



# STATE BAR OF NEVADA 2012 ANNUAL MEETING DISCOVERING THE FUTURE OF LAW WHILE EXPLORING THE PAST

BY JENNIFER SMITH, PUBLICATIONS MANAGER, STATE BAR OF NEVADA  
All photos in this article, courtesy of Beau Sterling, unless otherwise noted.

While the atmosphere at the historic Hotel Del Coronado may have had guests feeling like they were stepping into the past, the CLE courses offered at this year's Annual Meeting were current and immediately relevant to the law practitioners who joined the State Bar of Nevada in Coronado, California in late June.

## CLE Highlights

In fact, one particular CLE session was so timely that it involved national breaking news. On Thursday, June 28, Mark Hutchison and Nevada Insurance Commissioner Scott J. Kipper presented a breakout session titled "The Constitutional Challenge to the Affordable Care Act," only a few hours after the U.S. Supreme Court announced its decision to uphold the act. Hutchison, who participated in the litigation as special lead counsel for Nevada, altered his presentation on the fly to discuss the ramifications of the act with a packed house. Numerous participants commented that it was exciting to discuss such an immediately relevant point of law during the meeting.

Other popular CLE presentations included "Breakfast with the Supreme Court." On the morning of Friday, June 29, six of Nevada's Supreme Court justices answered candid questions about their perspectives on the state of legal practice in Nevada,



Annual Meeting attendees enjoyed a dinner cruise around San Diego Harbor on Thursday, June 28.



Chief Justice Cherry (left) conducts the swearing-in ceremony for state bar President Frank Flaherty (right).

during an interview conducted by Richard Pocker, a member of the state bar's Board of Governors. Pocker lightened up the discussion by asking the justices some offbeat questions as well. Although casual and fun, the interview was also informative. Chief Justice Michael Cherry presented a brief overview of the current state of the Nevada Supreme Court.

Returning for a third year, the popular Trial Academy featured 19 expert faculty members, including nine judges and two Supreme Court justices. These presenters led students through a three-day series of hands-on courses that included every aspect of preparation for a jury trial.

During a general session presentation by Ari Kaplan, national legal analyst and noteworthy author, attendees received a copy of Kaplan's latest book, "Reinventing Professional Services," reviewed in the May 2012 issue of *Nevada Lawyer*. The author held book signings before and after his session on reinventing and revitalizing legal practice in the coming decade. Other general session speakers included Hon. Johnnie Rawlinson, Judge for the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals; Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto; constitutional law expert and popular speaker Prof. Erwin Chemerinsky; and a panel of gaming law experts.

In total, the Annual Meeting offered more than 24 CLE courses, with 15 CLE credits possible, most of which were produced by state bar sections, including the Litigation,

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- 9. The "kids" might actually have something to teach you.** Enough said.
- 10. If you sign up, we'll stop bugging you.** If you've received direct emails, letters or calls from us, you know what we mean. It all ends with an application to serve.

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Insurance and Health Law, Family Law, Real Property Law, Labor and Employment Law, Alternative Dispute Resolution and Bankruptcy Law sections. The state bar sincerely thanks the sections, volunteers, speakers, exhibitors and sponsors that made this event possible. For more information, including detailed lists of sponsors and exhibitors, visit [www.nvbar.org/annualmeeting](http://www.nvbar.org/annualmeeting).

## Leadership and Awards



Hon. Johnnie Rawlinson (left) presented a CLE seminar on effective appellate practice.

The state bar's new Board of Governors officers and members were sworn in on Friday, June 29, in a brief ceremony conducted by Chief Justice Cherry. New officers include Frank Flaherty, President; Alan Lefebvre, President Elect; Elana Graham, Vice President; and Connie Akridge, Immediate Past President. New board members include Ann Morgan and Paola Armeni. A complete list of the Board of Governors is available on p. 4.

After the swearing-in ceremony, the state bar recognized the recipients of the 2012 membership awards. The recipients include:

- **Presidential Award:** Presented to the Nevada Law Foundation and the Access to Justice Commission for their continued collaboration to support pro bono initiatives throughout Nevada.
- **Volunteer of the Year Award:** Presented to Robert Cerceo for extraordinary service in support of numerous Family Law Section projects, including the annual specialization exam, the *Family Law Practice Manual*, the annual Family Law Conference, and more.
- **Medal of Justice Award:** Presented to the leaders and contributors responsible for development of the Feb. 2012 special issue of *Nevada Lawyer* magazine on Black History Month, which fostered understanding of a portion of Nevada's legal history.

Richard Pocker (right) interviewed Nevada Supreme Court Justices Cherry, Pickering, Douglas, Saitta, Hardesty and Gibbons during a breakfast session on Friday, June 29.



### MISSED THE ANNUAL MEETING? CATCH ALL THE CLE ONLINE! Annual Meeting Week: Aug. 13-17

If you missed the State Bar of Nevada's 2012 Annual Meeting in Coronado, you won't want to miss this week in August! Presentations from the meeting will be replayed over the internet throughout the week – pick and choose which sessions you'd like to view. Purchase more than one in the same transaction and receive a discount. Visit [www.nvbar.org/cle/liveseminars](http://www.nvbar.org/cle/liveseminars) for more information and registration.

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Courtesy of Judge Mathew Harter.

Judge Mathew Harter and family in front of the Hotel Del Coronado

## Fun in the Sun

But the Annual Meeting was certainly not all work and no play. The event location – the famous Hotel Del Coronado, built in 1888 – offered visitors immediate access to the island’s beautiful beaches and gorgeous views of San Diego Bay.

In addition to visiting the beach, event attendees gathered during numerous social events to spend valuable time networking with fellow attorneys, judges, justices and other leaders of Nevada’s legal community. Optional events included a dinner cruise across San Diego Harbor, an afternoon lunch on a beachside lawn, complete with classic lawn games, walking tours of the historic neighborhoods of Coronado Island and much more.

## Don't Miss Out – Plan Early to Join Us Next Year

Next year’s Annual Meeting will take place July 25-27 at Harrah’s and Harvey’s in Lake Tahoe, Nevada. Register now and reserve your spot at one of Nevada’s biggest CLE events of the year. Contact the state bar’s CLE team at (702) 382-2200 or e-mail [cle@nvbar.org](mailto:cle@nvbar.org) for more information.

Beginning May 1, 2012 attorneys across the state earned raffle tickets by supporting pro bono work. Nevada pro bono agencies issued one raffle ticket per attorney for each case taken during the two months leading up to the state bar’s Annual Meeting. The prize was a nine-foot-long, electric green and yellow Hobie surfboard, designed by Terry Martin and signed by Nevada’s judges and justices. Holland & Hart sponsored the purchase of the surfboard.

The drawing took place at the Annual Meeting on the morning of Saturday, June 30, 2012. Bar member Tom Fell of Gordon and Silver won the board and received a visit from the bar’s immediate past president, Connie Akridge, who personally delivered the prize to Fell’s office in Las Vegas. Fell’s name has appeared on the Pro Bono Honor Roll (see page 44) three times this year! ■



Raffle winner and pro bono supporter Tom Fell receives his prize from Immediate Past President Connie Akridge

Friday, November 16, 2012  
9:00 a.m.

(sign-in starts at 8:30 a.m.)  
The Orleans Hotel and Casino

6 Hours of CLE, including 2 Hours  
of Ethics and Lunch

# 2012 GAMING LAW CONFERENCE

★KEYNOTE LUNCHEON SPEAKER★

**UNITED STATES SENATOR DEAN HELLER (R-NV)**

**(1-HOUR) FEDERAL LEGISLATION UPDATE**

David O. Stewart, Esq., Ropes & Gray, LLP (Washington, D.C.)

**(2-HOURS) ETHICS CONSIDERATIONS IN FEE ARRANGEMENTS, BILLING, CONFLICT WAIVERS AND AN ATTORNEY'S OBLIGATION OF TRUTHFULNESS AND DILIGENCE PURSUANT TO NGC REGULATION 10**

Paul A. Bible, Esq., Lewis and Roca, LLP (Reno) - Moderator; Lynda C. Shely, Esq., The Shely Law, PC (Scottsdale, AZ); and John A. Godfrey, Executive Vice President, Secretary & General Counsel, Pinnacle Entertainment, Inc. (Las Vegas)

**(1-HOUR) REGULATORS ROUNDTABLE**

Peter C. Bernhard, Chairman, Nevada Gaming Commission (Las Vegas);  
and Mark A. Lipparelli, Chairman, Nevada State Gaming Control Board (Las Vegas)

**(1-HOUR) EMPLOYEE REGISTRATION APPEALS**

Scott Scherer, Esq., Holland & Hart, LLP (Carson City) - Moderator; Melanie Kushnir, Esq., Pro Bono Project Director, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas); Richard A. DeGuise, Jr., Hearing Examiner, State Gaming Control Board (Las Vegas); and Shawn Reid, Member, State Gaming Control Board (Carson City)

**(1-HOUR) GAMING INDUSTRY, WALL STREET'S VIEW**

Bill Lerner, Principal, Union Gaming Group (Las Vegas)



**REGISTER ONLINE:** <http://www.nvbar.org/cle/liveseminars>