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Melinda Catren, nvlawyer@nvbar.org

Publications Specialist:

Sabrina S. Siracusa, sabinas@nvbar.org

Graphic Design:

Georgina Corbalan

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Nevada Lawyer, State Bar of Nevada
3100 W. Charleston Blvd., Suite 100,
Las Vegas, NV 89102

Ph: (702) 382-2200 Fax: (702) 385-2878 www.nvbar.org

NOTE FROM THE ISSUE EDITOR

BY NANCY R. HARKESS, ESQ.

Often, or maybe most often, an editor chooses an issue topic that is of personal interest. The topic of this issue is elder law, and as a bona fide senior citizen, this is a topic that matters to me. One would have to have been living in a cave to be unaware of the despicable guardianship abuse that so many have suffered in Nevada in recent years. The elderly are particular targets for anyone who chooses their victims from those least able to protect themselves.

Fortunately, the Nevada Legislature has taken steps to protect our vulnerable elderly population. In this issue, Debra Bookout provides an overview of guardianship reform bills, presented in the hope of providing some level of protection. In addition, Homa Woodrum writes that there is access to justice for those over 60, and tells us how to help our clients find the "right door" for appropriate assistance. Richard Chatwin clarifies the fundamentals and misconceptions of the powers of attorney that can protect an aging client's finances and health.

We hear stories of children who abuse their parents, but Jennifer Richards points out that it is sometimes a battle between family members that leads to the suffering of an elder parent, and such painful discourse is not limited to Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Public, but can affect even the rich and famous. These sensitive issues are not limited to the U.S.; Cary Colt Payne demonstrates that outrageous guardianship practices are of world-wide concern. He notes that the world is taking them seriously, and observes that Nevada is stepping forward to be among those for whom these concerns are a priority.

It is hoped that this issue of *Nevada Lawyer* will serve to assist us in protecting our clients, our own families and ourselves. **NL**

NANCY R. HARKESS is a member of the *Nevada Lawyer* Editorial Board. She is the owner of Harkess Law Offices, LLC, in Las Vegas, where she practices primarily in the areas of bankruptcy and estate planning. She can be reached at harkesslaw@gmail.com.



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Let Us Help Write Your Ending

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