



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY PAUL MATTEONI, ESQ., PRESIDENT, STATE BAR OF NEVADA

OUR STATE BAR

Special thanks to the many contributors and authors who provided input on this month's content regarding financial wellness. This topic is both critical and timely. Regardless of your age, years of practice or financial wherewithal, it is important to keep up with the ever-changing financial climate. I recently read three interesting articles on the subject: Money Tips for Young Lawyers, *U.S. News & World Report*; 8 Ways We Often Overspend, BecomingMinimalist.com; and Don't Be Embarrassed by Your Finances, *The College Investor*. All provide interesting thoughts and analysis on how to view our personal finances and how to work to address issues and concerns.

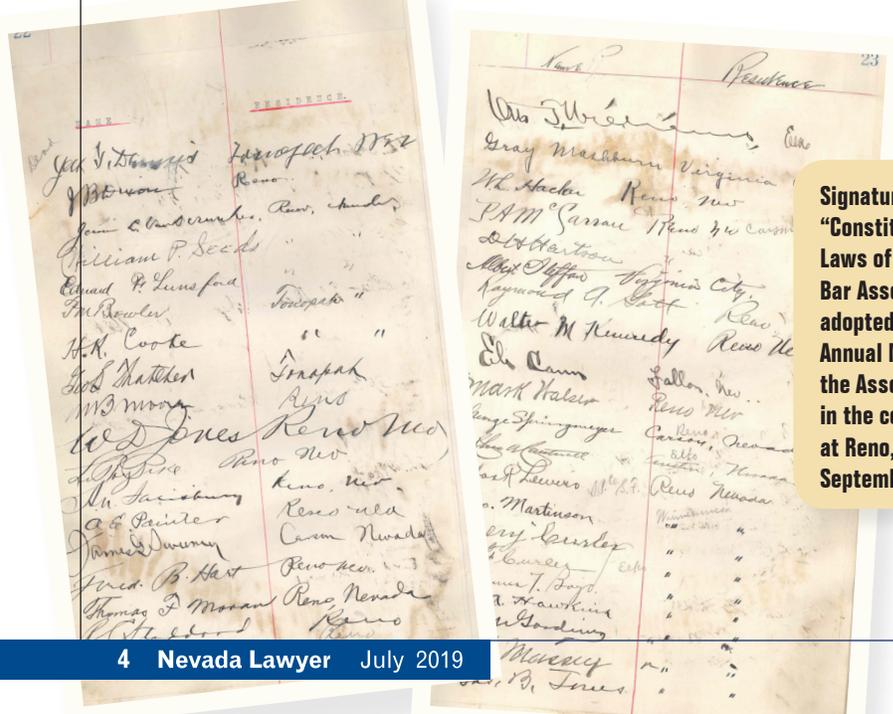
As the newly elected president of *our* State Bar of Nevada, I would like to begin by expressing my thanks and appreciation to all of the members of the Board of Governors and to our outgoing President — Rick Pocker. His leadership and steadfast dedication has been inspiring, and he has set a very high bar to follow. It has been a privilege to call Rick my colleague and my friend during our many years together serving our outstanding bar association. A **big** Thank You to Rick for all he has done and all he continues to do on behalf of *our* State Bar.

In addition, I would like to extend a second Thank You to all of *you* who have dedicated countless hours of time and relentless energy working on the numerous and varied sections and committees within our organization. It is steadfast dedication by hundreds of volunteers that truly make our State a special place to practice our profession.

Throughout the past several years, it has been the goal and mantra of the organization to stress that the State Bar belongs to all its members. Every attorney, whether active or passive in the organization, maintains a role. During my many years serving the State Bar, I have been repeatedly impressed by the commitment of our members. Not a week goes by that I do not see examples of the dedication of our members. Volunteers write articles (local, state and nationally), develop and present CLE presentations, attend events of every type in furtherance of our profession, and provide support to our members in need — both through providing legal assistance on issues and supporting our various health and wellness initiatives.

This is truly *our* organization. For those already serving our profession (many of you serve in several capacities), the members of the Board of Governors offer a sincere Thank You. For those members who have been “thinking about it” or have not yet found the “right time” to join a committee or become a member of one of our many sections, *now* is the time. I promise you will be surprised and gratified by the people you meet and the relationships you will form. It is well worth your time and effort.

For those younger attorneys who recently became members of the State Bar of Nevada, I always find that a bit of history regarding our State Bar is useful and informative. *Our* organization, the State Bar of Nevada, has been in existence since 1928. From its humble beginnings with only 300 or so members, the State Bar of Nevada has grown to some 9,000 active members. An additional 2,800-plus members hold a



Signatures to the “Constitution and By-Laws of the Nevada Bar Association,” adopted at the First Annual Meeting of the Association held in the courthouse at Reno, Nevada, on September 23, 1911.

Nevada bar license and are currently inactive. In addition, **our** organization currently boasts 15-plus committees that oversee every aspect of our profession in Nevada. These committees and their dedicated members work diligently to provide oversight for our admissions, character and fitness, discipline, CLE, fee disputes, law-related education, publications and many more areas.

In addition, **our** State Bar has grown through the years and now offers membership in specialized sections covering all areas of the law. At present, there are more than 25 sections; members can join them and interact with their colleagues regarding their own specialized areas of law. **Our** members support these numerous sections and their varied activities. Many of **our** members dedicate additional time as officers of the sections — planning and organizing events and CLEs throughout the year.

Further, **our** State Bar has developed programs to assist the public. Currently, members of the public can easily find general information on all attorneys in Nevada, ask for referrals to lawyers within a particular area of the law, seek information related to pro bono services, and obtain written brochures on particular

consumer areas such as bankruptcy, divorce, immigration and probate/estate matters. In addition, the *Coming of Age* brochure is handed out to high school Seniors across the state.

Our State Bar has come a long way since its early beginnings. We are each proud of our profession and the work we undertake. Whether we are in private practice, in-house counsel, the public sector, or some other realm, **our** state bar has endeavored through the years to become a strong and well-respected organization.

I would be remiss should I fail to thank and recognize the many fine Presidents who have led **our** organization during the past 90 years. Their wisdom and foresight has allowed **our** organization to grow and flourish. With the guidance of the Nevada Supreme Court, the commitment to our mission remains steadfast:

- To govern the legal profession in the State of Nevada, subject to the approval of the Supreme Court;
- To aid in the advance of the science of jurisprudence and in the improvement of the administration of justice;
- To promote reform in the law and in judicial procedure;

- To uphold and elevate the standard of honor, integrity, and courtesy in the legal profession;
- To encourage higher and better education for membership in the profession;
- To promote a spirit of cordiality and true friendship among members of the bar; and
- To manage the business of the state bar in a prudent manner.

Our second president, Albert “Al” Scott, so eloquently predicted the future and growth of **our** State Bar when he said:

“By incorporating our State Bar, we have made an entity out of what was formerly a disintegrated mass. I believe our child is a healthy one, and that it may become a lad of parts...It is turned over to our successors with the ardent hope that it may rapidly grow stronger and better, so that when, in the course of time, it reaches maturity it may then fulfill our fondest dreams.”

Continue your support of our profession and **our** State Bar and have a safe and pleasant summer season. **NL**

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