

# Young Lawyers

BY JEFF CONNOR, ESQ., YOUNG LAWYERS CHAIR



## PROJECT SALUTE: YOUNG LAWYERS SERVING VETERANS

In 2011-2012 the American Bar Association's (ABA) Young Lawyer's Division (YLD) made a goal of helping veterans in all 50 states. The YLD partnered with University of Detroit Mercy School of Law to implement a public service program called Project Salute: Young Lawyers Serving Veterans. The project's goal is to provide our nation's veterans with information about available benefits and to assist those veterans in obtaining the benefits they earned through their years of dedicated service.

The Nevada Young Lawyers Section (YLS) stepped up to answer the YLD's call, partnering with Nevada Legal Services to start a Project Salute program in Nevada. In the years that followed, through the efforts of many dedicated Nevada lawyers, the YLS's Project Salute program has flowered into a solid semi-annual event that has assisted hundreds of Nevada's veterans.

These events start with our volunteer attorneys taking the time to go through an initial accreditation

process with the Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA), to ensure that they are able to provide proper representation to veterans making claims with the VA. Our volunteer attorneys then conduct clinics, through which they assist local veterans in need of help filing claims for benefits with the VA. Thanks to partnerships with Nevada's legal service providers—Nevada Legal Services and Washoe Legal Services—that co-sponsor these events, our volunteer attorneys have malpractice coverage for the advice they give during the event.

This November, the YLS's Project Salute event was a resounding success. At events held in Reno on November 5 and in Las Vegas on November 11, 19 volunteer attorneys devoted their time to assisting more than 40 veterans.

The YLS is very proud of the work done by our Project Salute program. So, a very special thanks goes out to those 19 volunteer attorneys who gave their time to the cause. Additionally, Krissta Kirschenheiter and Renee Kelley from Nevada Legal Services, and James Conway from Washoe Legal Services must be recognized for their assistance in making the YLS's Project Salute events happen. These pro bono programs would not be possible without the partnership and collaboration of Nevada's legal service providers. And to the YLS Project Salute Chairs—Evan Brewer and Kory Kaplan—we cannot give you enough thanks and praise for all your hard work in putting these events together.

Finally, the YLS is thrilled to get an opportunity to take Project Salute to a higher level in the years to come: Nevada Legal Services and the YLS are organizing a collaboration with the Office of Military Legal Assistance from the Nevada Attorney General's Office in order to help increase Project Salute's reach. With the coordination of these organizations, the YLS hopes to extend the impact of the Project Salute on more veterans throughout the state, including possibly providing much-needed assistance to veterans in parts of the state beyond Washoe and Clark counties. **NL**

