



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY ELANA TURNER GRAHAM,
PRESIDENT, STATE BAR OF NEVADA



NEVADA BAR FOUNDATION UPDATE: THANK YOU IOLTA BANKS!

Recently, the Nevada Bar Foundation announced that in 2014 Nevada's Interest On Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA) program accumulated enough funds so they could grant nearly \$3 million to support legal aid initiatives in our state. This is more than a million dollars greater than the amount granted in 2013. It's important that we recognize the tremendous accomplishment of the Nevada Bar Foundation and all the lawyers and financial institutions that participated in our IOLTA program last year.

Currently, 28 financial institutions participate in Nevada's IOLTA program, including both locally owned banks and banks with branches across the U.S. These participating banks pay interest rates on IOLTA accounts; the Access to Justice Commissions sets these interest rates twice each year. The rate is based on economic conditions, comparison to rates on other bank products and feedback from the participating institutions.

The state bar sincerely thanks the following IOLTA partners. With their help, many of Nevada's disadvantaged citizens received critical help in 2014.

- American First National Bank
- Bank of America
- Bank of George
- Bank of Nevada
- Bank of the West
- BMO Harris Bank

- Citibank
- City National Bank
- Financial Horizons Credit Union
- First Foundation Bank
- First Independent Bank of Nevada
- First Savings Bank
- First Security Bank of Nevada
- Heritage Bank
- JPMorgan Chase & Co.
- Meadows Bank
- Mutual of Omaha
- Nevada Bank & Trust
- Nevada State Bank
- Northern Trust Bank
- Plaza Bank
- Royal Business Bank
- Silver State School Credit Union
- Town and Country Bank
- Umpqua Bank
- U.S. Bank
- Valley Bank of Nevada
- Wells Fargo

The money raised through the IOLTA program is primarily used for charitable purposes — the majority of funds are used to provide civil legal services to indigent persons. IOLTA is one of the most significant ways of funding programs that provide legal aid services to the poor. Ninety percent of the grants awarded by IOLTA programs throughout the U.S. go toward supporting legal aid services and pro bono programs.

In Nevada, these funds often support those most in need of legal help, including veterans, victims of domestic abuse, Native Americans, seniors, families, children with special needs and foster children. The Nevada Bar Foundation is responsible for ensuring proper management of the program, including the grant of IOLTA dollars.

The following institutions received a portion of the \$2,942,055 grant awards from 2014:



- CASA of Carson City
- Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada
- Nevada Legal Services
- Nevada Rural Counties RSVP Program
- Northeastern Nevada CASA
- Pioneer Territory CASA
- S.A.F.E. House
- Safe Nest
- Southern Nevada Senior Law Program
- Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevada
- Washoe County Legal Services
- Washoe County Legal Services – Rural Legal Services

The IOLTA program was a great success in 2014, thanks to the hard work of participating lawyers, financial institutions, program administrators and more. I look forward to another incredible year in 2015. To keep this success going, it is critical that lawyers continue to place their IOLTA trust accounts in participating banks. You can always find an up-to-date list of these banks at www.nvbar.org/iolta. For more information, please email iolta@nvbar.org. **NL**

Questions? COMMENTS?

Nevada Lawyer welcomes feedback from our readers!

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nvlawyer@nvbar.org.