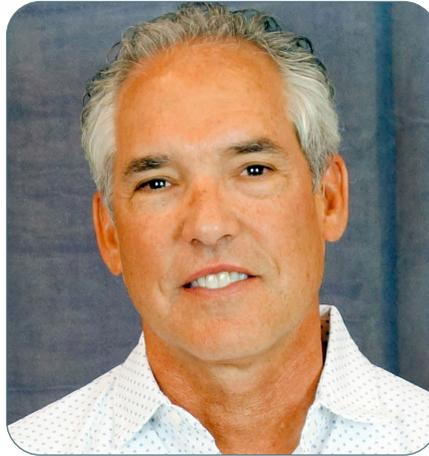


# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



## The New World

BY ERIC DOBBERSTEIN, ESQ., PRESIDENT,  
STATE BAR OF NEVADA

**COVID-19 has changed our careers and businesses for a generation. Hopefully by the time this article is published, we will all be in the swing of a new routine that will still allow us the human interaction that we once enjoyed and took for granted prior to March of this year.** While writing this article in April, the world, our country and state has not only been affected by the loss of lives, but our economy and lifestyle has been decimated. I am sure, like most of you who are reading this, you have had to adapt to working from home and to master the technology of videoconferencing. There have been disruptions to travel for business and for leisure.

Springtime is normally a time to renew and refocus our priorities. However, this year because of the virus, our travel and meetings for the west and northwest regional bar conferences have been cancelled, along with our lobbying efforts with the American Bar Association (ABA) in Washington, D.C. We

have also had to cancel our State Bar Annual Conference, which was stacked with great speakers and entertainment in the fabulous city of New Orleans. The bar's leadership has also worked with the Nevada Supreme Court and Board of Bar Examiners to modify the swearing-in ceremony for newly admitted members who passed the February bar this year. We've also seen the Board of Bar Examiners and the Supreme Court make modifications to the July bar exam.

With the loss of the opportunity to see one another in New Orleans, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank each member of the Board of Governors for supporting me over the years while serving our members. I look forward to working with each and every one of them to follow our mission. I appreciate those of you who first elected me to the board many years ago, as well as those of you that I have had the pleasure to meet and work with on various projects to better serve our members. While my nonlawyer friends and family will not be reading this, I am going to give them a "shout out" for their warm unwavering support over the past 32 years I have

been practicing in this profession. I have been blessed by God to have Yvonne, the best wife I could ever have as a partner, to help me in this career and to help manage the well-being that all of us need in our practice.

Since I did not have a chance to meet with

anyone in New Orleans, please let me introduce myself. I am a native Nevadan who has hunted and fished all over this beautiful state. I attended both the University of Nevada, Reno as well as UNLV and went to law school in Texas. I enjoy the rural parts of our state as well as the fine dining and entertainment on the Strip.

I would also like to share the goals that the Board of Governors would like to accomplish over the next year.

Foremost please know that our board will follow our core mission: "... to govern the legal profession, to serve our members, and to protect the public interest." Our goals for this year, besides adapting to the new world order caused by COVID-19, is first to promote awareness and well-being by providing free counseling services to our members and their families, and to conduct wellness summits, all of which is needed even more in today's uncertainty.

Next, we will be working to improve attorney discipline by examining ABA standards for consistency of discipline and to look at developing an alternative structure for the efficacy and

efficiency of lawyer regulation. We will also emphasize ways to better educate and mentor our members who are struggling to follow the ethical standards we all want our profession to reflect.

Finally, we will continue to explore various programs and benefits to allow our members to improve their legal skills or help them enjoy the practice and life itself. We want to hear from our members, so we can address their concerns and learn how to provide more for you, even as we continue to avoid increasing license fees. They have not been raised for the past 14 years.

One of the disappointments of not having an Annual Meeting in person is that we do not have an opportunity to recognize those in our profession who have made it a better place to work and to live. We have not forgotten the 2020 recipients of the State Bar of Nevada's Membership Awards, and we will announce their names soon.

You can start thinking of someone you would like us to honor with the 2021 awards. Send their names in to me at [eric@dobbersteinlaw.com](mailto:eric@dobbersteinlaw.com). You can nominate a fellow bar member for the Volunteer of the Year, the Young Lawyer of the Year, and Medal of Justice Awards. The Medal of Justice recognizes a person or group that supports Nevada's legal community, inspires

by example, and is committed to the advancement of the profession and the protection of the public. In addition to those award categories, I invite the judiciary and others to help us identify the lawyer and the judge who best demonstrate civility and professionalism in our legal system. As we have recently seen, the rule of law and our civil and constitutional rights of free speech and to assemble have been tested.

We must lead by example and be the noble profession that lifts up society and protects those that do not have a voice.

**Let us get through with 2020 and look forward to 2021 and build a better society.**



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