



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY VERNON "GENE" LEVERTY, ESQ., PRESIDENT, STATE BAR OF NEVADA

## CELEBRATE THE CONSTITUTION WITH US IN CHICAGO

With the State Bar of Nevada's 2017 Annual Meeting fresh in everyone's minds, I would like to remind members that it isn't too early to start planning to attend the State Bar of Nevada's 2018 Annual Meeting. The focus of next year's meeting will be the rule of law, and I would like to personally invite all of you to join us in Chicago from July 12 to 14 to celebrate that important topic with us.

Our Constitution is the cornerstone of America's rule of law, and it is the foundation of our country's greatness. The term "rule of law" is often used, but what does it mean? A simple definition is, "Rule of law: ...the principle that all people and institutions are subject to and accountable to law fairly applied and enforced; the principle of government by law."

Without question, the U.S. Constitution established the mechanism for a system providing rule of law in America. Our judiciary and our honored profession both play vital roles in pursuing the high ideals behind the Constitution and

Bill of Rights. There have been instances of breaches in our rule of law, but the great thing about our system is that we march on to correct and improve our rule of law. Admittedly, corrections to our justice system can and have taken decades, but our rule of law allows corrections to be made.

We have identified excellent speakers for the 2018 Annual Meeting. They will discuss examples of why the rule of law is so important, explore past breaches of our system, and identify continued efforts to correct and improve our rule of law. In addition, other speakers will discuss how the USA's rule of law is not only important for citizens' protection, but also how it affects the economy and even health care.

I am excited to announce that one of our programs will be presented by one of the attorneys who represented Fred Korematsu in the early 1980s, when he challenged his 1940s conviction for evading internment in a Japanese-American camp. His conviction was upheld by the 1944 U.S. Supreme Court in *Korematsu v. United States*. Our excellent speaker was on the team of lawyers who represented Korematsu in successfully overturning his conviction for evading internment. *Korematsu's* place is well-earned in that grim pantheon of wrongs and rights, demonstrating the liquid nature of correcting the rule of law. For a brief biography of the justice who wrote the dissenting opinion for *Korematsu*, see this month's Attorney Spotlight, on page 5.

Another speaker for our upcoming Chicago convention is distinguished scholar of constitutional law, Prof.

Erwin Chemerinsky. He wrote, "There is only one situation in which the (U.S. Supreme) Court expressly upheld racial classifications burdening minorities: the rulings affirming the constitutionality of the evacuations of Japanese-Americans during World War II." Chemerinsky further wrote, "No evidence of a specific threat was required to evacuate and intern a person. Race alone was used to determine who would be uprooted and incarcerated and who would remain free."

We're excited to have these expert speakers available at the upcoming Annual Meeting. So make plans now to attend our next bar convention in Chicago, July 12 to 14. Watch for more information about the line-up of seminars and social events coordinated to appeal to attorneys in law firms both large and small, solo practitioners, public lawyers, including district attorneys and public defenders, those new to the practice of law and first-time State Bar of Nevada Annual Meeting attendees.

Be sure to plan your trip so you can attend our brand-new event: a Welcome Reception, to take place on Wednesday night, July 11. The Drake Hotel, a Chicago landmark, is centrally located, just steps from the beaches of Lake Michigan, near to Millennium Park, the Art Institute of Chicago and so much more that makes Chicago a great city to explore and enjoy. We are working on a program that celebrates the Nevada judiciary and our profession, and inspired by the old idiom "the more, the merrier," we want every member of our Nevada legal community to attend the Chicago Annual Meeting.

# JUDICIAL SPOTLIGHT:

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Robert H. Jackson



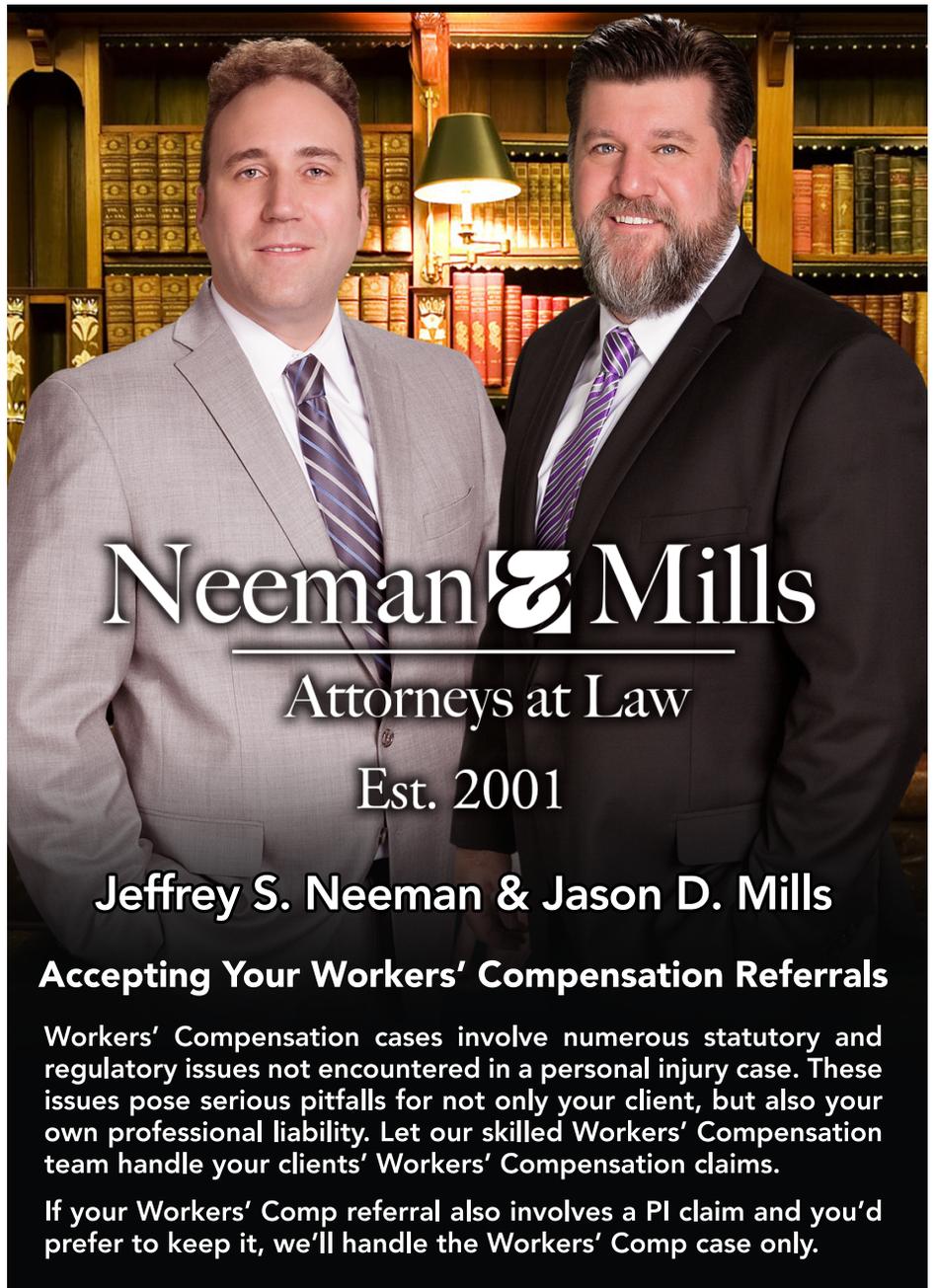
Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division

Each month, I want to call attention to the significant contributions made by lawyers who have played an important role in the Rule of Law. In September, we highlight U.S. Supreme Court Justice Robert H. Jackson.

His appointment as an associate justice to the court fell during a troubled time in U.S. history; he served in this role from 1941 to 1954. In addition to writing the dissenting opinion for *Korematsu v. United States*, Jackson played an instrumental role on the U.S. Supreme Court, making decisions that included civil rights, racial integration and the religious rights of individuals.

He was appointed by President Truman to orchestrate, administer and implement the trials of major Nazi war criminals, serving as the chief U.S. prosecutor at the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg, Germany. During this service he created a trial format utilizing precedents and procedures from four allied nations, and he created terminology for previously undefined felonies, including “crimes against humanity” and “acts of aggression.” **NL**

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