

A Note From the Issue Editor

By Beau Sterling, Esq.

The past few years have been financially difficult ones for everyone in Nevada, no less for the state's legal community. Given both the economy and the changing means and needs of clients, many lawyers are taking a close look at the way billing is being handled – both at large and small firms.

In this month's first feature, authors James Gibson, Jr. and Ketan Bhirud confront two (often seemingly opposing forces) in law practice management: ethical billing and the bottom line. In their article they discuss honesty and truthfulness in billing and how firms can assure compliance with these standards – while still turning a profit. On the same theme, this month's Young Lawyers Section column takes a look at the billable hour and why it may soon be a thing of the past.

Attorneys can also find assistance mediating fee disputes via the state bar's Fee Dispute Arbitration program – details are available on page 22. And you can earn one CLE credit (see page 15) while learning ten key facts about the estate tax.

First and foremost, this issue is about change. We hope this issue of *Nevada Lawyer* will provide some alternatives worth considering. ■

BEAU STERLING is the managing member of Sterling Law LLC, an appellate practice law firm, and a member of the *Nevada Lawyer* editorial board.