



Business Immigration Law CLE webcast
Free for CCBA members on Jan 19, 2023!
See page 18

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The Pro Bono Issue

DECEMBER 2022

A photograph of four people—three men and one woman—standing in a room with tall wooden bookshelves filled with law books. They are all dressed in professional business attire (suits and a blazer). The man on the far left has glasses and a beard. The man in the center is bald. The woman on the far right has blonde hair. The woman on the far left has curly blonde hair. They are all smiling at the camera.

Accessing Justice in Southern Nevada

Featured inside

CCBA President's Message
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CCBA Election Information
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View from the Bench
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Legal Aid Center of Southern
Nevada
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Southern Nevada Senior Law
Program
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Lost Vagrants Need You!
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Federal Pro Bono Program
See page 30



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DECEMBER 2022

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On the cover

Diane Fearon, Magistrate Judge Cam Ferenbach, Michael Wendlberger, and Yrene Chavez. Photo courtesy of Stephanie Abbott.

CCBA Memberships Expire on December 31.

If you have yet to renew for the 2023 Membership year, please do so now. It's easy!

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For more information about our publication's editorial calendar, deadlines, editorial policy, author guidelines, ad rates, ad specifications, and deadlines, contact the publisher at Clark County Bar Association, 717 S. 8th Street, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89101-7006. Phone: (702) 387-6011.

Editorial Calendar

Cover Date	Topic of Articles	Closing Date
January 2023	Five Things	12/1/2022
February 2023	Civil Rights	1/2/2023
March 2023	Sports Law	2/1/2023
April 2023	Administrative Law	3/1/2023
May 2023	Natural Resources	4/1/2023
June/July 2023	Membership Matters	5/1/2023
August 2023	Real Estate	7/1/2023
September 2023	Legislative Wrap-up	8/1/2023
October 2023	Gig Economy	9/1/2023
November 2023	Gaming Law	10/2/2023
December 2023	Pro Bono	11/1/2023

*The combined June/July issue will be released in June. The editorial calendars, schedules, editorial policies, and writer's guidelines for the *Communiqué* are subject to change without notice.

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Correction to 40 Year Club

Please note that Gloria O'Malley was incorrectly listed as an inductee for the 40 Year Club for 2022. She was not admitted to practice in 1982. Her date of admission has been corrected in the CCBA's member database. The CCBA's staff is truly sorry for the error and any inconvenience it may have caused. For more information about the 40 Year Club 2022, see page 9. **C**

Bar Activities

Communiqué Editors Needed

CCBA members are invited to join the CCBA's Publications Committee. The Publications Committee produces *Communiqué*, the official publication of the Clark County Bar Association. Bar members are invited to get involved and volunteer to plan the editorial calendar, write, recruit authors, and copy edit each publication. Typically, the Publications Committee will meet at noon on the second Friday of the month. For more information and to RSVP, contact Stephanie at the CCBA office at (702) 387-6011. **C**



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Three Thoughts for Success

By *Nedda Ghandi, Esq.*

Since this is my last message to you before the end of my term, I feel compelled to give you some important and meaningful advice. I once attended a CLE with a nationally known trial lawyer. The expert trial lawyer said that in any closing argument we should tell the jury three things — not two, not four, but three. He assured the attendees that arguing three points to the jury would be the secret to our success. While I have yet to attempt this practice in trial, I find myself inspired by the advice now. I leave you with these three thoughts:

1. Think long, not short.

I recently read that one of the issues faced by corporations and small businesses is the failure to see beyond the current quarter in assessing profits or value. This overreliance on management by quarterly profit statements results in the failure to anticipate or to adequately plan for the future. This same trend often occurs in our law firms. Not everything of value can be measured or counted. In trying to make the most money we can right now, we deemphasize, or ignore all together, some really important processes — mentoring, training, diversity, culture, collegiality, service, commitment to the community. These non-financial lessons should be facilitated and valued as much as monetary compensation. The more established lawyers in the bar merit fair compensation, but they also need to give back and to return to doing what makes this a noble profession. In doing so, we inject value into the upcoming lawyers and only serve to better our profession.



Nedda Ghandi, Esq. is a partner with Ghandi Deeter Blackham Law Office. Nedda's primary practice area involves bankruptcy for both individual and business debtors. She also litigates complex family law cases that often involve family-owned businesses or complicated financial battles. Nedda serves as the president of the Clark County Bar Association through December 2022.

2. Find a passion outside of the practice of law.

Find something beyond your strict legal work that engages you. I am often asked what makes a good lawyer. While I can't provide the entire list of qualities necessary in this president's message, part of the answer includes being engaged in something bigger than one's self. Being engaged in something that you feel passionate about will help give you purpose. It will energize you in your private life and give you space for renewal and growth. Pour yourself into your passion. You will find purpose. You will be a better lawyer because of it.

3. Have fun and connect with people.

I feel as if the pandemic sucked much of the life out of the practice of law and it has been a slow but steady return to making the practice of law thrive again. We need to interact with real people, live, on a daily basis. The Zoom/Teams/WebEx meetings we've endured are purely transactional with none of the post-court banter or connection. While I understand that some remote proceedings will persist in the future, I hope that in-person human interaction will persist as well. Most of us went to law school to help people. We are a people profession. Let's remember our roots. Bring back the fun.

So there you have my three things. Thank you for the incredible privilege and honor you have given me to serve you. A special thank you to all of the staff at the CCBA who have made this experience enjoyable. I wish you all the best. Cheers. ☺



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CCBA President-Elect Brandon Kemble, Las Vegas Raiders President Sandra Douglass Morgan, and CCBA President Nedda Ghandi.

Bar Luncheon Hightlights

Over 140 people registered to attend the Clark County Bar Luncheon featuring Sandra Douglass Morgan on October 26, 2022. The special event was held at Piero's Italian Cuisine and sponsored by Bank of Nevada, Cusick Insurance Brokers, Dillon Health, and First Legal.

CCBA President Nedda Ghandi welcomed guests and introduced the representatives from sponsoring businesses:

- Sarah Guindy from Bank of Nevada
- Marcus Cusick from Cusick Insurance Brokers
- Michael Dillon from Dillon Health
- John Burke from First Legal

Nedda greeted and thanked Sandra Douglass Morgan, President of Las Vegas Raiders, for taking the time to greet colleagues and share highlights from her career.

Special thanks to CCBA President-Elect Brandon Kemble for reaching out to Sandra and inviting her to participate. Special thanks to all who attended the October bar luncheon.

Bar members are invited to attend the next luncheon event. The 40 Year Club Luncheon & Annual Meeting, sponsored by Bank of Nevada and First Legal, will be held on Thursday, December 8, 2022. For more information and to RSVP, contact Donna Wiessner at Donnaw@clarkcountybar.org, (702) 387-6011. **e**

Special thanks to
October Bar Luncheon
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40 Year Club Luncheon

The CCBA will be hosting the 40 Year Club Luncheon & Annual Meeting, sponsored by Bank of Nevada and First Legal on Thursday, December 8, 2022. Master of Ceremonies and CCBA Past President ('93) Daniel Polsenberg will invite inductees and honorees to share anecdotes from their career. See below for names of inductees and honorees for this year's 40 Year Club.

Inductees (Admitted 1982):

- **Jeffrey Albregts** of Jeffrey R. Albregts, LLC
- **Thomas Davis, II** of Howard & Howard Attorneys PLLC
- **John Swendseid** of Sherman & Howard LLC
- **Mark Goldstein** of Bailey Kennedy, LLP
- **D. Lanny Waite**
- **George Bochanis** of George T. Bochanis, Ltd.
- **Paul Eisinger** of Thorndal Armstrong Delk Balkenbush & Eisinger
- **Harry Gensler** of Harry R Gensler, Attorney at Law
- **Harry Marquis** of Harry Paul Marquis, Chtd.
- **Daniel O'Brien**

- **Daniel Polsenberg** of Lewis Roca
- **Bruce Schupp** of Bruce D. Schupp, Chtd.
- **James Patrick Shea** of Shea Larsen
- **Thomas Sheets** of Thomas R Sheets, Attorney at Law
- **Andrew Urban, Jr.** of Andrew J. Urban, Chtd.
- **Michael Villani**
- **Marshal Willick** of Willick Law Group

Honorees (Admitted 1977):

- **Laurence Speiser** of Laurence A. Speiser, Ltd.
- **Phillip Aurbach** of Marquis Aurbach, Chtd.
- **Edward Bernstein** of Edward M. Bernstein & Associates
- **Martin Kravitz** of Kravitz Schnitzer & Johnson, Chtd.

40 Year Club *continued on page 10*

Clark County Bar Association

40 YEAR CLUB LUNCHEON

& Annual Meeting

December 8, 2022

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CCBA Election December 8, 2022

Bar members are invited to vote for members to serve on the CCBA Board of Directors on Thursday, December 8, 2022.

Polling information:

Attorney members may cast their ballot electronically by visiting <https://clarkcountybar.org> on December 8, 2022.

Absentee ballot information:

Attorney members who cannot submit a ballot on December 8, 2022 (as outlined above), may mail, fax, or email a completed absentee ballot declaration and a ballot during a period of five (5) business days preceding the date of the Clark County Bar Luncheon and Annual Meeting to Clark County Bar Association, 717 S. 8th Street, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89101, Fax (702) 387-7867, or email Executive Director Donna Wiessner at DonnaW@ClarkCountyBar.org.

Declarations and ballots will be available from the CCBA's website as an electronic file to download from <https://clarkcountybar.org>, and upon request from the CCBA.

40 Year Club *continued from page 9*

- Sally Loehrer
- Justice Kristina Pickering of Nevada Supreme Court
- Bradley Richardson of Nye County District Attorney's Office
- David Stoebling of Law Office of David Stoebling

Honorees (Admitted 1972):

- Paul Hejmanowski of Hejmanowski & McCrea LLC
- William Jansen
- K. Michael Leavitt of Law Offices of K. Michael Leavitt
- John O'Reilly of O'Reilly Law Group, LLC
- J. Stephen Peek of Holland & Hart LLP
- Richard Wright of Wright Marsh & Levy

Honorees (Admitted 1967):

- Jerome Blut of Jerome L. Blut, Chtd.
- Jeffrey Shaner of Jeffrey Ian Shaner, Ltd.
- John Thorndal of Thorndal Armstrong Delk Balkenbush & Eisinger

Honorees (Admitted 1962):

- Robert List of Jolley Urga Woodbury & Holthus

Also, this special event will feature the 2023 CCBA Board election, a plated lunch. For more information and to RSVP, contact Donna Wiessner at Donnaw@clarkcountybar.org, (702) 387-6011. **e**



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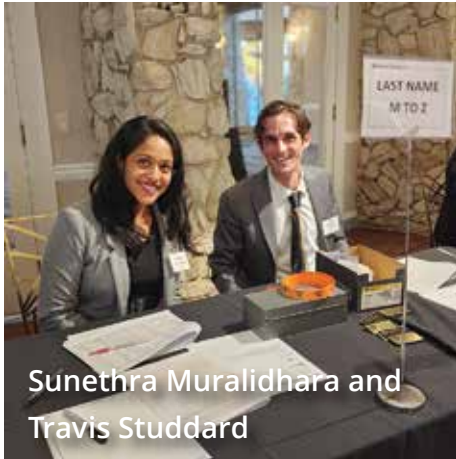
Mixer Highlights



Josh Dresslove and Christena Georgas-Burns



Niesha Esene, Jacquelyn Franco, UNLV Law Dean Leah Grinvald, and Paul Lal



Sunethra Muralidhara and Travis Studdard



Jackson Wong and Christina Carl



Ret. Judge Mark Gibbons and Eighth Judicial District Court Judge Joe Hardy



James Leavitt and Atif Sheikh



Michael Wendlberger and Niesha Esene



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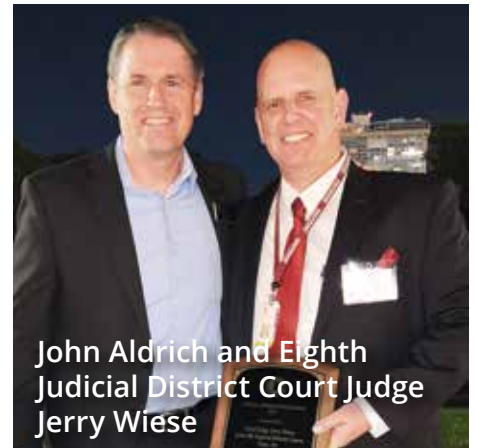
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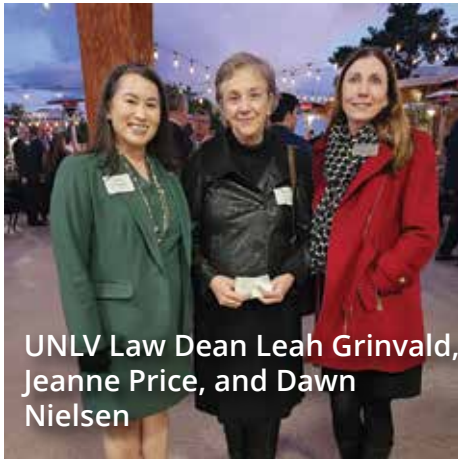
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Jason Fisher, Ann Koorndyk, and Montgomery Park



John Aldrich and Eighth Judicial District Court Judge Jerry Wiese



UNLV Law Dean Leah Grinvald, Jeanne Price, and Dawn Nielsen



Eighth Judicial District Court Judge Adriana Escobar and Nevada Supreme Court Justice Elissa Cadish



Brandon Kemble, Alicia Ashcraft, and Ariel Williams



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Mixer Highlights



Judge Jerry Wiese, John Aldrich, Tom Winner, and Eighth Judicial District Court Rhonda Forsberg



Heidi and Ariel Stern and Eighth Judicial District Court Judge Tara Newberry



Karen Eddington and Las Vegas Muni Court Judge Shannon Nordstrom



Las Vegas Justice Court Judge Cybil Dotson, Jacquelyn Franco, and Andrew Craner



Mel Grimes, Judge Lydia-Krall, Adam Garz, and Jason-Stoffel



Savera Sandhu and Art Goldberg



Josh Dresslove, Adrianna Acuna, Carmen Ramirez



Marjorie Hauf, Dee Hardeep, and Judge Mary Kay Holthus



Eighth Judicial District Court Judge Maria Gall, Deborah Westbook, Jaime, David Westbrook, Larry and Athena Hill, Armita Hashemi, Sean O'Callaghan, Victoria Cabrales-Salinas, and Kate Espinosa.



U.S. District Court Judge Cristina Silva, EJDC Judge Tierra Jones, and Diane Fearon



Ann Koorndyk and Montgomery Paek



David Wall and Paola Armeni



John Fortin, Kiley Harrison, and Raja-Dhungana



Paul Ray, Alex Fayad, and Jessica Fayad



David and Deborah Westbook and Stephen Smith



Karen Eddington and Denise Ramos



Mike Rosten and Rebecca Miller

Business Immigration Law CLE Program Free for CCBA Members on January 19, 2023

Pricing of the live event is included with the 2023 CCBA membership.

On January 19, 2023, Las Vegas immigration attorney Margo Chernysheva will make a special presentation for the continuing legal education of Nevada lawyers in a program produced by the Clark County Bar Association and sponsored by Bank of Nevada and Las Vegas Legal Video.

Margo is the Owner of MC Law Group and works with employers, investors, families, and immigrants who are seeking visas, permanent U.S. residency, asylum status, and naturalized U.S. citizenship.

Margo earned her first undergraduate degree in music from Tchaikovsky Music College and her second dual Bachelor degrees in Economics and International Business from Quinnipiac College. She earned her J.D. from the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Margo is a certified Immigration Law Specialist by the California State Bar of Examiners and is a Chair of the Fee Dispute Committee at the Nevada State Bar. She is fluent in Russian and Armenian, and her staff is fluent in a variety of European languages.

She is a President-emeritus of the Nevada chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and she was named one of the Ten Best Immigration Attorneys for 2018-2020 by the American Institute of Legal Counsel.

Her extensive background in immigration law enables her to effectively assist U.S.-based employers, international investors, immigration court defendants, those seeking Investor visas and employment sponsorship as well as waivers of inadmissibility, and those who need visas for fiancées and family members.

She will present “Five Reasons You Should Refer an International Client to Consult a Business Immigration Attorney” and discuss matters relevant to:

- Business Management
- Working/Schooling/Investing
- Changing Status
- Criminal Charges
- Tax Liabilities

This program is produced by Kathia Quiros of GWP Immigration Law and the CCBA's CLE Committee. CCBA's CLE programs are sponsored by the Bank of Nevada and Las Vegas Legal Video.

The presentation will offer 1.0 CLE credit (NV) to CCBA members only online via Zoom, from 12:00 to 1:15 p.m., Thursday, January 19, 2023. Pricing of the live webcast event is included with the 2023 CCBA membership. CCBA membership will be verified upon RSVP. During the event, attendance will be



Margo Chernysheva

taken and only those members in attendance will have their attendance reported to the NV CLE Board.

The event will be recorded for use in the CCBA's audio/visual library. The recorded versions of the program will be offered for rental use at a small fee (to cover administrative costs).

For more information and to RSVP for this event, contact Donna Wiessner at Donnaw@clarkcountybar.org, (702) 387-6011. **G**

CCBA's CLE programming sponsors



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Kristine Kuzemka and Justice Kristina Pickering



Estrella Martinez, Eden Farley, Elizabeth Gaytan



James Jimmerson, Alice Denton, and Eighth Judicial District Court Judge Mark Denton



Heather Anderson-Fintak, TPO Hearing Master Jonathan Cooper, and Henderson Muni Court Judge Alicia Albritton

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Court News

Administrative Order 22-12

On October 24, 2022, the Eighth Judicial District Court filed an order in the administrative matter of election-related actions filed on November 8, 2022. See Administrative Order 22-12.

Administrative Order #22-09

On November 10, 2022, the Las Vegas Justice Court filed an order in the administrative matter regarding fees imposed by the Justice Court of the Las Vegas Township. See Administrative Order #22-09. The order includes an updated schedule of fees that shall be charged by the Las Vegas Justice Court for purposes related to all court divisions, civil actions, civil traffic infractions, small claims, summary evictions, and specialty court

participation. Additionally, the court orders for the prepayment of fees if demanded by the Clerk of the Court, "but such fees may be waived upon the granting of a properly filed Motion to Proceed in Forma Pauperis." The order is effective November 10, 2022.

Administrative Order 22-08

On October 26, 2022, the Las Vegas Justice Court filed an order in the administrative matter of public access to Las Vegas Justice Court Administrative Records and Court Records. See Administrative Order #22-08. The order seeks to improve the process for members of the public seeking administrative and court records. Per the order, "Las Vegas Justice Court shall implement the Policy on Public Access to administrative Records and the Policy on Public Access to Court Records and rescinds Administrative Order #2004-PR-1 and Administrative

Order #2007-1." Administrative Order #22-08 became effective October 31, 2022. For more information, visit <https://www.lasvegasjusticecourt.us/index.php>.

Business Court Bench-Bar Meeting

When: Thursday, January 12, 2023, Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Where: Courtroom 16A at the Regional Justice Center, 200 Lewis Ave, Las Vegas, Nevada. Additionally, the meeting will be streamed live at <http://www.clarkcountycourts.us/>.

What: The program will include a half hour CLE on Bankruptcy will be offered by local attorneys and moderated by Emily Buchwald. Pisanelli Bice is the luncheon sponsor.

Civil Bench Bar Meeting

When: Tuesday, December 13, 2022, noon to 1:00 p.m.

Where: Online via Zoom

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What: Special Holiday Happenings event. Also, learn what's happening at the court and discuss any modifications of processes in the civil department. For more info, send inquiries to EJDCBenchBar@gmail.com.

Las Vegas Justice Court Judges' Meeting

When: January 11, 2023, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Where: Regional Justice Center, Courtroom 1A. This is an in-person meeting.

Who: Bar members interested in administration of cases at the Las Vegas Justice Court.

Proposals Sought for Public Attorney for Indigent Defendants

The Las Vegas Municipal Court invites qualified firms or individuals

to submit written proposals for consideration as an alternate Public Attorney for Indigent Defendants. The City of Las Vegas intends to establish a pre-qualified list of public attorneys for each of seven municipal court departments located at the Las Vegas Municipal Courthouse, 100 E. Clark Avenue. If you are interested, please send an email to Pamela Hoffman, Purchasing Division, City of Las Vegas, phoffman@lasvegasnevada.gov, or call (702) 229-6006.

Public Hearing in Re North Las Vegas Justice Court Rules Relating to Traffic Violations Scheduled for December 22

On November 4, 2022, the Supreme Court of Nevada filed an order in the matter of the enactment of local rules for the North Las Vegas Justice Court relating to traffic violations. See

ADKT 0605. The Nevada Supreme Court will conduct a public hearing on the petition on December 22, 2022, at 3:00 p.m., in the Nevada Supreme Court Courtroom, 201 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. The hearing will be videoconferenced with the Nevada Supreme Court Courtroom, 408 East Clark Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada.

The court invites written comment from the bench, bar, and public regarding the proposed amendments. Comments may be submitted to Elizabeth A. Brown, Clerk of the Supreme Court, 201 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada, 89701, by 5:00 p.m., December 15, 2022. Comments may be submitted to the court in hard-copy format or electronically to nvscclerk@nvcourts.nv.gov. Persons interested in participating in the hearing must notify the clerk no later than December 15, 2022. **C**

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Peering into the Crystal Ball for 2023

By Judge Melissa Saragosa

Significant changes are coming to the Las Vegas Justice Court in the new year. First, we welcome our new incoming Chief Judge, Judge Cynthia Cruz. Several additional changes will take place with our case assignments and court structure. We will be increasing our civil departments from two to three. These three departments will equally split all civil actions, formal unlawful detainers, and small claims. As such, litigants may see a reassignment of pending cases to allow for even case distribution among the departments.


While we will maintain special case assignments for DUI cases and domestic violence cases, we will be piloting a new special case assignment wherein all cases involving allegations of criminal activity in the resort corridor surrounding Las Vegas Boulevard and Fremont Street will be assigned to a single criminal department. The remaining seven criminal departments will continue to be assigned general criminal cases not otherwise identified for special assignment.

Significant changes will also take place with the implementation of Assembly Bill 116 from the 2021 legislative session involving traffic offenses. Contrary to common belief, not all traffic offenses will become civil infractions in January 2023. In fact, a large number of traffic violations will remain criminal misdemeanors. For traffic civil infractions, litigants and attorneys will be required to utilize the Justice Court's Online Traffic Resolution Platform, often referred to as "Matterhorn." This same platform should be used to resolve traffic citations involving insurance, registration, license, or handicap-parking violations by uploading documentation. However, criminal traffic citations will

no longer be available on the online

platform and will not be handled at the customer-service windows. These criminal citations will be assigned to criminal departments and the appearance date and time on the citation will be calendared as the arraignment date with a mandatory appearance by the defendant or counsel.

Finally, we are excited to announce the launch of an eviction diversion program in collaboration with Clark County Social Services and multiple community partners. The program is designed to identify tenants qualifying for specific resources and services early in the eviction process to avoid preventable evictions and reduce the county's costs associated with evictions.

It has been an honor to serve as Chief Judge for the past two years. I look forward to the court's continued evolution and growth in 2023. 



Judge Melissa Saragosa was appointed to Las Vegas Justice Court Department 4 in 2006.

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DANCER PHOTO BY BILL HUGHES

Accessing Justice: Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada

By Michael Wendlberger, Esq.

Legal Aid Center's mission is "The preservation of access to justice and the provision of quality legal counsel, advice and representation for individuals who are unable to protect their rights because they cannot afford an attorney." To accomplish this mission, Legal Aid Center relies on staff and pro bono attorneys to provide direct representation to clients in need.

Legal Aid Center represents clients in consumer matters, including bankruptcies, foreclosures, payday title loans, auto repair disputes, auto fraud, small probates, gaming card denials, landlord-tenant issues, and record sealing.

Our Family Justice Project helps survivors of domestic violence with temporary protective orders, custody, divorce, asylum, DACA, and VAWA.

Our Guardianship Project represents adults and minors under guardianship, providing a voice to the voiceless. Similarly, our Children's Attorneys Project represents children in dependency court. Giving children support and a voice in their future.

Our Vegas Strong Resiliency Center provides representation and support to survivors of violent crime.

Legal Aid Center runs the Civil Law Self-Help Center and the Family Law Self-Help Center. These centers provide legal information and forms to pro se litigants.

Legal Aid Center runs the Civil Law Self-Help Center and the Family Law Self-Help Center.

In addition to direct representation, Legal Aid Center offers free Ask-A-Lawyer consultations to the community in family law, tenant rights, small claims, probate, and debt collection.

Legal Aid Center's partnership with the Boyd School of Law provides free legal education classes open to the public.

Our Pro Bono Department offers opportunities in these areas and our Federal and Appellate Pro Bono Programs. We cannot do this alone. Please help us on our mission of providing access to justice to those in need. **G**



Michael Wendlberger, Esq. is the Director of the Pro Bono Project at Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada. The Pro Bono Project pairs volunteer attorneys with screened clients in the areas of family, consumer, landlord tenant, civil rights, immigration, bankruptcy, and other areas of law. Interested attorneys should contact Michael at 702 386-1429 or mwendlberger@lacsnsn.org.

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Accessing Justice: Southern Nevada Senior Law Program


By Diane Fearon

Southern Nevada Senior Law Program/SLP is a non-profit law firm providing no-cost services to seniors aged 60 years and over in Southern Nevada. Our clients have an average age of 73 and are either low income or fixed income households. We offer quality legal assistance in selected areas of law, some of which are:

- **Basic Estate Planning** – Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare, Wills, Homesteads
- **Eviction Management** – Our attorneys ensure that the full due process is followed by landlords and that the maximum amount of time is available to resolve a seniors housing status.
- **Social Security Issues** – We advocate on behalf of seniors who are abruptly hit with a demand for full repayment of overpayments they did not even know they had received years ago.
- **Consumer Matters** – We help victims of fraud and/or deceptive practices and provide education on preventing being a victim of a scam.
- **Long Term Care Facility/Wrongful Discharges** – Our attorneys evaluate the case documentation to ensure that attempted discharges with no identified next placement have met the required standards of notice and justification.

Our clients have an average age of 73 and are either low income or fixed income households.

- **Landlord/Tenant and HOA Issues** – We carefully review the facts and documents of disputes between a senior tenant or homeowner and the entity responsible for legal treatment and habitable space so that our client is not denied access to justice.
- **Elder Abuse/Exploitation** – Our attorneys evaluate the situation a vulnerable senior is in to assess whether there is abuse or exploitation taking place and then coordinate a response with Adult Protective Services.

SLP empowers seniors through no-cost, quality legal services to ensure access to justice for older adults with the greatest economic and social needs. More information at snslp.org. 



Diane Fearon joined Southern Nevada Senior Law Program (SLP) as Executive Director in January 2021. She has an extensive background in professional services and nonprofit management. Developing the SLP Senior Advocates Pro Bono Program has been a priority and SLP is pleased to have connected with so many caring volunteers.

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Accessing Justice: Nevada Legal Services

By Yrene Chavez

Nevada Legal Services is Nevada's only statewide nonprofit legal aid organization providing free legal assistance and representation to residents in all 17 counties. With a mission to strengthen the community by ensuring fairness and providing equal access to justice for low-income Nevadans, NLS serves the State's urban and rural residents both virtually and in-person through its five office locations and numerous outreach events.

Nevada Legal Services' eight practice units offer assistance to eligible residents with a wide variety of civil legal problems affecting their lives. NLS advocates provide advice and representation concerning tenant's rights matters, eviction defense, subsidized housing issues (e.g. Section 8, HUD-VASH, public housing, LIHTC, etc.), challenging wrongful denials or terminations of public benefits (e.g. SNAP, TANF, SSI, Medicaid, etc.), unemployment insurance benefit and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance issues, gaming card denials, consumer matters, bankruptcy, foreclosure defense, veterans' issues, sealing eligible criminal records and eviction records, legal name and gender marker changes, issues affecting people living with HIV/AIDS, tribal law, farmworkers' rights, and more. Additionally, Nevada Legal Services' pro bono department coordinates recurring Ask-A-Lawyer events and private pro bono case placement, primarily in the areas of family law, guardianship, probate, simple estate planning, employment discrimination, immigration (U-Visa and VAWA), and special education. The pro bono department also re-

Nevada Legal Services is Nevada's only statewide nonprofit legal aid organization providing free legal assistance and representation to residents in all 17 counties.

cently launched an innovative new program embedding staff at Myrtle Tate Elementary School, a Title I school in Las Vegas, to facilitate access to pro bono legal services for families in need.

Potential clients can request assistance by completing an intake application online at www.nevadalegalservices.org, calling 702-386-0404, or visiting the nearest Nevada Legal Services office. To be eligible for assistance, potential clients generally must meet relevant income restrictions and be a U.S. Citizen or provide proof of eligible legal immigration status. Self-help materials and community legal education classes are open to all. **■**

Yrene Chavez is the Pro Bono Coordinator for Nevada Legal Services' southern Nevada operations. To learn about upcoming events and volunteer opportunities, email info@nevadalegalservices.org or call 702-386-0404.

Lost Vagrants Need You!

By John C. Courtney, Esq.

Photography by Fred Morledge - PhotoM.com - 2022

Formed during the pandemic, Lost Vagrants is a local rock band with a mission to raise awareness and money to help Southern Nevada's homeless population. Since the first live show in January of 2022, Lost Vagrants have been packing local venues.

The members of Lost Vagrants have never made any profit from their shows or merchandise sales. The members include four Clark County attorneys and a drummer married to one: Bradley Myers (The702Firm), Thomas Beckom (Eglet Adams), Ryan Hamilton (Hamilton Law), Shane Snell (married to Vanessa Goulet of Goulet Law, and founder of Black Mountain Technologies) and John Courtney (LBC Law Group).

Lost Vagrants are recruiting partners and sponsors to raise money for a charitable event in 2023. Lost Vagrants have partnered with Nevermore Productions to secure a venue. Taverna Costera, a new downtown Las Vegas restaurant and live music venue and Nevada Legal Services have teamed up to help promote this charitable event. Local bands such as Velvet Chains, 90 Proof and Divided by Stereo (featuring Nevada attorney Brian Boyer) are on board as well. But, we need more. Our homeless population needs more. We need you.

As attorneys, we cannot ignore the homelessness we see almost every day. We have a serious problem. Join us in being part of the solution. Please contact John Courtney at JCC@LBCLawGroup.com to find out how you might be able to help as either a sponsor or promoter. We also invite you to join our planning committee. Let's make this charitable event something very special for those most vulnerable people in our community.

In the meantime, you can visit www.lostvagrants.com/ contribute to make a difference today. Next shows: Rockstar Bar on January 14th, and Sand Dollar Downtown (in the Plaza Hotel) on January 28th. Rock on! 🎸



John C. Courtney, Esq. is the co-founder of Blakesley Courtney, P.C. (dba LBC Law Group) and Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Nevada Legal Services.

The Federal Pro Bono Program

The Federal Pro Bono Program is a program in the District of Nevada which allows the court to appoint pro bono (unpaid) counsel for unrepresented, income-eligible litigants in certain civil cases. At any time during the course of a case, an assigned judge may refer the case to the program for appointment of a pro bono attorney. The judges look at a variety of factors before selecting the cases to be considered for pro bono counsel, including the pro se (unrepresented) litigant's ability to obtain counsel, the merits of the case, and the type of complexity of the case. The referrals are then sent to either Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada (for cases in Clark County or Southern Nevada) or Washoe Legal Services (for cases in Wash-

If the litigant qualifies, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada or Washoe Legal Services will attempt to find a pro bono lawyer to participate in the case.

oe County or Northern Nevada), which then screen the litigant for financial eligibility. If the litigant qualifies, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada or Washoe Legal Ser-



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vices will attempt to find a pro bono lawyer to participate in the case. If the litigant agrees to be represented by the lawyer, the judge will order the appointment. The District of Nevada's General Order 2019-07 has more information on the program and the process.

For Pro Se Litigants

The federal judge decides if he or she wants to refer your case for the appointment of a pro bono lawyer through the Federal Pro Bono Program. You cannot apply for the referral yourself; the judge will determine if a referral is appropriate once your case has started. If you are looking for more information on representing yourself, visit the District of Nevada's Pro Se page, review the Pro Se Assistance Packet, visit Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada to get more information on the Federal Ask-A-Lawyer Program, visit Nevada Legal Services to get more information on their Ask-A-Lawyer programs and forms clinics; or visit Washoe Legal Services for more information on the Federal Ask-A-Lawyer Clinic. 📍

Source: <https://www.nvd.uscourts.gov/self-help/pro-bono-self-help/> (11/16/2022).

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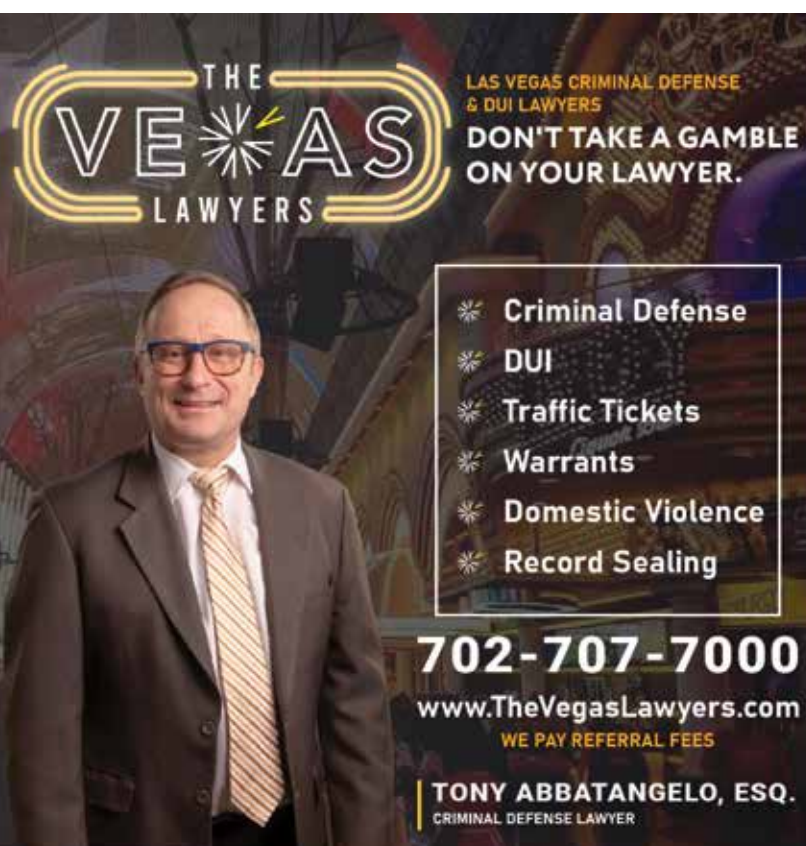


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At 28 years old, Tony became the youngest attorney ever elected to a judgeship in Nevada history. As a judge, Tony presided over thousands of criminal cases and gained tremendous insights into the legal process, including what it takes to win cases. Since leaving "the bench," he has distinguished himself in private practice as a go-to attorney for other lawyers, celebrities, executives and community leaders.

A skilled negotiator and trial attorney, Tony has delivered outstanding results for clients facing significant criminal charges. When there's a law on the line, Get Tony and the Vegas Lawyers.

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