

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



## Living in the New Normal – **WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER**

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A special thanks to the many contributors and authors who provided input for this month's content related to federal law practice. Many of our members have made a career dealing with the wide array of issues that result from the adoption or approval of federal statutes, codes and regulations. Others in our profession are only faced with federal issues on rare occasions. **We are very fortunate to have numerous practitioners skilled in addressing issues related to the U.S. Constitution, federal statutes and codes, U.S. treatises, federal common law and rulings from our federal courts – including the U.S. Supreme Court.**

It is not uncommon for our members to tackle a wide variety of federal issues – from copyright issues to Indian law, from criminal matters to mining claims, from federal construction projects to admiralty law, and from bankruptcy actions to disputes between two or more states. These are just a

sampling of the areas that our dedicated practitioners address and handle. Be sure to contact a specialist in these areas should you be confronted with federal issues or matters in which you do not typically practice.

It is somewhat appropriate that this month's issue is dedicated to federal law. It is a time of unease and a time of change. For certain, the federal court system, as with all the state court systems, are feeling the effect of the COVID-19 virus. As with many of our members, the courts are being "forced" into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The courts are working hard to update their hardware and software in order to keep pending matters moving forward. Video conferencing and telephonic hearings have quickly become part of the new normal.

As we are all aware, the general practice of law has changed in less than 60 days. Regardless of your area of specialization, the effects are being felt by everyone, as they are widespread. The necessary "Stay at Home" directive issued by Governor Steve Sisolak has resulted in the cancellation, postponement

or continuation of hundreds of legal matters. Whether it be the postponement of court hearings, the extension of discovery matters, the extension of property closings or dozens of other types of matters, we are all feeling the effects. It has quickly become the age of "new learning." Out of necessity or desire, we are all learning new approaches such as electronic notaries, remote depositions, Zoom conferences and many others. Regardless the years of practice, we all have something new to learn.

Undoubtedly, these are stressful times for us and our clients. There are so many terms and phrases that we likely had never previously heard or at least never actively thought about—terms such as pandemic, corona (other than the beer), furlough, CARES Act, emergency directives, essential services and many others. For certain, our clients are confused and are seeking our counsel. For some issues and questions, you will know the answer. For other matters, the answer may be buried in a quagmire of federal tax language, employer wage obligations or other complicated and confusing regulations that are governing our new normal. Let all the members of our State Bar use this as a time reach out to our colleagues and share the wealth of information that we collectively maintain.

In addition to reaching out and assisting one another, a wealth of information can be found on a variety of websites. For example, both the State Bar of Nevada and the Nevada Justice Association



maintain updated links to important items such as the emergency directives issued by the governor, the administrative orders issued by our local state/municipal/justice courts, guides to the CARES Act, SBA loan information and public health information. In addition, you will find virtual town hall meetings being presented by qualified members of the various sections. These virtual meetings address issues dealing with labor and employment, gaming, real property, bankruptcy and more. All these resources are designed to allow each of us to address the myriad of issues being brought forward by our anxious clients.

Most importantly, take care of *yourself!* Stay healthy. Even as we look toward the “peak of the curve” as regards COVID-19, we must each be mindful of our own physical and mental health. As many of us continue to work outside the office and away from our normal routine, it can be hard to find someone to talk

with or vent our frustrations. Change brings unrecognizable stressors. As each of you look after your law practice and your family, it is imperative that you look after yourself. Again, the resources are available and the majority are at no cost. The State Bar is offering complimentary recorded CLEs – such as “Keep Calm and Lawyer On,” as well as virtual meetings being held weekly to address stress and anxiety. Similarly, the Centers for Disease Control has a helpful list of tips to address stress and anxiety. Similar programs and meetings are being offered by nearly every law-related organization. Take advantage and take care of yourself!!

This is a unique and distinctive time in our history. As legal practitioners, it has been a time of stress and concerns. However,



it has also been a time for new learnings and new beginnings.

**As members of our Bar, we are all in this together. Stay vigilant, stay healthy, stay connected and reach out as needed. Let us all strive to make May 2020 a memorable month and truly a time for new beginnings.**