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# Message from the President

BY ELANA TURNER GRAHAM, PRESIDENT-ELECT, STATE BAR



## GIVING THANKS IN JULY

As I look forward to beginning my term as president of the State Bar of Nevada, I would like to acknowledge and thank some of the people who have made the bar a better and more successful organization.

## To the Leaders

First, I'd like to recognize all the very talented bar presidents who have led the bar so well and have done so much for us in the past. The efforts they made and examples they set will smooth the way for all those who follow them. Immediate Past President Alan Lefebvre's hard work during his term is especially appreciated. Many of his objectives have become multiyear projects that the Board of Governors (BOG) and our bar staff will continue to pursue after his tenure ends. Long- and short-term plans that originated under Lefebvre's leadership will ensure that the BOG and bar:

1. Generate positive publicity among voters in Nevada for a much-needed appellate court in our state;
2. Review and revise the discipline process;
3. Acquire and renovate a new building for the bar's office in southern Nevada; and
4. Continue to provide information to the Supreme Court related to medical marijuana.

Much gratitude is also due to our bar staff, including Executive Director Kimberly Farmer, who works diligently and wisely on behalf of the bar. Their fine work often takes place behind the scenes and Farmer's ability to effectively manage the bar's many duties and projects is key in keeping the organization the well-oiled machine it has become.

## To the Volunteers

So much of the bar's work is done by volunteers: judges and attorneys who somehow make time in their busy work schedules and give up recreation and family time in order to help make the bar's mission a reality. From planning and speaking at CLE seminars, to offering pro bono services or even sitting on one of the bar's essential committees, boards or sections, these volunteers serve the bar, its members and the state in a truly meaningful way; they definitely deserve our thanks!

## Rewarding Excellence

At the State Bar of Nevada's 2014 Annual Meeting this month, the bar honored several outstanding Nevada lawyers whose work has gone above and beyond the call of duty. The recipients are:

- **The Justice League of Nevada** received the Medal of Justice special recognition award in recognition of their work with Nevada's IOLTA program to ensure legal service providers had access to critical funds during a challenging economic time.
- **William Curran, R. Gardner Jolley and John O'Brien** received the Presidential Award recognizing their leadership and work bringing honor and integrity to the legal profession.
- **Jeff Albrechts and Tom Susich** received the Volunteer of the Year award recognizing the countless hours of work they have given as part of bar committees and sections.

All of the recipients of these awards are recognized as heroes whose service has made a real difference to Nevada.

## Welcome to New Sections

Thank you to all of the committed attorneys who acted on a need they saw by creating several new sections for our bar and its members. The sections formed during this past year include:

- The Appellate Litigation Section,
- The Entertainment Law Section, and
- The LGBT section.

The State Bar of Nevada is pleased to welcome and support these sections to the bar; their existence will enhance the fabric of our bar. ■

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**ELANA TURNER GRAHAM** has worked for many years as a volunteer for the State Bar of Nevada as a committee member, committee chair, member and officer of the Board of Governors and liaison to sections. Prior to becoming a Board of Governors' member, Graham served as president of the Clark County Bar and participated for years as a volunteer. She was also present of Southern Nevada Association of Women Attorneys and served as a volunteer. Graham believes that bar service helps ensure better legal services for the public.

Graham earned bachelors, masters and jurisprudence degrees and has been a pre-senter on the law at the local, state, regional and national level. She serves as Deputy Director of the Southern Nevada Senior Law Program. Prior to this, she worked as an attorney for the Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau and as a chief deputy district attorney in Clark County. She began her career as a teacher.

Graham is married to Ben Graham, has four children, and three grandchildren.

## Questions? Comments?

*Nevada Lawyer* welcomes feedback from our readers! Contact us at [nvlawyer@nvbar.org](mailto:nvlawyer@nvbar.org).