

STATE BAR OF NEVADA 2016 ANNUAL MEETING

BAR MEMBERS GATHER FOR FUN AND EDUCATION IN HAWAII

BY JIM SHILANDER, COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Attorneys from across the Silver State gathered on the island of Hawaii from June 30 to July 2 to “Shake it Up” at the State Bar of Nevada 2016 Annual Meeting. The event, which took place on the “Big Island,” included a Nevada Supreme Court review of the year’s big cases, a dozen CLE events and an authentic Hawaiian luau.

Thursday, June 30

The educational sessions began with speaker Bruce Hennes, a crisis communications and media specialist. Hennes highlighted different ways of managing highly volatile situations with clients and the press, particularly emphasizing the need to consistently create and maintain control of your message.

Four breakout sessions followed, offering a variety of different areas about which to learn.

Chris Wilcox and Russell Bucklew presented a guide for those considering transitioning away from practice, including exit plans for firms and for attorneys looking for a guide to making their own decisions. Hennes also hosted his own breakout session, focusing on specific techniques that are of value in all situations, with an emphasis on mounting a defense in the court of public opinion.

The Nevada Lawyer Assistance Program sponsored breakout sessions dealing with stress management. Kristine Kuzemka and Ryan Sullivan explored the factors contributing to stress in the legal profession, along with some methods attorneys can use to both combat stress and become better at their jobs.

Eddie Keller, Kathleen Paustian and Laura Thalacker presented a breakout session on recent cases involving employment law compliance at law firms, identifying the most frequent issues present at firms and providing real-world advice and best practices.

Thursday’s events also included the swearing-in of new State Bar of Nevada President Bryan Scott, and the new Board of Governors members. Several attendees received honors—see the related sidebar for a complete list of the 2016 State Bar Membership Awards winners.

Friday, July 1

Friday kicked off with a panel on the decision-making progress of the Nevada Court of Appeals, made up of Chief Justice Ron. D. Parraguirre; judges Michael P. Gibbons and Abbi Silver; and attorneys Frances Forsman and Jeff Silvestri. Silvestri and Forsman brought their experience as appellate litigators, while the judges on the panel were able to draw back the curtain on their process of deciding which cases to consider and how the two highest courts in the state collaborate.

The science behind the decision-making process, the actual neuroscience of law, was the subject of two sessions,



The 2016 State Bar of Nevada Annual Meeting took place at Hilton Waikoloa Village, on the Island of Hawaii (“The Big Island”).



Nevada Supreme Court Justices offer their “Big Case Review” to meeting attendees. (l. to r.: Chief Justice Ron Parraguirre, Justices Michael Cherry, Michael Douglas, Mark Gibbons and James Hardesty)

including one general session. Attorney Kimberly Papillon lectures all over the globe on the way strategies are designed and decisions are made. She led a breakout session on putting that science into practice.

In the other morning breakout session, Judges Elizabeth Gonzalez,

Ron Hedges, Carl Hoffman and attorney Tracy DiFillippo focused on the ways attorneys can maintain their ethical obligations to their clients in the realms of social media, the cloud and multiple forms of electronic communication.

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2016 MEMBERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS



The State Bar of Nevada is proud to honor members of its community whose efforts have significantly improved the legal landscape of Nevada. Please join us in recognizing the invaluable contributions of our 2016 State Bar of Nevada Membership Award recipients:

PRESIDENTIAL AWARD: Judge Procter Hug, Jr.



The State Bar of Nevada pleased to announce that senior Judge Procter Hug, Jr. is the recipient of our Presidential Award for 2016. Judge Hug received his award at the Washoe County Bar Association's Annual Meeting luncheon on June 8. The State Bar of Nevada's Presidential Award is presented annually to a State Bar of Nevada member practicing 20 years or more whose conduct, honesty and integrity represents the highest standards of the legal profession.

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Currently a senior judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Judge Hug served on the Ninth Circuit for 24 years, marking his career as one of the longest-serving active circuit judges in the nation. Considered by many to be one of his greatest accomplishments, Judge Hug fought tirelessly over the course of several decades to successfully head off attempts to split the Ninth Circuit, in accordance with the court's wishes and his own beliefs. In particular, during his time as chief judge, Judge Hug worked with members of the Senate, attending key meetings in Washington, D.C., to fight for this purpose.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: Tracy A. DiFillippo



The State Bar of Nevada is honored to recognize the achievements of **Tracy A. DiFillippo** as its 2016 Volunteer of the Year. This award recognizes the outstanding service given by a member of a state bar committee or section.

Ms. DiFillippo exemplifies the highest standards of bar leadership in her role as chair of the state bar's Litigation Section, where she not only keeps her section members active and engaged, but she also challenges her section to support other bar programs, such as the Trial Academy and pro bono events.

More significantly, in addition to her duties as section chair, Ms. DiFillippo also volunteers as the Lead Editor for the Nevada Civil Practice Manual. In this role, she manages a team of other volunteer editors and authors, guiding them through the very considerable task of creating an all-new sixth edition of this widely read and well-regarded reference manual. Thousands of attorneys subscribe to this publication through LexisNexis; the book is the bar's most prestigious and widely read reference manual, relied upon by numerous legal practitioners.



Annual Meeting attendees enjoyed several networking social events, including the opening night reception honoring past presidents of the state bar.



Chief Justice Parraguirre swears in BOG members (from left to right), Kari Stephens, J. Douglas Clark, Ann Morgan and Ryan J. Works.

Friday afternoon's general session featured Judge Mark Bennett and Public Defender Rene Valladares discussing efforts at criminal justice reform, and the forms such changes might take.

That afternoon, attendees got to enjoy an hour of Hawaiian cultural activities, including learning to hula, play the ukulele and create leis. The cultural events climaxed with the President's Luau, which included traditional Hawaiian entertainment.

Saturday, June 2

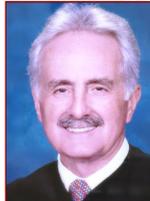
Saturday's events began with a look into the not-too distant future, including potential upcoming disruptions coming to the legal field and in society at large. Breakouts followed, beginning with a discussion of the implications of the disruptions discussed in the general session, with scenarios covering the potential ethical and legal questions some of these changes might create.

Another breakout session focused on Nevada's bankruptcy laws and its reputation as the

2016 MEMBERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

MEDAL OF JUSTICE:
Judge Michael Fondi,
Judge Merlyn Hoyt and
Justice Cliff Young

This year, the 2016 State Bar of Nevada Medal of Justice Award posthumously honors three members of the judiciary who worked tirelessly throughout their careers to guide, shape and protect Nevada's legal landscape.



Judge Michael Fondi served in Department 2 of Nevada's First Judicial District Court in Carson City for more than two decades. A past president of the Nevada District Court Judges Association, Fondi was considered a mentor by numerous attorneys and judges throughout northern Nevada. He is credited as being instrumental to the construction of the current Carson City courthouse.



Judge Merlyn Hoyt trained 17 law clerks during the 27 years he served on the bench in Nevada's Seventh Judicial District Court, serving Eureka, Lincoln



Past presidents of the State Bar of Nevada, including (from left to right), in the front row: Rew Goodenow, Hon. N. Patrick Flanagan, Hon. Gloria Sturman and Dan Polsenberg; second row: Larry Digesti, John Mowbray, Hon. Nancy Alf, Bill Curran and Frank Flaherty; and back row: Franny Forsman, Bob Dickerson and Hon. Bruce Beesley.

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and White Pine counties. His nearly three decades of service on the bench marks him as the longest-serving judge in the Seventh Judicial District. Judge Hoyt was especially proud to serve the people of western Nevada, thinking of them as friends, neighbors and companions. He felt a special responsibility to serve his community in his role as judge to address family problems, particularly regarding the protection of children, and to deal with violent criminals.



Justice C. Clifton Young was elected to the first of his three terms on the Nevada Supreme Court in 1984; he served as its chief justice from 1989 to 1990 and again from 2000 to 2002. He became the third judge to receive the distinguished



Newly sworn SBN President Bryan K. Scott addresses bar members.



According to breakout session presenter attorney Ryan Sullivan, "Mastering your stress makes you a better person and a better lawyer."



Immediate Past President Larry Digesti speaks to Annual Meeting attendees at one of several networking events held during the meeting.



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"Delaware of the west," in terms of being a haven for incorporation, including a look at relevant case law. Judges Bruce Beesley, Bill Hoffman, Gloria Sturman and James Wilson provided insights on decorum, both in the courtroom and in the office. This included a discussion of trial preparation and the value of the knowledge of the rules. Darcy Houghton made the case for improving the initial client interview in her breakout, especially for those working in estate planning. A good interview can help you create a superior plan that better suits what your client actually wants and needs. The final general session featured Josh King speaking about the future of legal marketing. King believes the current rules surrounding advertising have yet to catch up with the reality of the way media is consumed, leading to an under-informed public.

See You in 2017!

Next year's event will move back to the mainland. The State Bar of Nevada's 2017 Annual Meeting will take place in Austin, Texas, home of barbecue, music and its own unique, but still Texan, culture. **NL**



2016 MEMBERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS



Nevada Supreme Court's Legacy of Justice Award, given to those to pioneered innovations in our state's judicial system. He is also a recipient of the University of Nevada's most prestigious award, the Distinguished Nevadan Award. In addition to his numerous contributions to the legal community, Justice Young also worked tirelessly to preserve the state of Nevada itself. He co-authored the first open-space masterplan for Washoe County in 1962 to preserve the vistas and landscapes of the Washoe valley and Sierra Nevada Mountains for the benefit of the generations to come. **NL**

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