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*Nevada Lawyer* (ISSN 1068-882X) is published monthly by the State Bar of Nevada. State bar members receive *Nevada Lawyer* as part of their annual dues. *Nevada Lawyer* is available to non-members at the subscription rate of \$60 per year. Back issues, when available, are \$6 each. Periodicals Postage Paid at Las Vegas, NV, and additional mailing offices. *Nevada Lawyer* is available on Westlaw®, LEXIS®, and on microfilm through the Wm. S. Hein Co. Copyright ©2018, State Bar of Nevada. No part of this publication may be reprinted or otherwise reproduced without the publisher's written permission. *Nevada Lawyer* has the authority to edit letters and other materials submitted for publication. Publishing and editorial decisions are based on the quality of writing, the timeliness of the article and the potential interest to readers. Appearance of an article, editorial, feature, column, advertisement or photograph in *Nevada Lawyer* does not constitute an endorsement by *Nevada Lawyer* or the State Bar of Nevada unless specifically identified as the policy of the state bar. The views expressed are those of the authors. Authors are responsible for the accuracy of all citations and quotations.

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## NOTE FROM THE ISSUE EDITOR

BY LEON F. MEAD, II, ESQ.

On the heels of our April issue about what it takes to be admitted to practice law, the *Nevada Lawyer* Editorial Board wanted to provide information about keeping your license once you have received it. Like many of you, in the last few years I have watched in bewildered shame as lawyers either lost their license to practice law, went to jail or both. It simply is absurd to me that lawyers who worked so hard, for so long, to get their license in the first place, turn around and throw it away over unethical and illegal conduct. That should never happen.

In nearly 30 years of practice, I have learned that keeping your law license is not hard. It simply requires what appears at times to be an old-school belief system: Treat others (our clients, our judges (and their staff) and opposing counsel) as we would want to be treated. In practical terms (at least for me), this merely means:

- Return phone calls promptly;
- Be on time (or when you can't, ask for extensions beforehand);
- Be courteous and civil (because, believe it or not, we need our fellow lawyers from time to time);
- Don't steal what we are entrusted with;
- Learn and follow the Rule of Law and the Law of the Rules;
- Accept responsibility for our own actions and mistakes; and most importantly,
- Recognize that while we all believe strongly in our client's position and our own abilities, we are never the "best-lawyer-ever," every day. Sometimes, one of our colleagues wins (and sometimes, that is because they should).

Being a lawyer is a privilege, not a right. That privilege brings responsibility, but the responsibility is much more than just to help those less fortunate or to defend those whose legal rights are being infringed when no one else will. It is also a responsibility to have and live with professional integrity. No doubt we all make mistakes, and none of us are perfect. But the fact we can never be perfect is why we practice not just the law, but the integrity the law requires.

Enjoy. **NL**

**LEON F. MEAD II** is a lawyer, counselor, consultant and the owner of the Mead Law Group, having focused his practice on construction issues for more than 25 years. He is the author of the treatise "Nevada Construction Law;" an adjunct professor of construction law at the William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; a Fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America®; Rated as a Superlawyer®, Best Lawyers of America®, Chambers & Partners® Tier 1, Construction: Litigation, and Martindale Hubble, AV Preeminent., and serves as a board member to the Nevada Contractors Association.



The Best Throw of the Dice is  
to Throw Them Away

NLAP Can Help You Regain Control.

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