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Nevada Lawyer (ISSN 1068-882X) is published monthly by the State Bar of Nevada. State bar members receive *Nevada Lawyer* as part of their annual dues. *Nevada Lawyer* is available to non-members at the subscription rate of \$60 per year. Back issues, when available, are \$6 each. Periodicals Postage Paid at Las Vegas, NV. *Nevada Lawyer* is available on Westlaw®, LEXIS®, and on microfilm through the Wm. S. Hein Co.

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NOTE FROM THE ISSUE EDITOR

BY JOHN R. ZIMMERMAN, ESQ.

Whiskey is for drinkin' and water is for fightin'.

This oft-repeated phrase, most commonly attributed to Mark Twain, reveals a rather pessimistic outlook on water law and water right disputes. If you tend to see things in the same light, this month's issue on water law may change your mind. It includes several articles that describe how even the most contentious water right disputes can be resolved not just amicably, but in a way that benefits all sides. Michael Pagni, Dana Walsh and Pat Mulroy provide excellent summaries of the issues, negotiations and compromises on the Truckee and Colorado rivers. Paul Taggart then describes how Nevada's prior appropriation system operates in times of water shortage and protects earlier water-users against adverse impacts created by later users. Next up, Sylvia Harrison provides a thorough overview of how northern and southern Nevada have adapted to increased demands on, and shortages in, the water supply, by finding ways to maximize water savings and recycle. And be sure to check out Jennifer Richards' back story about the once-booming Metropolis, Nevada, a town whose fate was determined by the prior appropriation doctrine.

While water is certainly a precious resource, especially during the hot summer months, I discovered no shortage of smart attorneys willing to share their water law knowledge with fellow bar members. For that reason, we have a special treat for visitors to the online version of *Nevada Lawyer* this month: a bonus feature story. Therese Ure and Matthew Curti have written a very good article on Nevada's "use it or lose it" doctrine. To check it out, visit *Nevada Lawyer* on the state bar's website at www.nvbar.org/articles/article/july-2016.

Finally, as issue editor, I would be remiss were I not to offer my sincere thanks and appreciation to fellow *Nevada Lawyer* Editorial Board member Scott Wasserman, who volunteered a significant amount of his time, effort and talent to bring us beautiful and vivid original photographs of Nevada's water resources. **NL**

JOHN R. ZIMMERMAN is an attorney and Water Resources Manager for the Truckee Meadows Water Authority.



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