

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

RURAL COURT COLUMN

BY HON. JOHN P. SCHLEGELMILCH

accepted. Our hope is to be fully functional by the next fiscal year for voluntary e-filing by the bar. We are packed full of courtroom technology and able to accommodate any remote appearances, whether telephonic or video.

We continue to be a true general jurisdiction court as 53 percent of our cases are family, 20 percent are criminal, 19 percent are civil and 8 percent are juvenile. We have incorporated most of the specialty court programs within our district through the Western Nevada Specialty Court and with the help of Senior Judge Peter Breen and Senior Judge Archie Blake.

We are within the process of establishing a fully functional self-help center, National Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) offices, Child Advocacy Attorney offices, a child-safe waiting area, remote public defender offices and new areas for court services throughout the courthouse. We are also in the middle of a complete re-write of the Local Rules of Practice for the Third District to incorporate the new rules of civil procedure and e-filing rules, and to ensure access to justice. We are proud to serve our “rural” communities. **NL**

NOT SO RURAL ANYMORE

It’s hard to believe that 28 years have passed since I entered my first courtroom in Lyon County as a young deputy district attorney. Lyon County had barely more than 20,000 people in it back then, and the Third District was a combination of Churchill and Lyon counties with two district judges.

Today, the Third Judicial District is comprised solely of Lyon County, as it was in 1864 when Nevada reached statehood. According to the most recent numbers provided by the state, Lyon County is the third-most-populous county in Nevada.

The Third Judicial District Court is located in Yerington with me and Judge Leon Aberasturi serving as your district judges. In 2013, the court moved from the historic courthouse to its new state-of-the-art facilities. The district has three justice courts: Canal Township in Fernley, Dayton and Walker River in Yerington, and two municipal courts: Fernley and Yerington.

We are in the process of rolling out our electronic filing system with limited access currently being



JUDGE JOHN P. SCHLEGELMILCH is the current sitting district judge in Department I of the Third Judicial District Court. He graduated from Incline High School, the University of Nevada, and Willamette Law as a Nevada W.I.C.H.I.E. Scholar. He served on the Board of Governors for the State Bar of Nevada between 1999 and 2005 as the state bar’s rural representative. He currently serves on the Nevada Access to Justice Commission and Indigent Defense Commission.



JUDGE LEON ABERASTURI received bachelor’s degrees in Russian language and history from the University of Arizona in 1989. He earned his JD from the University of Idaho, College of Law in 1993. Aberasturi serves in Department Two of the Third Judicial District Court in and for the County of Lyon. Prior to becoming a judge in 2007, Aberasturi served six years as the Lyon County District Attorney. He also served as a deputy district attorney in Lyon and Lander counties from 1994 to 2001. Aberasturi has been married for 29 years to Dr. Suzanne Aberasturi, who is a licensed psychologist whose Reno-based practice concentrates in neuropsychology. He has three children who have promised to place their parents in a nice retirement home because they spent so much money on their educations.

The remains of the great pleistocene Lake Lahontan, Lyon County, Nevada