MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
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PRESIDENT, STATE BAR OF NEVADA

LOOKING BACK WITH GRATITUDE

The State Bar of Nevada’s leadership changes hands at the Annual Meeting every year; this month, I’ll be handing the reins to incoming President Larry Digesti. He’s a sole practitioner and a lifetime resident of northern Nevada with nearly 40 years of experience practicing law. I know he’ll bring his decades of experience in Nevada to help move the State Bar of Nevada into the future.

Before my term concludes, one of my final duties as president of the state bar will be to recognize those individuals whose contributions have greatly improved the practice of law in Nevada. In addition to swearing in new leadership, the Annual Meeting gives us an opportunity to recognize several members of our community for their amazing volunteer efforts via the state bar’s membership awards.

This year, the award winners include:

- **Peter Chase Neumann; Presidential Award:** A trial lawyer since 1965, Peter Neumann has tried nearly 150 jury trials. He’s brought his considerable expertise to bear by serving on several national committees, including as past president of the Reno chapter of the National Board of Trial Advocacy, past president of the Nevada Trial Lawyers Association and Nevada governor of the Board of Governors of the American Trial Lawyers Association.

- **President Connie Akridge, Treasurer Rick Pocker, Cynthia Alexander, Ann Bersi, James Bradshaw, Judge Linda Gardner, Kirk Jacobson, Mark Knobel, Margaret Lambrose, Gene Leverty and Lori Teicher; Nevada Bar Foundation; Medal of Justice:** The charitable arm of the State Bar of Nevada, the Nevada Bar Foundation, was organized to support charitable giving related to access to justice and legal education programs. In the past year, the Nevada Bar Foundation has assumed management of the IOLTA program, including making annual grants to organizations in excess of $1.8 million; these organizations provide direct legal services to the poor, victims of domestic violence and children in need of protection.

- **Anjali Webster, Seth Floyd, Margaret Lambrose; Volunteers of the Year:** Anjali Webster, an associate at Dickinson Wright, served as pro bono counsel for Nevadans for a Court of Appeals, a bipartisan political action committee advocating for the creation of a court of appeals in Nevada. Seth Floyd, an attorney at the Urban Law Firm, is a founding member of the Appellate Litigation Section of the state bar and also supported the formation of the court of appeals. Margaret Lambrose, an attorney at Lambrose Brown, is instrumental in the support of the annual Trial Academy, a successful educational program offered by the Young Lawyers Section at the state bar Annual Meeting.

- **Matthew Digesti, Layke Martin; Young Lawyers of the Year:** Matthew Digesti is an associate in the Reno office of Fennemore Craig and has served as chair of the state bar’s Young Lawyers Section for the past year. Layke Martin, Assistant Dean for External Relations at the UNLV Boyd School of Law’s Career Development Office, is Chair Elect of the state bar’s Young Lawyers Section.

On behalf of the State Bar of Nevada, I am honored to recognize the contributions of this year’s award winners.

I would also like to recognize my fellow members of the Board of Governors for their continued amazing work, as they carefully and thoughtfully guide the state bar toward its goals. This year marked a huge success for the bar in securing and opening its new Las Vegas headquarters, providing much-improved and sorely-needed modern facilities to support Nevada’s attorneys and serve the public.

Also I want to thank Chief Justice James Hardesty and Nevada Supreme Court Justices Kristina Pickering, Mark Gibbons, Michael Cherry, Michael Douglas, Nancy Saitta and Ron Parraguirre for being accessible and supportive of the Board of Governors and our work.

I also wish to personally thank the bar membership for entrusting me with the honor of serving as their president this past year. It’s been a true pleasure to work with you on improving the practice of law in Nevada and I’m grateful for your support, encouragement and contributions.