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 August 2014, through the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, Washoe Legal Services, Nevada Legal Services, Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevadans and Southern Nevada Senior Law Program.

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Attorneys who participated in clinics, Ask-A-Lawyer, Lawyer in the Library or taught pro bono CLEs programs:

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

PRO BO

ONE FOCUS

A SPOTLIGHT ON PRO BONO

MY FIRST AND ONLY ADOPTION CASE

BY DOREEN SPEARS HARTWELL, ESQ.

I will never forget the happiness and gratitude expressed by my client when the court made its findings from the bench, after an evidentiary hearing seeking to vacate an order to terminate her parental right and to set aside the subsequent adoption of her daughter.

When my client had a baby, at the age of 14, her parents told her that she needed to sign over guardianship to them in order for the child to get health care insurance. However, what my client actually signed and executed was a voluntary termination of her parental rights and an agreement to the adoption of her daughter by her parents. All was well for many years, as my client and her baby continued to live with her parents. During this time, my client was her child's primary caretaker.

However, when my client decided to move in with her fiancé, seven years later, she learned the truth. Her parents told her that she had given up her parental rights; they would not let her take her child from their home.

ONO

I knew nothing about adoptions when I took this case. However, with guidance from the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada and free court reporting services from generous vendors, I was able to develop the evidence needed to have my client's parental rights reinstated and the adoption reversed. ■

DOREEN SPEARS HARTWELL is a litigation attorney at Hartwell Thalacker, Ltd. Her practice involves business litigation matters, ranging from employment law disputes involving non-competes, trade secret violations and wrongful terminations, to trust and probate litigation, products liability actions, shareholder disputes and more.

one

one client. one attorney. one promise.

The ONE Campaign seeks to increase state bar member involvement in pro bono by asking attorneys to take one case or make a donation. ONE Client. ONE Attorney. ONE Promise. The ONE Campaign is managed by the Nevada Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission.

For more information, please contact Access to Justice Director, Angela Washington at angelaw@nvbar.org or visit us at www.onepromisenevada.org.