A Note From the Issue Editor

BY JOHN R. ZIMMERMAN, ESQ.

From the famed Comstock Lode to the prolific Carlin Trend, mining has played, and continues to play, a major role in Nevada. Mining law is the legal structure governing the right to remove minerals from their natural sources. This legal structure has ancient roots reaching back several thousand years and has evolved into a complex set of rules governing every aspect of the industry. Due to the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution and to the fact that the vast majority of land in Nevada is owned by the United States, the Nevada law of mining is primarily federal law, augmented by Nevada state and local law.

In this issue of *Nevada Lawyer*, we explore some of the current laws that affect mining in the Silver State. First, Richard Harris describes how mineral rights are acquired and protected on private and public lands. Next, Jim Butler gives us a cradle-to-grave synopsis of the numerous state and federal authorizations that are required during the life of a mining project. Lastly, Jim Wadhams provides a detailed review of mining taxation in Nevada. While much could be, and has been, written about every aspect of mining law, I hope you enjoy reading these articles, which provide a general overview of a few key areas.

Finally, don't miss Patty Cafferata's interesting Back Story about Tasker Oddie, the first lawyer to be elected Governor of Nevada. ■

JOHN R. ZIMMERMAN is a natural resources lawyer with Parsons Behle & Latimer, where he practices primarily water and mining law.

Questions? Comments?

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