

NEVADA LAWYER

EDITORIAL BOARD

Lisa Wong Lackland, Chair
Mark A. Hinueber, Chair-Elect
Patricia D. Cafferata, Vice Chair
Scott G. Wasserman,
Immediate Past Chair
Erin Barnett
Hon. Robert J. Johnston
Scott McKenna

Michael T. Saunders
Gregory R. Shannon
Stephen F. Smith
Beau Sterling
Heidi Parry Stern
Kristen E. Simmons
Richard D. Williamson
John Zimmerman

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

President:

Cam Ferenbach, Las Vegas

President-Elect:

Constance Akridge, Las Vegas

Vice President:

Frank Flaherty, Carson City

Immediate Past President:

Kathleen England, Las Vegas

James Bradshaw, Reno
Elizabeth Brickfield, Las Vegas
Amber L. Candelaria, Las Vegas
Laurence Digesti, Reno
Elana Turner Graham, Las Vegas
Bruce Hahn, Reno
Jenny Hubach, Reno

Alan Lefebvre, Las Vegas
Vincent Ochoa, Las Vegas
Richard Scotti, Las Vegas
Mason Simons, Elko
Ex-Officio
Dean John Valery White,
UNLV Boyd School of Law

STATE BAR STAFF

Executive Director: Kimberly K. Farmer

Bar Counsel: Rob Bare

**Deputy Bar Counsel/
General Counsel:** David Clark

**Director of Finance & Information
Systems:** Marc Mersol

Director of Continuing Legal Education: Emily Ihrke

Director of Admissions: Laura Gould

NEVADA LAWYER STAFF

Publications Manager:

Jennifer Smith (jennifers@nvbar.org)

Nevada Lawyer Coordinator:

Melinda Catren (melindac@nvbar.org)

Publications Specialist:

Christina Alberts (christinaa@nvbar.org)

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Georgina Corbalan

ADVERTISING INDEX

ARMSTRONG TEASDALE.....	20	LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU	BC
BANK OF GEORGE.....	13	LEWIS AND ROCA	17
BANK OF NEVADA.....	9	MARSH	24
COGBURN LAW OFFICE.....	22 & 37	NATIONAL FORENSIC LOAN AUDIT ...	14
CRESCENT REAL ESTATE.....	44	SATURNA TRUST COMPANY.....	28
DANIELS-HEAD INSURANCE.....	33	SIERRA CONSULTING GROUP	32
FASTCASE.....	IBC	SOUTHWEST USA BANK	35
HERITAGE BANK OF NEVADA.....	26	TEL ASSISTANT.....	16
HUTCHISON & STEFFEN.....	15	TOP OF THE WORLD RESTAURANT...39	
JAMS	23	VERTI CONSULTING.....	11
LAWYERS CONCERNED FOR LAWYERS	29		

Message from the President

Cam Ferenbach, State Bar of Nevada President



REPORTING FROM SAN FRANCISCO

"We all need to ensure that the public understands and subscribes to the system of checks and balances..."

Recently, a prominent politician expressed frustration at "... how the third branch of government undoing the will of the people." On the same topic, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported that supporters of Proposition 8 were quoted asking: "How could the opinion of one judge invalidate the votes of seven million voters?" These comments were made in response to Judge Vaughn Walker's ruling in *Perry v. Schwarzenegger* permanently enjoining the enforcement of Proposition 8 in California.

Shortly after Judge Walker's order was entered, the National Conference of Bar Presidents convened in San Francisco as part of the ABA's 2010 Annual Meeting. Steve Zack became the ABA President and announced the core initiatives for his term.¹ Of his four initiatives, one in particular caught my eye, "The need for increased civic education in our schools and society."

Steve Zack grew up in Cuba. In 1961, when Steve was a teenager, he and his family fled the Castro regime and settled in Miami. An article in the August 2010 *ABA Journal* provides some background on this initiative, "My experience in Cuba is fundamental to my understanding of what's going on in the United States, and it's a big reason for my emphasis on civic education. To me, the loss of democracy is not a theoretical exercise. It really happened."

The *ABA Journal* reports that to this day, Steve Zack keeps a copy of the Cuban constitution in his office. "The Cuban and U.S. constitutions may have been virtually identical on paper. However, without a thorough understanding and a complete commitment to the spirit those written words represented, neither that Cuban constitution nor any other was enough to protect its citizens and guarantee their rights and freedoms."

Retired U. S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor is also devoting considerable time and effort to improving civic education. She chaired the web-based civic education project entitled "Our Courts." You can see it at www.ourcourts.org.

Recognizing the importance of these issues, the State Bar of Nevada sponsors a number of civic education projects throughout the year. You can learn more about them at www.nvbar.org/lre/lre.htm. If you agree with Steve Zack and Justice O'Connor that more effort is required in this area, please contact Kathleen Dickinson, coordinator of the bar's Law-Related Education department, at kathleend@nvbar.org, and volunteer to help.

Another fine organization working in this area is Project REAL. They are seeking volunteer tour guides to assist students and teachers in their visits to courtrooms. The time commitment is from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., at least one weekday a month during the school year. Check out Project REAL's website at projectreal.com.

Our government is founded on the U.S. and State Constitutions. All citizens should understand the role of the judiciary in cases such as *Perry v. Schwarzenegger*. Whether or not you agree with Judge Walker's conclusions, his obligation to apply constitutional principles to the questions before him forms the foundation of American jurisprudence. We all need to ensure that the public understands and subscribes to the system of checks and balances that has served this country so well for so long.

Meanwhile, back at the National Conference of Bar Presidents, as representatives of the State Bar of Nevada, President-Elect Connie Akridge, Executive Director Kim Farmer and I divided up the various tracks of panel discussions and came home with a number of ideas to share with the board of governors and staff, including:

- Financial struggles, mental health issues and substance abuse problems among our members;
- Multidisciplinary practice, regulating law firms whose shares are publicly traded, E-lawyering and cloud computing;
- Making ethics committees more efficient and more valuable to our members;
- Establishing a bar-sponsored mentoring program for new admittees;
- Improving efforts to increase diversity in the legal profession; and
- Programs developed by state and local bars to help members during the recession.

If you have an interest or opinion on any of these topics, I would be happy to receive your input. E-mail me at camf@nvbar.org or call me at (702) 317-1449. ■

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

I'm sure you have noticed that few radio stations offer air traffic reports these days. "Chopper Tom" and his cohorts have lost out to technology; check out Google Maps on your computer or smart phone.

Simply locate the Google Maps web page on your browser and download the application. Next, follow the instructions about "updating permissions" on your phone. Then you will be able to access directions and up-to-date traffic conditions from anywhere. It's free – as long as you have a large data plan.

¹ Mr. Zack is a partner in the national law firm Boies, Schiller & Flexner, LLP. They have an office in Las Vegas.