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Message from the President

BY ELANA TURNER GRAHAM, PRESIDENT,
STATE BAR OF NEVADA



YOUR BAR: IMPROVING NEVADA'S LAW

One of your bar's primary objectives is to continually work to promote reform in Nevada's laws. Several state bar sections have been diligently working toward this goal. We're about to enter another legislative year and several sections have prepared Bill Draft Requests (BDRs) for the Nevada Legislature to consider in 2015.

Many of the sections' recommendations address needs recently identified by Nevada's changing business and cultural environment. Their proposals are timely and help ensure Nevada's legal landscape is continually improving. Here's a brief look at some of the BDRs your bar has worked to create for the upcoming year:

Business Law Section

The Business Law Section has drafted 18 different proposed revisions to the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS), recommending changes to NRS 78, NRS 86, NRS 92A, and NRS 240, spanning several topics in business law. Some examples include: a proposal to allow corporations to hold meetings entirely via remote communication, a proposal providing statutory framework for the contractual choice of law and much more.

Family Law Section

The Family Law Section has drafted eight BDRs suggesting revisions to laws related to domestic partnerships, adoptions, divorce, paternity and more. For example, one BDR recommends amending NRS 125.150 in order to create authority and procedure for the court to address and divide a community property asset that was inadvertently omitted from a judgment of divorce. Many of the section's proposals are also supported by the state bar's LGBT Section.

LGBT Section

The LGBT Section's five BDRs offer recommendations regarding same-sex marriage, adoption and paternity. For example, one BDR supports the adoption of a jurisdictional rule allowing those registered in Nevada as domestic partners to file for divorce in Nevada even if

they reside in a state that does not permit divorces for those individuals. Many of these BDRs are also supported by the Family Law Section.

Probate and Trust Law Section

The Probate and Trust Law Section's BDR strives to improve Nevada's laws pertaining to the administration of trusts and estates. The section recommends numerous changes to multiple sections of the NRS to clarify existing law in order to lessen litigation, to provide alternatives to court proceedings in order to make the administration of trusts and estates less costly, and to help keep Nevada competitive with other states.

Real Property Section

The Real Property Section has drafted 11 legislative proposals ranging from simple requests designed to clean up duplicate language in NRS 40 to a series of proposals related to common-interest property ownership and more.

Conclusion

Getting involved in a state bar section is not only a great way to stay informed regarding the latest recommended changes to Nevada law, but the sections also provide a strong support network for their members' everyday practice of law. Sections support their members with networking events, educational opportunities, customized sources of information, and more.

The state bar currently supports 25 sections. New sections form every year. I strongly recommend browsing the list available online at nvbar.org/sections and seeing the breadth of practice areas they represent. You can sign up to join sections as you submit your annual license fees or you can join at any time throughout the year by the links provided on each section's individual webpage. ■

NOTE FROM THE ISSUE EDITOR

MICHAEL T. SAUNDERS, ESQ.

The December Cyberlaw-themed issue of *Nevada Lawyer* might well be considered a primer for lawyers in the digital age. It is jam-packed with insightful articles to help you build and maintain a 21st century legal practice.

First in the lineup is an article regarding e-Discovery entitled "Tips for Nevada Practitioners Handling Personal Information in Electronic Discovery," by Courtney Miller O'Mara and Chandeni Sendall. The authors discuss the electronic discovery requirements of NRS Chapter 603A, which pertains to the security of personal information.

Next is an article by Switch Associate General Counsel Samuel Castor on the subject of Internet copyright infringement entitled "Three Solid Tips to Avoid Embarrassing Yourself When Claiming Internet Copyright Infringement." In the article, he suggests ways in which lawyers can successfully navigate copyright enforcement under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act.

Following is an article by Laura Thalacker entitled "Those prying eyes: potential liability for employers accessing employee social media posts. She examines the consequences to employers of the Stored Communications Act (18 U.S.C. §§ 2701-2711), and Nevada's social media password protection law (NRS 613.135).

Featured next is "To Text or Not to Text," an article by Kelley Hasson. She presents key considerations and tips when choosing to use texting as a means to communicate with clients.

Closing out this month's feature articles is an article by Nicholas Shook on "Safeguarding Digital Data." In the article, he examines best practices regarding digital authentication and data encryption.

May this issue be of great benefit to all of our readers. Happy holidays from *Nevada Lawyer*! ■



MICHAEL SAUNDERS is a senior deputy attorney general with the Nevada Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection. He represents the public interest in cases involving the rates and services of electric, natural gas, telecommunications and water companies before the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

October 2015 *Nevada Lawyer*

The October issue's articles on our territorial judicial history and about the rare book collection at the Supreme Court Law Library were excellent reminders of how we got to the 21st century. I do not know if the territorial justices were as crooked as the article title implies, but it is easy to see

that the public impression at the time may have been as they were sometimes described in the press. It does make sense to argue that a great impetus for statehood was the desire to elect judges locally rather than to live with federal appointees on the bench.

The Nevada Judicial Historical Society works to preserve and share the history of our bench and bar. We invite your readers to our website, linked at Supreme Court Library's homepage, and to view

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