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GRAPHIC DESIGN

Georgina Corbalan

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
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 SCOTT WASSERMAN, ESQ.

Welcome to the March 2016 issue of *Nevada Lawyer*, titled "Appellate Court." The main focus of this issue is the impact of the Court of Appeals in the first year since its establishment was approved by the voters on November 4, 2014. In the main feature story, Nevada Supreme Court Justice James W. Hardesty and Jordan T. Smith review the positive impact the Court of Appeals has had on improving the judicial system, the legal profession and the general public's access to justice. The authors inform us that the Court of Appeals has dramatically reduced the Nevada Supreme Court's backlog in its first year, decreasing the time to disposition of decisions in matters on the Supreme Court's docket.

With a new Court of Appeals, there has been a renewed interest in the appellate practice. As Kelly Dove explains in her article "Key Changes in the Nevada Rules of Appellate Procedure," the creation of a Court of Appeals has resulted in several changes in the Nevada Rules of Appellate Procedure. Seth T. Floyd and Joel Henriod, the chair and chair-elect, respectively, of the Appellate Litigation Section, explain the benefits of joining the section and encourage new members to join the appellate practice as well as joining the section. In this issue's Back Story, Laura Jacobsen sets forth Practice Tips for the Court of Appeals, honed from the many CLE presentations that the court undertook during its first year.

Paul Georgeson and Debbie Leonard explain the "science" behind deciding whether to file a petition for writ of mandamus or prohibition to seek appellate review of an interlocutory district court decision in their article "Taking the Mystery Out of Writ Practice."

Dean Daniel W. Hamilton shares his view on the exciting increased opportunities that the new Court of Appeals provides for UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law students – opportunities in internships, externships and post-graduate clerkships.

Lastly, with regard to the appellate focus of this issue, Harriet E. Cummings explains the need for settlement judges in appellate cases in the court's Civil Settlement Program. The court's settlement program is an alternative dispute resolution program geared specifically toward cases that have reached the appellate level.

In the magazine's other regular features, state bar president Laurence Digesti addresses some of the negative changes in the practice of law over the past 40 years, and the Young Lawyers Section's guest columnist Scott Lachman reveals the results of the section's Young Lawyers' Compensation and Student Loan Survey. Natalia Vander Laan shares the difficult, but rewarding experiences in performing pro bono work and encourages others to join her.

On behalf of the *Nevada Lawyer* Editorial Board, we hope you enjoy the March 2016 issue. **NL**

SCOTT WASSERMAN is Emeritus Chief Executive Officer and Special Counsel of the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education. Previously Wasserman served as a Deputy Attorney General in the Civil Division of the Office of the Attorney General and served the Nevada State Legislature as Chief Deputy Legislative Counsel. He is a member of the *Nevada Lawyer* Editorial Board.



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