of this year’s meeting was professionalism and civility; several of the social events and CLE seminars addressed these topics creatively and with enthusiasm.

Many CLE seminars thoughtfully discussed ways to enhance professionalism in the legal profession including “Advocacy Without Acrimony,” moderated by U.S. Magistrate Judge Cam Ferenbach and presented by U.S. Magistrate Judges George Foley and Carl Hoffman, and Judge Linda Bell; and “Civility in Administrative Practice,” presented by Caren Cafferata-Jenkins and Yvonne Nevarez-Goodson.

Overall, the CLE seminars were excellent; some annual favorites included Erwin Chemerinsky’s general session seminar on privacy and the U.S. Supreme Court and the Nevada Supreme Court’s review of influential cases in our state. Other features included Jim Jones’ presentation on changes in the legal market and Attorney General Catherine Cortez-Masto’s presentation on sex trafficking. Several state bar sections hosted useful breakout sessions including the Insurance and Health Law, Litigation, LGBT and Real Property sections. The Young Lawyers Section once again presented its continually popular and valuable Trial Academy as well.

On Friday July 11, bar members gathered at the President’s Lunch Reception and worked to complete a colorful and symbolic mural, artistically expressing concepts of civility. This interesting mural will hang in the new bar building in Las Vegas.
In addition to civility, many of the meeting’s events focused on giving back to the legal community. The One Promise Campaign hosted live and silent auctions which raised nearly $12,000 to directly support free legal services in Nevada. Some of the auction’s most popular items included a travel package featuring a Southwest Airlines gift card and luggage; the “bubbles and baubles” package that included champagne and handmade jewelry; a Kate Spade package and the San Diego beach weekend package. Thanks to everyone who donated items or bid at the auctions – your participation will allow more disadvantaged Nevadans access to critical legal services.

I had the honor of being sworn in as your new bar president on the evening of Thursday, July 10. I was joined by your bar’s new president-elect, Larry Digesti, and your bar’s new vice president, Bryan Scott. Newly elected or re-elected Board of Governors members include Paola Armeni, Troy Isaacson, Kari Stephens, Ryan Works and Ann Morgan. Your other board members are: Julie Cavanaugh-Bill, Eric Dobberstein, Richard Dreitzer, Gene Leverty, Paul Matteoni, Richard Pocker, Ryan Russell, Immediate Past President Alan Lefebvre and ex-officio members Dean Daniel Hamilton and Richard Trachok. I look forward to working with this talented board as I begin my term.

Immediately prior to the swearing-in, Alan Lefebvre presented the bar’s annual awards to several deserving volunteers. We were honored to recognize the work of the Southern and Northern Disciplinary Board chairs, Jeffrey Albregts and Tom Susich; past presidents William Curran, R. Gardner Jolley and John O’Brien; and Medal of Justice recipient, the Justice League of Nevada.

Of course, the Annual Meeting included several social events, allowing bar members to enjoy each other’s company. I greatly appreciated speaking with Nevada attorneys about their hopes and concerns for the coming year’s bar work.

It’s going to be hard to top such a great Annual Meeting, but we’re going to do our best! Next year’s meeting will take place July 9 through 11 at the Motif Seattle Hotel in downtown Seattle, Washington. Please save the date. I look forward to seeing you there!