

PRO BONO

HONOR ROLL



The State Bar of Nevada Board of Governors and the Access to Justice Commission extend a special thanks to the following attorneys who generously accepted cases in March 2014, through the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, Washoe Legal Services, Nevada Legal Services and Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevadans.

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Sonia Vermeys
Marshal Willick
Homa Woodrum
Elliott Yug

Attorneys who participated in clinics or Ask-A-Lawyer programs, or taught CLEs:

Eunice Beattie
James Berchtold
Robert Blau
Debra Bookout
Linda Bowman
Koren Boyd
Sarah Bradley
Jeffrey Burr
Susan Bush
Ebru Cetin
Richard Chatwin
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Marybeth Sundstrom
Soraya Veiga
Adriana White
Shannon Wilson
Karen Winckler
Corinne Wurm

BOLD honors multiple cases accepted and/or sessions conducted within the month.

ONE FOCUS

A SPOTLIGHT ON PRO BONO

**BY ANGELA WASHINGTON,
DIRECTOR ACCESS TO JUSTICE**

Naomi*, an 80-year-old senior citizen, visited Southern Nevada Senior Law Program (SNSLP) seeking assistance with her involvement in a criminal matter. Specifically, Naomi had been accused of larceny after leaving a Costco with health supplements she hadn't paid for. Due to grant restrictions, SNSLP does not handle criminal cases, however, the organization was so moved by Naomi's story that they sought out a pro bono attorney for her. SNSLP Executive Director Sugar Vogel contacted criminal defense attorney Michael Kane and he graciously accepted the case.

Upon investigation, Kane learned that Naomi suffers from cerebrovascular disease, which affects her cognitive ability. Additionally, Naomi was able to provide documentation of her disease from the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center. On the date of the trial, Kane and his team were able to argue that, as a result of her disease, Naomi did not and could not have had the requisite intent to commit the crime. This argument, coupled with the fact that Naomi was a frequent shopper at Costco, that she had long shopped there without incident and that she had regularly purchased the product at issue, without incident, led to an outright dismissal of the case.

**The client's name has been changed to protect his/her identity.*

About the Attorney

Michael C. Kane is the founder of The702Firm, Attorneys at Law. The702Firm is a criminal defense, personal injury and family law firm. Before he started his own practice, Kane worked with a firm that represented Fortune 100 insurance companies.

The Attorney's Angle

Nevada Lawyer: What, if anything about this case stayed with you?

Michael Kane: What really stays with me is how this woman was charged in the first place. Specifically, that the time was not taken to perform a proper investigation regarding the alleged crime, instead of taking a charge-and-sort-it-out-later approach, especially when dealing with a senior citizen with medical conditions.

NL: What tip(s) can you offer attorneys interested in or considering taking a pro bono case?

Kane: My advice to others would be to take any opportunity you can to help those who cannot afford representation. I have found that the time spent on these cases is the most rewarding, and clients being served are most appreciative. We all have time, even if we believe that we have busy schedules; the hours we waste per day can be put towards helping clients who cannot afford proper representation when in need. ■

one

one client. one attorney. one promise.

FULFILL YOUR RULE

6.1 aspiration by taking just ONE pro bono case today!

Visit the **ONE** Promise Nevada website for more information and to watch the **ONE** Promise Nevada campaign video. For further questions, contact Angela Washington, Access to Justice Director with the State Bar of Nevada at **(702) 382.2200**.