

# PRO BONO SPOTLIGHT

## SARAH BRADLEY

BY CHRISTINA ALBERTS,  
NEVADA LAWYER STAFF

From the very start of her legal career, Sarah Bradley knew she wanted to use her law degree to help people. True to that ambition, Bradley frequently works with Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevadans (VARN) in Carson City. “I work for the state,” Bradley says. “I help in the general sense, but I don’t get to see the people I help.”

Bradley took her first pro bono case two years ago and remembers the case well. While she quickly caught on to the legal aspects of her cases, she learned this was the easy part, and learning how to best handle clients would be the more challenging aspect of pro bono work.

Bradley said her first client had many many problems, of both a legal and emotional nature, and after spending a great amount of time trying to solve all their issues she came to a difficult conclusion: “I learned I can’t fix everything; I can narrow it down to one problem I can fix,” she says. “I can’t be a therapist, as much as I want to be.”

Another positive lesson Bradley drew from her first case was that it only took a small amount of effort to make her client happy and change that client’s life for the better.

Although Bradley found the first case she took on a bit intimidating, she says others need not be afraid. “It’s not as hard as you think it is. If you have the desire to do it, step in and do it!” She says entities such as VARN and Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada help attorneys who accept pro bono cases and offer forms, training and other educational tools. Bradley also offers to answer questions and talk with other public lawyers who are willing to accept pro bono cases.

Bradley is employed with the Nevada Attorney General’s Office and works in their Boards and Licensing division. Bradley earned her bachelor’s degree from the University of Washington and her J.D. from the University of Idaho College of Law. She has been practicing in Nevada for more than four years. ■

# PRO BONO HONOR ROLL



The State Bar of Nevada Board of Governors and the Access to Justice Commission extend a special thanks to the following attorneys who generously accepted cases in November 2011 through the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, Washoe Legal Services, Nevada Legal Services and Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevadans.

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