

# Young Lawyers



BY GUEST COLUMNIST TIFFANY BANKS, ESQ.

## SERVING AS GENERAL COUNSEL FOR THE NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

The mission of The Nevada Association of REALTORS® (NVAR) is advocating for its members, protecting private property rights and enhancing the success of its members.<sup>1</sup>

As general counsel for the NVAR, I am responsible for a wide range of legal and business duties for our association, including providing legal information to members, legal guidance to the NVAR volunteers, advocacy and leadership development.

I oversee and supervise the NVAR Legal Information Line on a daily basis. Real estate agents and brokers are constantly faced with various legal issues including interpreting contracts, addendums and other documents they use on a daily basis. It is becoming increasingly important for these agents and brokers to understand any issues that may arise from the use of these documents. Part of the benefit of being an NVAR member is the access to the Legal Information Line. Through this avenue of communication, realtor members can call with questions or for clarification pertaining to real estate law or a particular issue to see what (if any) laws may pertain. Often times, the clarification of law garnered through the information line is of huge benefit to the realtor. I've learned that as the

general counsel, while it is important to be proficient in all areas of real estate law, it is just as important to understand my membership.

I am also responsible for various NVAR committees and provide legal guidance to the NVAR Board of Directors. What the members value is key to the success of any organization. Listening to and communicating with NVAR committee members and NVAR's Board of Directors has given me a true perspective of how the work we do at NVAR impacts the real estate profession. One of the crucial facets in representing more than 15,000 realtor members from across the Silver State is understanding the individual needs of the realtors in different markets. Only when we are able to pinpoint important challenges the members may face are we able to successfully advocate for them. Indeed, a great deal of this is done through NVAR's political and government affairs practice.

Advocacy is a big part of my duties as well. During the legislative session, as general counsel, I assist our contract lobbyists in preparation for NVAR's legislative and regulatory lobbying efforts. In addition, I attend and represent NVAR at state and national association meetings, as well as attend and engage on behalf of our members at Real Estate Commission meetings. Both within the legislative- and association-oriented time, I work with an assortment of different interests and issues that directly impact the members and the real estate industry.

I also help cultivate new leaders. As part of NVAR's community outreach, each year a small group of realtors from throughout the state are handpicked to take part in a series of leadership programs throughout the year. This year, the group is working on fundraising efforts for Boys and Girls Clubs throughout the state. As the staff liaison for our leadership program, I have thoroughly enjoyed watching these leaders grow as they work their way through our leadership program to eventually serve as NVAR committee and board members, and serve their communities in other ways.

As general counsel, I value helping the realtors within our community address any legal issue that may come up on a daily basis, knowing that my best efforts will benefit the hardworking people of our association. Serving in this capacity is a truly rewarding experience. **NL**

1. REALTOR® is a federally registered collective membership mark which identifies a real estate professional who is member of the National Association of REALTORS® and subscribes to its strict code of ethics.

**TIFFANY BANKS** is general counsel for the Nevada Association of REALTORS®. She is involved in a number of organizations, including the Young Professionals Committee for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northern Nevada, and the Young Lawyers Section of the State Bar of Nevada.