

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## PASS ALONG YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE – BECOME A TIP MENTOR



BY PAUL MATTEONI, ESQ., PRESIDENT, STATE BAR OF NEVADA

**A special thanks to the many contributors and authors who provided input for this month's content related to consumer protection law. Our profession is graced with many fine practitioners who tirelessly labor to safeguard buyers of goods and services, and the public at large, against unfair practices in the marketplace.**

In general, consumer protection laws are intended to prevent businesses from engaging in fraud or specified unfair practices. Laws related to consumer affairs exist at both the state and federal level. For those of us living and working in Nevada, we are fortunate to have the valuable assistance of the Nevada Consumer Affairs Division (within the Department of Business and Industry). A quick review of the Nevada Consumer Affairs website provides information on critical issues such as Social Security fraud, skimming devices at the gas pumps, tax identity theft, charity scams, risks of cryptocurrencies, online scams,

senior fraud and many others. On the federal level, complex regulatory Acts such as the Consumer Protection Act, Federal Trade Commission Act, Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and Consumer Product Safety Act are but a few of the laws designed to afford protections to consumers.

Most attorneys have been faced with consumer protection issues on behalf of one or more clients. For those of our Members who assist clients with consumer protection issues on a regular basis, they are subject to a challenging and ever-changing practice. Keep up the good fight on behalf of your clients and the general public!!

As we continue to assist our clients, we must also remain mindful of our obligation to pass along the knowledge and experience that each of us have garnered during our years of practice. Whether you have been a practicing attorney for three years or 30-plus years, each of us has something to offer those new attorneys who are just starting out in our profession.

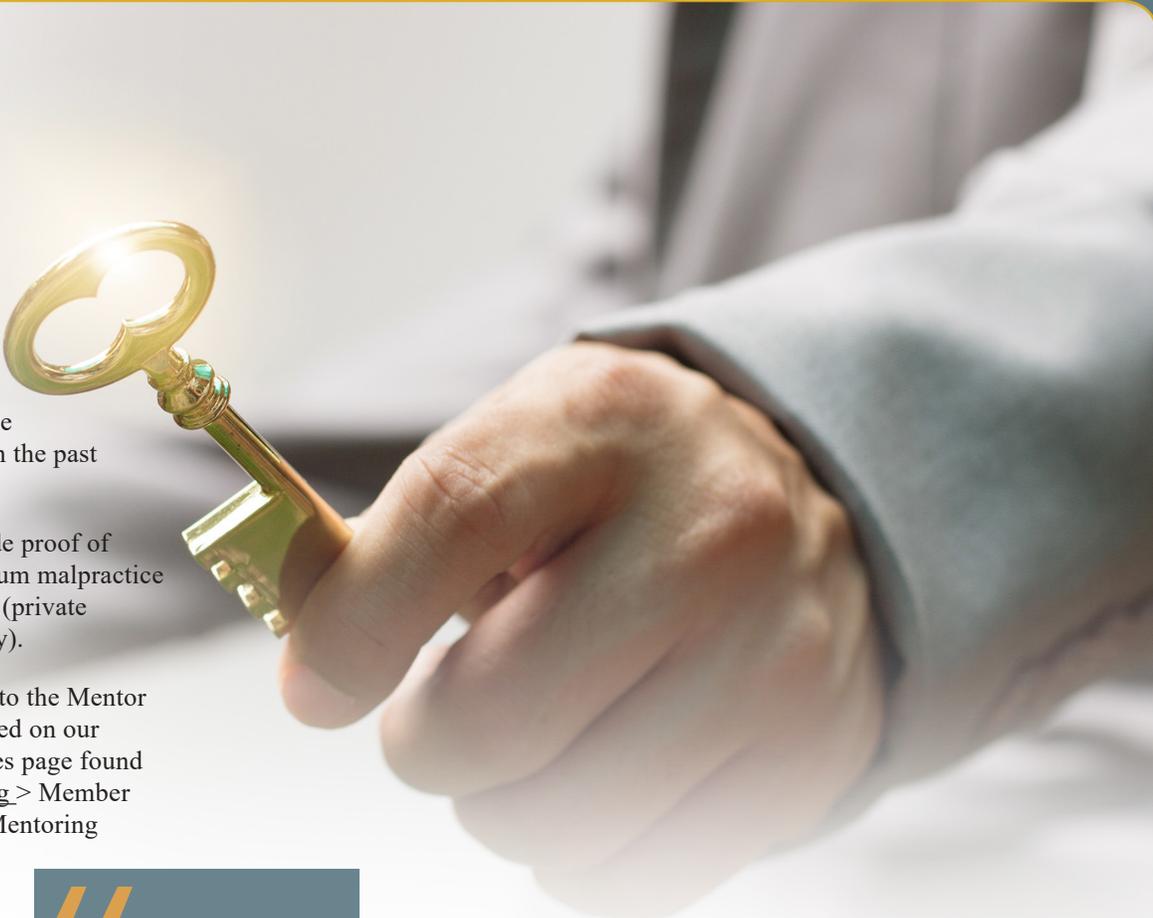
As a general rule, all newly admitted attorneys must take part in the Transitioning Into Practice

(TIP) Program. The TIP Program requirements are a combination of both mandatory and elective elements. The requirements address key areas for new attorneys, including an understanding of the Nevada legal community, personal and professional development (including ethics), law office management, client communications, advocacy and negotiation, pro bono service and many other important areas of practice.

Overall, the TIP Program is designed to match new lawyers with more experienced practitioners to provide training in core areas such as professionalism, ethics and civility – while further assisting in educating young attorneys in Nevada-specific rules and providing education on the practical skills and judgment necessary to provide counsel in a meaningful and competent manner.

This is certainly a vital and essential program for all incoming attorneys!! So what does the TIP Program need to continue its success? It needs **YOU!!** Please consider becoming a TIP mentor and sharing your experience and wisdom with a first-year attorney. What does it take? Just fill out an application – the requirements are minimal:

- Be a member of the State Bar of Nevada in good standing with no prior disciplinary actions in the past 10 years.
- Have at least seven (7) years of practice experience in the state of Nevada.
- Possess a reputation in the local legal community for competence and ethical and professional conduct.



- Have not had any sanctions, suspensions or disbarments in any state from the practice of law in the past 10 years.
- Carry and provide proof of \$500,000 minimum malpractice insurance policy (private practitioners only).
- Sign and adhere to the Mentor Agreement located on our Mentor Resources page found at [www.nvbar.org](http://www.nvbar.org) > Member Services > TIP Mentoring Program > Mentor Resources.
- Maintain the aforementioned qualifications once appointed as a mentor and must prove to be an asset to the TIP Program as determined by the Mentor Evaluation process at the conclusion of each program cycle.

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There are currently 351 fellow attorneys who act as mentors to our new admittees. Each application is reviewed and approved by the Board of Governors and each appointment is for a two-year term. Become the next Member of our legal community to get involved! The State Bar will match you with a new admittee. The

virtually all new admittees enjoyed their meetings with their appointed mentors. Mentees most valued “getting to know an experienced attorney who would assist them as they start their legal career by providing advice and encouragement” and “learning practical skills for their legal career.” Importantly, 100% of mentors would recommend serving as a mentor to other experienced attorneys. Virtually all mentors plan

TIP Mentoring Plan and Program Manual are both excellent resources, easy to review and understand, and these resources walk new mentors through the process.

Based upon survey results,

to maintain a relationship with their new mentees after the TIP Program is completed.

Each meeting or event with a new admittee is a commitment to the future of our profession. In addition, the TIP Program refreshes issues and ideas for even the most seasoned practitioners. The TIP Program is a success. All it needs is **YOU!!**

With April upon us, so is the Spring season – the time of new life and new beginnings. If you are not already a TIP mentor, now is the time! It is a new beginning and an opportunity to share your knowledge and experience with those following our ranks. Let each member of *our* Bar endeavor to pass along the wisdom, learned through victories and defeats, to those who will soon take our place as legal practitioners in our great State of Nevada. Be safe and enjoy some fresh Spring air!