

President's Dinner at the Drake's historic Gold Coast Ballroom



Attendees take in one of the meeting's many CLE offerings.

CLE IS OUR KIND

Highlights from the State Bar of

Towering skyscrapers on one side and a sun-drenched lake on the other: these sights provided a backdrop to the events of the 2018 Annual Meeting, which took place July 12-14 at the historic Drake hotel in Chicago. First-time attendees and regulars alike had opportunities to network, attend educational sessions with world-renowned speakers and enjoy some downtime exploring the Windy City.

Speaker Highlights

The theme of this year's Annual Meeting was "The Rule of Law," and the expert Annual Meeting presenters explored and celebrated the role attorneys play in shaping and supporting the Rule of Law in the U.S..

Thursday: Fascinating Experts Expressed Their Passions

The Annual Meeting's educational roster opened with a plenary session by attorney David Boies, identified by *Time* magazine as "one of the 100 most influential people in the world." In "Defining the Law," Boies drew on his past experience working for government entities, such as the U.S. Senate Antitrust Subcommittee, to explore how attorneys can identify threats to the Rule of Law. He noted during his presentation that disparity between resources can materially affect a case's outcome.

During her session, attorney-turned-filmmaker Susan Saladoff detailed the process of making her documentary, *Hot Coffee*, and even screened the film, about the infamous McDonald's coffee case, during a special lunch-hour presentation. Saladoff was inspired to make the film when the issue of tort reform became part of the national dialogue during various high-profile political elections. "My interest in the film stemmed from my interest in educating the public about the tort process," she said.

The vendor room connected attendees with pro bono opportunities, services, and products.



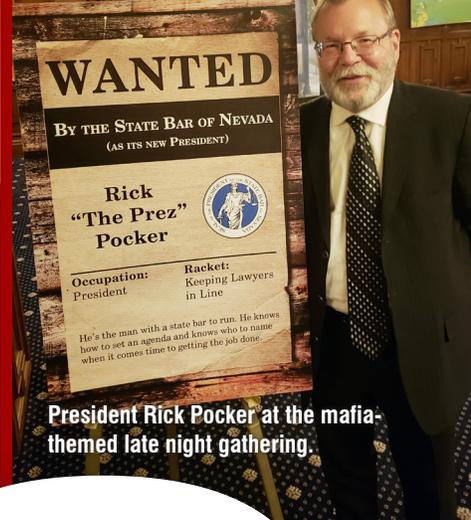
Christopher Guy and Austin Barnum attended the Trial Academy.



All seven justices of the Nevada Supreme Court presented sessions and networked with attorneys at the Annual Meeting, including (left to right) Justices Douglas, Cherry, Stiglich, Parraguirre, Gibbons, Pickering and Hardesty.



Featured speaker Prof. Lorraine Bannai, shown here with past bar president, Gene Leverty, spoke about the U.S. internment of Japanese-Americans during WWII.



President Rick Pocker at the mafia-themed late night gathering.

BAR OF TOWN

Nevada's 2018 Annual Meeting

Professor Lorraine Bannai, director of the Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality at the Seattle University School of Law, gave a passionate presentation on the legal history of the U.S.'s internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II and how it relates to contemporary national conversations. Bannai's parents were placed in internment camps during that war. She remarked that the desire to suspend due process during times of perceived national crisis is "a dangerous idea being given new life."

Additional Thursday sessions included a presentation by the bar's Real Property Section on the regulation of short-term rentals and a presentation by the bar's Litigation Section featuring Justices Mark Gibbons and Kristina Pickering, who

discussed proposed amendments to the Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure. The day's events concluded with a presentation by all seven of Nevada's Supreme Court justices, who discussed recent developments in Nevada's courts and answered previously submitted questions from bar members.

Friday: Exploring Ethics through Enron

After a free morning exploring Chicago's local attractions, Annual Meeting attendees took in a powerful presentation by former Enron CFO, Andrew Fastow. Fastow was candid during his presentation, focusing on the process of differentiating "could" from "should" when evaluating legal loopholes.

Additional Friday sessions included presentations about the Reptile Method, presented by attorneys William Sykes and Matthew Granda, a seminar by the bar's Intellectual Property Section on the I.P. implications of U.S. Supreme Court decisions in 2017 and a review of decisions by the Nevada Court of Appeals presented by Chief Judge Abbi Silver and attorney Robert Eisenberg.

Saturday: Inspirational, Forward-Thinking Presentations

"In order to be a good lawyer, one needs to be a healthy lawyer," said Kristine Kuzemka, as part of a panel of speakers sharing an engaging presentation

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Abran Vigil



Filmmaker and attorney Susan Saladoff



Retired Justice Nancy Saitta emceed the charity brunch honoring retiring Justice Michael Cherry.



Bryan Scott (left) and Paul Matteoni (right)

CHICAGO IS OUR KIND OF TOWN

Highlights from the State Bar of Nevada's 2018 Annual Meeting

on mental health. Panelist Jeffrey Bunn agreed, emphasizing the numerous business reasons for implementing wellness and mindfulness programs at law firms, including recruiting, retention and productivity. Other panelists included Barbara Buckley, executive director of the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, and Chris Newbold of ALPS.

Next, a trio of experts held an engaging and insightful TED-talk-style presentation focusing on the future of law practice. Speaker Dan Dugan explored the way potential clients find attorneys, emphasizing the role of a strong online presence in gaining new business. Dennis Garcia examined the reasons law firms with more diversity are better positioned for success; he quoted another speaker during his presentation, saying, "Diversity is being invited to the party; inclusion is being asked to dance." Clio's Joshua Lennon examined highlights from Clio's Legal Trends Report, noting that the careful use of internet analytics can help attorneys better position themselves in their own specific marketplaces.

Rene Valladares, federal public defender for Nevada, offered attendees a very personal look into how his birth-country of Nicaragua has been adversely impacted by its lack of a strong rule of law. Using a photo-filled slideshow, Valladares contrasted troubling current events in Nicaragua with the U.S.' findings in *Gideon v. Wainwright*. "Indigent defense is a crown jewel of our judicial system," he said. The Annual Meeting wrapped with a humorous and informative session by popular presenter, Prof. Erwin Chemerinsky, Dean of University of California, Berkeley Law; he offered recaps and brief evaluations of some recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions.



State bar past presidents (left to right) Frank Flaherty, Dan Poisenberg, Bryan Scott, Elana Graham, Gene Leverty, Connie Akridge, Hon. Bruce Beesley, John Mowbray and William Curran posed at the red carpet photo stop before the president's dinner.

Honoring Those Who Shape the Legal Profession

It was the State Bar of Nevada's honor to recognize hardworking volunteers who shape the growth of law practice in our state, and contribute their time and effort toward improving the legal profession.

Membership Awards and Swearing-In Ceremony

On Thursday, July 12, the state bar recognized the outstanding achievements of its 2018 Membership Awards recipients, including:

- **Presidential Award:** William E. Peterson
- **Medal of Justice:** Woodburn and Wedge
- **Volunteers of the Year:** National High School Mock Trial Steering Committee and Case Writers
- **Volunteer of the Year:** Richard M. Trachok, II
- **Young Lawyer of the Year:** Jordan Davis

Previous coverage detailing the recipients' achievements is available in the June 2018 issue of *Nevada Lawyer*. Bar members are also invited to view the state bar's YouTube video honoring these deserving attorneys. Find it at: <https://tinyurl.com/y9474kof>.

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Annual meeting guests (l to r, back row) Jim Buttman, Brian Lech, Christine Smith (l to r, front row) Sherell Gronemeier, Ludivia Alexander, Elizabeth Buttman and Dean Gronemeier at the send-off reception.



Gene and Gretchen Leverty (left and center) break the ice with a guest at the Welcome Reception.

BACK BETTER THAN EVER: The Trial Academy

The Trial Academy, presented by the state bar's Young Lawyers Section, continues to be a staple of the Annual Meeting, offering participants an opportunity to hone their trial skills by working in small groups with personal feedback from expert attorneys and practicing judges. These hands-on workshops are greatly beneficial to participants, who receive lessons on various aspects of a trial, and then get to put what they've learned into practice.

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The newly sworn-in Board of Governors included President-Elect Paul Matteoni (left), President Rick Pocker (center), and Vice President Eric Dobberstein (right).

Immediately following the awards ceremony, Chief Justice Michael Douglas conducted the swearing-in of new and reelected members of the Board of Governors (BOG), and new BOG officers (see page 6 for a complete BOG member list). Incoming bar President Richard Pocker concluded the ceremony, emphasizing that, “few accomplishments mean as much to me as this moment right now.”

Justice Cherry Honored by Nevada Bar Foundation; Raised Significant Donations

On Friday, July 13, retiring Nevada Supreme Court Justice Michael Cherry’s significant career received recognition from his family, his peers on the bench and Annual Meeting attendees, during a special brunch in Cherry’s honor. Moderated by retired Justice Nancy Saitta, who shared personal stories about working with Cherry, the brunch also raised significant funds to bolster the Nevada Bar Foundation’s charitable giving and access to justice.

Supporting pro bono is one of Cherry’s passions, noted Chief Justice Michael Douglas, who spoke at the brunch. “Liberty and justice for all,” he said. “That’s what pro bono is all about, liberty and justice for all.” After the presentation, Cherry made a personal donation to the Nevada Bar Foundation and invited Annual Meeting attendees to do the same. Thanks to Cherry’s generous coordination, more than \$26,000 was pledged by the meeting’s end.



Featured speaker Daivid Boies educated attorneys on how to spot threats to the rule of law.



Court of Appeals Chief Judge Abbi Silver provided an overview of the court’s progress in 2017.

Celebrating in Style: the President’s Dinner

Friday night was the capstone of the Annual Meeting, highlighted by an elegant evening in the Drake Hotel’s historic Gold Coast ballroom. Attendees, dressed to the nines, enjoyed a reception and a red-carpet-style entrance to the dinner. Recipients of the Membership Awards expressed their gratitude for the recognition and reaffirmed the supportive mentorships they’ve received during their years as bar members. Immediate Past President Gene Leverty was the emcee, handing off the microphone to bar President Richard Pocker, who emphasized the exceptional work of the state bar’s Board of Governors. The evening concluded with dancing in the hotel’s gorgeous ballroom.

Other events that fostered socializing and networking took place during the week, including a “break the ice” themed welcome reception, a humorous mafia-themed late night gathering, and a variety of meals and networking breaks. **NL**



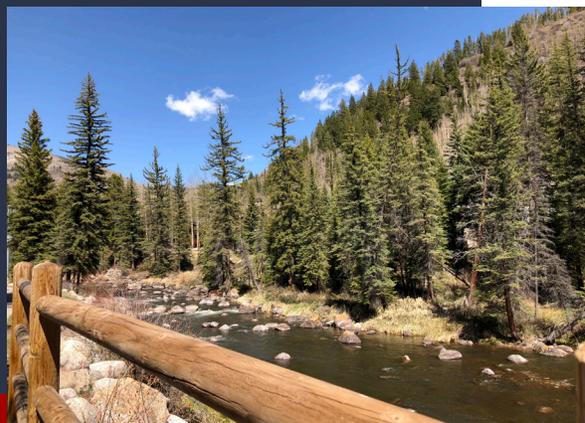
(Left to right) Kari Stephens, Dan Polsenberg, John Aldrich and Catherine Mazzeo enjoying one of the event’s many networking receptions.



Real Property Section members Hon. Barry Breslow, Gayle Kern, Cherl Hauer and Michael Burke discussed HOA developments and short-term rentals.

See You Next Year in Vail!

Missed the 2018 Annual Meeting? Join us next year in lovely Vail, Colorado. Save the date: June 26-29, 2019. Many of the 2018 Annual Meeting’s seminars are now available for purchase as video presentations. Browse the selection at www.nvbar.org/clecatalog.



Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors and exhibitors, the State Bar of Nevada was able to offer excellent programming and social events at the Annual Meeting this year.

Please join us in expressing gratitude for their invaluable contributions.

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- Fellows of the American Bar Association: Evening Send-off
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- University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law: President's Dinner, Dine Around
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