

DECADES OF EXPERIENCE

BY GUEST COLUMNIST KIMBERLY FARMER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
STATE BAR OF NEVADA

NOTE FROM STATE BAR OF NEVADA PRESIDENT KATHLEEN J. ENGLAND:

This month I have secured a guest columnist to substitute for the usual presidential chatter I have been providing. Here to update you on the workings of the state bar is Executive Director Kim Farmer.

For slightly over two and a half years now, I have had the privilege of overseeing the staff for the State Bar of Nevada. We are a lean staff, with only 43 employees to support more than 9,500 members. Thankfully, our staff is both talented and diverse, allowing us to take on the numerous long-term projects and day-to-day activities needed to support state bar members and achieve the mission of the state bar.

Our current staff has collectively worked more than 110 years at the State Bar of Nevada, with more than 250 years of total professional experience in their current fields. The senior-most staff member has been here for more than 16 years and the newest less than a month. On average, a state bar employee has five years of history with the bar – and that is a telling statistic when the current national average of time spent with a single employer is three and a half years.¹

Although we do have several lawyers and paralegals on staff, we employ professionals who bring to the bar experience from a variety of career backgrounds. We have public relations experts and journalists, professors and researchers, nonprofit professionals and marketing specialists, designers and accountants – and that is just a small snapshot of the staff's expertise. They are also well-rounded and interesting people to work with – they are parents, pet owners, world travelers, athletes, photographers, gamers, writers, ministers, pilots, musicians and community volunteers.

For those of you who have visited our main office in Las Vegas, you know we are bursting at the seams. Storage space is frequently condensed to make room for our employees. As a result, we are also a close-knit community – an advantage when projects and teams must come together from different bar departments,

which happens frequently. This dynamic fosters a creative energy that allows our staff to change and adapt as our membership grows and as the needs of the profession change.

Most members are aware that bar departments include the Office of Bar Counsel, CLE and Admissions, but we also have departments for:

- Law-Related Education
- Lawyer Referral and Information Services
- Member Services
- Publications
- Access to Justice
- Accounting/Information Technology
- Fee Dispute
- Administration
- Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers

By working together, our staff has been able to effectively administer our core functions (discipline, admissions, CLE) and member services, and to do so in a cost-effective manner. State bar staff manages their budgets in a fiscally sound manner that is not fret with excess spending. Much of this has to do with sensible program management and continued assessment by staff to make sure we deliver quality services to members in the most prudent manner possible. In 2009 staff has been able to cut budgeted expenses while increasing revenue.

As members of the State Bar of Nevada, you can rest assured that there is a dedicated and talented staff available to handle everything from updating your address in our database to fielding an ethics question and everything in between. [NL](#)

¹ According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

State Bar of Nevada
MISSION

Our mission is to govern the legal profession, to serve our members, and to protect the public interest.