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## NOTE FROM THE ISSUE EDITOR

BY STEPHEN F. SMITH, ESQ.

Welcome to the March issue of *Nevada Lawyer*; this month's theme is civil rights. This issue examines civil rights in the context of the federal civil rights statute, 42 USC § 1983. Recent events, including police shootings, have drawn the public's attention to allegations of excessive force by officers of the law, and there have also been questions regarding the treatment of prisoners and their rights. The March issue features articles on both of these aspects of civil rights.

Our features kick off with an article by attorney Paola Armeni: "David v. Goliath: The Battle Against Law Enforcement," explaining how difficult it is to bring claims against the police. An article by C.J. Potter, IV, entitled "Pursuing Police Accountability: Representing Plaintiffs in Excessive Force Claims," provides a detailed analysis of 42 USC § 1983 claims and defenses. On the topic of inmates, we bring you an article by Deputy Attorney General Andrea Barraclough, called "Inmate Claims Under 42 USC § 1983." Barraclough discusses the legal issues in claims advanced by inmates within Nevada's prison system and the state's defenses.

This month's Back Story is titled "The Constitutional Rights of Prisoners," by Attorneys Cal Potter, III and Travis Barrick. Finally, we round out the issue's features with an article called "Trapped! Avoiding a Potential Pitfall of Nevada's Open Meeting Law," by Deputy Legislative Counsel J. Daniel Yu.

The March issue is jam-packed with legal content on timely topics. We hope you'll find it interesting and educational. **NL**

**STEPHEN F. SMITH** is a member of the Nevada Lawyer Editorial Board. He has been an attorney in Las Vegas since 1991.