

Nevada Family Law Practice Manual 2013 Edition



This recently revised manual provides up-to-date information on timely, modern day family law issues such as:

MILITARY DIVORCES

including how military divorces differ from non-military divorces and what extra steps need to be made

ARTIFICIAL REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY

including definitions of terms used in discussing Artificial Reproductive Technology

DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIPS

including how partnerships are recognized in other jurisdictions

Family Law Section Members Receive a **15% discount.**

Call the bar at **702-382-2200** for more information!

"It sits on the corner of my desk and I refer to it daily. It is the definitive reference guide for family law in Nevada."

— John F. Keuscher, Anderson Keuscher, PLLC



PRO

HONOR ROLL

The State Bar of Nevada Board of Governors and the Access to Justice Commission extend a special thanks to the following attorneys who generously accepted cases in February 2015, through the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, Washoe Legal Services, Nevada Legal Services, Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevadans and Southern Nevada Senior Law Program.

Krista Albregts
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Marybeth Sundstrom
Ronald Thompson
Kristin Tyler
Mario Valencia
Bryan Viellion
Marshal Willick
Bruce Woodbury

Attorneys who participated in clinics, Ask-A-Lawyer, or Lawyer in the Library programs:

Alyssa Aklestad
Giovanni Andrade
Jeanette Barrick
Travis Barrick
Eunice Beattie
Robert Blau
Mark A. Beguelin
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< BOLD honors multiple cases accepted and/or sessions conducted within the month. >

BONO

ONE FOCUS



BY MARSHAL S. WILLICK, ESQ.

SERVING JUSTICE THROUGH PRO BONO

Through the One Campaign and its newest initiative, Inspire 1, each member of the bar has been charged, not just with taking a pro bono case, but with inculcating the desire to do so in our fellows as well.

For those with an interest in helping members of the armed services, there are several ways to do so. Most directly, there is the ABA Military Pro Bono Project, run by the Standing Committee on Legal Assistance for Military Personnel.

The project gives free legal assistance to military members needing help in Nevada courts. This year, my associate Trevor Creel and I were honored to be named the 2014 recipients of the project's Outstanding Services Award for our appearances in several custody cases, during which we were able to help military members stationed all over the planet.

The needs of such members are often quite simple, but donating just a bit of time to attend to those needs can mean the world to a service member stationed thousands of miles away from home, with no ability to appear directly or means to hire someone else to do so. If you want to do your part to actually support those in uniform, there are few better opportunities.

There are also several other military assistance initiatives, including Operation Stand-By, providing free legal advice and assistance to Judge Advocates General and legal assistance officers world-wide. As a member of that initiative, your phone could ring at any moment, with questions about Nevada law in your area of practice, from members in need from Kansas to Kandahar.

The point, really, is that the need for pro bono attorneys is pervasive and monumental, extending to those in uniform as well as the civilian population. Having been a member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada since its merger with the original Pro Bono Project, I have watched for years as its pro bono directors and staff attempted the task of prioritizing and attending to needs impossible to meet with the resources available.

That said, every bit of help volunteered brings us that much closer to being meeting those needs. And if that goal proves impossible, the undertaking of each case is worth it anyway; as in the classic story of the boy and the starfish, it makes a difference to that one.

Readers of this column in *Nevada Lawyer* are used to seeing reminders that a bar license is a privilege with an implicit obligation, because we practitioners alone have the keys to the

courthouse, and are empowered to take up the causes of others in attempts to exercise their rights. The goal of the system is capital-J "Justice," but that goal is impossible to attain without the ability to operate the machinery of small-j "justice" – the actual working of the pleadings and motions and hearings that make Justice possible.

This is where lawyers fit in, of course. The poor tend, too accurately, to see the court system as hopelessly rigged against them, leading those without the funds to hire counsel to conclude that justice is something they can never achieve, no matter the legitimacy of their cause. Pro bono counsel changes that equation, leveling the playing field and providing hope to those who had none.

Every reader of this article who chooses to volunteer to take just one case makes this state a better, more charitable, more wholesome place for all of us to live. Your choice to help makes us collectively better, not just as lawyers, but as people. And it makes the bar an organization that much more worthy of retaining its monopoly on representing others in court.

Robert Kennedy had it right when he said, "Each time a man stands up for an ideal or acts to improve the lot of others or ... strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope." You can choose to volunteer to help one person, and so provide that ripple of hope.

No one has to read this column, and those that do need not actually volunteer. But I hope that you will – that these weak words might strike that much show of fire in you. Collectively, the good we can accomplish is enormous. Please help. **NL**



MARSHAL S. WILLICK is the principal of the Willick Law Group, an A/V rated family law firm in Las Vegas, Nevada, and practices in trial and appellate family law. He is a Certified Family Law Specialist, a fellow of both the American and International Academies of Matrimonial Lawyers, former chair of the State Bar of Nevada Family Law Section and former president of the Nevada chapter of the AAML. Willick serves on the Board of Directors for the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada. Most recently, he and his associate, Trevor Creel, were awarded the ABA Military Pro Bono Project Outstanding Services Award by the Standing Committee on Legal Assistance for Military Personnel. The ABA Military Pro Bono Project Outstanding Services Award is reserved for individuals, law firms and corporate law departments that have provided legal assistance to service members through the project and have met other criteria.