

PRO BONO SPOTLIGHT



R. CHRISTOPHER READE

BY CHRISTINA ALBERTS,
NEVADA LAWYER STAFF

In one of his first jobs as an attorney, R. Christopher Reade's employer required every lawyer in the firm to be working on at least one pro bono case at all times. What began as a requirement for Reade has blossomed into a sense of civic duty; in keeping with the requirements of his old firm, he, and every attorney at his firm, Reade and Associates, must have at least one pro bono case at all times.

"I think it is every lawyer's professional responsibility to contribute to the community and give back to citizens of lesser means," says Reade. His commitment to pro bono efforts has earned him a few honors. He is a one of a small group of attorneys to make Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada's (LACSN) 100 Hours club (a club made up of attorneys who have completed 100 hours of pro bono work). LACSN also named Reade 2010 Pro Bono Attorney of the Decade.

Working with the Children's Attorneys Project (CAP) provided Reade with some of his most rewarding cases. The reason, he says, is that in most cases there is some ambivalence as to the client's guilt or innocence; in the case of young children there is none.

Reade believes that many attorneys are reluctant to take pro bono cases because they do not want to do family law work. But he says this hesitance can and should be overcome and that one step toward overcoming it is to get a good mentor or to take free classes offered by area pro bono groups. "The benefits," he explains, "will become self-evident." ■

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 December 2011 through the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, Washoe Legal Services, Nevada Legal Services and Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevadans.

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