

# NOTE FROM THE ISSUE EDITOR

BY STEPHEN F. SMITH, ESQ.

Welcome to the February Issue of *Nevada Lawyer*! The theme this month is “Gun Laws and the Second Amendment.” In 2008 and 2010, the United States Supreme Court issued two landmark decisions: *District of Columbia v. Heller*, 554 U.S. 570 (2008), striking down the District of Columbia’s ban on handguns, and *McDonald v. City of Chicago, Illinois*, 561 U.S. 3025 (2010), interpreting and applying the Second Amendment to state and local governments. These cases were the United States Supreme Court’s first set of decisions on the Second Amendment since 1939, and they dramatically changed the legal landscape in the area of guns and self-defense. With this background in mind, these developments are the basis for this issue dedicated to the subject.

In my article entitled “What Every Lawyer Needs to Know about Nevada Gun Laws,” I attempt to educate readers on the current state of the law as it pertains to Nevada’s gun restrictions. This issue also contains a survey article on Nevada Firearms Laws, by attorney John Calvert (followed by a short quiz, through which readers can earn one CLE credit). No issue on gun law could be complete without a discussion on self-defense; attorney Michael Giles, an expert in the area, presents a piece on “The Elements of Self-Defense,” and another that discusses some of the history of the Second Amendment and related decisions. Professor Thomas McAfee, a constitutional law scholar and expert on the Second Amendment from Boyd Law School, provides his perspective in the article “*Heller*, Nevada and the Second Amendment.” Please keep in mind this a complex topic and no series of articles can cover all the issues on this ever-developing area of the law, but we hope this issue makes a dent in the subject and is of help to our members. ■



**STEPHEN F. SMITH** is a Las Vegas attorney who previously worked as a deputy attorney general. Smith contributed to the New Jersey Prosecutor’s Manual on Firearms and served as a deputy county attorney in Phoenix, Arizona, where he handled gun crime cases. Smith worked as a deputy public defender in Maricopa County before relocating to Las Vegas.