



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY VERNON "GENE" LEVERTY, ESQ., PRESIDENT, STATE BAR OF NEVADA

LAWYERS ARE COMMUNITY GIVERS

With the holidays just around the corner, you may think of giving to family, friends and—yes—to your community. Nevada bar members give to their communities year-round, doing especially wonderful things at this time of year.

For example, the Northern Nevada Women Lawyers Association (NNWLA) has a wonderful holiday event during which volunteers take less-fortunate grammar school children to J.C. Penny's department store, allowing each child to pick school clothing, coats, shoes, etc., for purchase. The NNWLA raises funds from its members to give each child \$100 or more to spend.

I have had the pleasure of participating in this holiday clothing event for the last couple of years, seeing the one-on-one kindness of everyone participating. Without question, everyone involved provides these children with more funds than the \$100 goal, by paying out of their own pockets to make sure these children get the clothes they need for school. If you really want to feel the holiday spirit, join the NNWLA and the gift of giving will be yours.

LAWYERS GIVING BACK

But the NNWLA is not the only organization helping others. I reflected on the charitable acts our profession performs for the Nevada community. I know our profession substantially supports legal services

in the promotion of access to justice, both financially and through the delivery of pro bono legal services. In 2016, for example, more than 2,100 bar members reported that they provided direct pro bono representation to persons of limited means, adding up to more than 100,000 volunteer hours worked: an incredible effort. More than \$122,000 was donated to civil legal aid through the dues check-off alone. Another 765 members reported volunteering for more than 27,500 collective hours in support of the community, the law or law-related education.

In addition to these fantastic efforts, I wanted to assemble the other contributions Nevada lawyers make to their community. Our specialty bars and sections support our community through a number of programs and events; here are several examples:

THE STATE BAR'S CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

ADR Section: Donated \$2,000 to the Judicial Family Mediation Program and \$10,000 to establish the Chris Beecroft Jr. Fund at the UNLV Foundation/Boyd School of Law and Saltman Center for Dispute Resolution.

Animal Law Section: Donated the remainder of the section's budget, estimated at \$4,454, to the Noah's Animal House locations in Las Vegas and Reno, prior to the disbanding of the section.

Bankruptcy Section: Members volunteered to judge the Bankruptcy Moot Court competition at Boyd School of Law.

Construction Law Section: Hosts a holiday "Adopt a Family" drive, which assists four to six families. Members have also donated clothing and toys, in both

northern and southern Nevada, for the past decade. They also gave generously to support the National Mock Trial Championships, coming to Reno in 2018.

Diversity Committee: Administers annual diversity scholarships, providing \$10,000 to Boyd School of Law students.

Environment and Natural Resources Section: Will host a canned food drive this month.

Family Law Section: Donated \$10,000 to assist victims of the October 1 shooting in Las Vegas, and donated \$1,000 to the Chili Wars event, helping the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada. The section also donated \$5,000 to the Nevada Justice Association and donated to support the 2018 National Mock Trial Championships.

Gaming Law Section: Administers a pro bono program for indigent individuals seeking to regain their gaming work cards. The section also enacted these philanthropic endeavors in 2017:

- \$10,000 GLS Scholarship for two students (\$5,000 each) in LL.M. Gaming Law and Regulation Program at the Boyd School of Law;
- \$10,000 co-sponsorship of the Gaming Law Journal at the Boyd School of Law;
- \$10,000 to assist victims of the October 1 shooting in Las Vegas;
- \$5,000 sponsorship of the Robert D. Fails Lecture Series at the Boyd School of Law;
- \$2,500 sponsorship of the Frank A. Schreck Gaming Moot Court Competition at the Boyd School of Law;
- \$2,000 sponsorship of the Alumni Golf Tournament at the Boyd School of Law;

- \$5,000 for the Global Gaming Women's "Kick Up Your Heels" event, which raises educational funds for women in the gaming industry; and
- Donated to support the 2018 National Mock Trial Championships.

Lawyer Referral and Information

Service: Administers an annual grant program. This year's awards went to:

- William S. Boyd School of Law Kids' Court Program (\$5,500)
- William S. Boyd School of Law Alternative Spring Break (\$2,959.25)
- Advanced Technologies Academy (\$1,600)
- Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center (\$5,000)
- Nevada Legal Services (\$10,000)
- Southern Nevada Senior Law Program (\$11,000)
- State Bar of Nevada Diversity Committee (\$3,140.75)
- Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevadans (VARN) (\$5,500)
- Washoe Legal Services (\$5,299)

Paralegal Division: Donated to support the National Mock Trial Championships in 2018.

Probate and Trust Law Section: 53 attorneys from this section volunteered time to help victims of the October 1 shooting with probate and other legal issues.

Solo and Small Practice Section: Donated to support the 2018 National Mock Trial Championships.

Tax Law Section: Donated to support the 2018 National Mock Trial Championships.

Tribal Law Section: Donated the remainder of its budget, estimated at \$2,000, to the Nevada Bar Foundation,

prior to disbanding the section.

Young Lawyers Section: Hosts the annual Law Suits clothing drive, providing business attire for job interviews and employment opportunities to those in need..

SPECIALTY BARS' CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Clark County Bar Association: Gathered volunteers to pack more than 3,400 bags of food for children in need in October 2017.

Elko Bar Association: Annually provides one full-time student with a \$750 scholarship to Great Basin College.

Las Vegas Chapter of the National Bar Association: Provides scholarships to law students.

National Justice Association: Participates in numerous charitable events, including:

- Donating about 1,000 toys to charity every holiday season through the Toys for Tots drive.
- Packing meals in both Reno and Las Vegas a couple of times each year for local food banks. Most recently, 25 NJA members fed more than 500 people via the Three Square food charity.
- Providing both live and recorded public education on legal rights and responsibilities through the People's Law School, currently airing on PBS in Reno.
- Providing legal experts for schools and service clubs on an array of topics through the Speaker's Bureau.

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ATTORNEY SPOTLIGHT:

Judge Addelias D. GUY, III



Each month, I want to call attention to the significant contributions made by lawyers who have played an important role in the Rule of Law.

In December, we highlight Judge Addelias D. Guy, III, a pioneering African American attorney as well as a decorated veteran who served in the Coast Guard during World War II, and later in active duty in the Army during the Korean War.

Guy notably broke ground for African Americans in Nevada when the Clark County District Attorney's office hired him in 1966, to serve as the first African American Deputy District Attorney. In 1975, he became Nevada's first African American district court judge, when he was appointed to Dept. XI of the Eighth Judicial District Court by then-Governor Michael O'Callaghan. He served on the bench for 20 years, retiring in 1996. He was among the attorneys who founded the Las Vegas Chapter of the National Bar Association in 1981. **NL**

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LEGAL MALPRACTICE, consultation, referral, co-counsel. All Nevada and California. Free consultation with Joel Selik Attorney CA and NV, NvBar#402; (702) 243-1930; Email: Joel@SelikLaw.com

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Northern Nevada Women Lawyers Association: Hosts an annual holiday children's clothing drive, as described on page 4.

Southern Nevada Association of Women Attorneys: Participates in several events, including:

- Hosts the annual Justice Miriam Shearing Award Gala, which recognizes the success and advancement of women in the legal field, while also raising money to fund scholarships for students at the Boyd School of Law.
- Hosts the Wine Social Scholarship Fundraiser, an informal networking event raising money to fund scholarships for students at the Boyd School of Law.
- Designates three local charities to receive funds raised at an annual charity luncheon, during which representatives from the selected charities speak to attendees about their missions.

LAW IS A SERVICE PROFESSION

This is only a small sample of the ways in which lawyers give back to the Nevada community. In addition to the programs and events listed above, law firms and individual lawyers contribute their time and energy to nonprofits and/or community boards. I learned we cannot quantify or calculate all the ways that Nevada attorneys contribute to our communities, but it is clear we are a positive force in Nevada.

I point out these efforts, because public recognition of good deeds not only engenders appreciation and raises public awareness, but also can act as a catalyst to generate more giving. Law is a service profession. As part of this service, giving back to our community is vital. Overwhelmingly, our honorable profession participates in such activities.

WE CAN DO MORE

The responsibility to give back to the Nevada community rests on the lawyers who reside in Nevada. Currently, approximately one-third of Nevada lawyers don't live in the state. They don't belong to our specialty bars, organizations or sections; they don't contribute to our nonprofits, pro bono or community boards. As the bar considers reciprocity, it needs to evaluate how these out-of-state lawyers will contribute to our Nevada communities and participate in our duty to protect the public. Nevada attorneys must know that they make an important difference in our communities. As Tom Brokaw stated, "It's easy to make a buck. It's a lot tougher to make a difference."

Our profession sure gets its share of shin-kicking. Lawyers are often characterized as heartless money-grubbers. Plenty of jokes portray our profession as some special breed of bottom-feeding predator. Yes, a few crass and selfish deeds have been perpetrated by an unfortunate minority of lawyers, but the vast majority of those in our profession are givers. Every day Nevada lawyers help people, through actions large and small, public and unrecognized. So, when you hear an attorney joke, don't hesitate to respond by sharing the fact that the vast majority of lawyers make a positive difference to our Nevada communities.

For those who give: keep giving. For those who believe they have more to give: do so. For those who aren't giving: start now. Ruth Bader Ginsburg said, "Whatever community organization, whether it's a women's organization or fighting for racial justice ... you will get satisfaction out of doing something to give back to the community that you never get in any other way." Winston S. Churchill also summed it up perfectly when he said, "We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give." **NL**