

The Pro Bono Issue

October 2025

Lunchtime Learning CLE Programs

Free for CCBA members Oct. 2, 9, 22, 24, Nov. 13 and 19, 2025

Pages 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 18



COMMUNIQUE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CLARK COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

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COMMUNIQUE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CLARK COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

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NEVADA BALLET THEATRE PRESENTS

Romeo & Juliet

MUSIC BY **SERGEI PROKOFIEV**

CHOREOGRAPHY BY **JAMES CANFIELD**

OCTOBER 17-19, 2025



NBT



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Photo by Virginia Trudeau.

"Rarely does perfection come along and you know it when it does."

Critical Dance

COMMUNIQUÉ


THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CLARK COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

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Communiqué is published eleven times per year with an issue published monthly, except for July, by the CCBA, 717 S. 8th Street, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101-7006. Phone: (702) 387-6011. *Communiqué* is mailed to all paid members of CCBA, with subscriptions available to non-members for \$75.00 per year.

Communiqué accepts advertisements from numerous sources and makes no independent investigation or verification of any claim or statement made in the advertisement. All articles,

letters, and advertisements contained in this publication represent the views of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Clark County Bar Association, the CCBA Publications Committee, the editorial board, or the other authors. All legal and other issues discussed are not for the purpose of answering specific legal questions. Attorneys and others are strongly advised to independently research all issues.

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. Email: editor@clarkcountybar.org. 

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Communiqué Editorial Calendar

Cover Date	Topic	Closing Date
November 2025	Mental Health	10/1/2025
December 2025	Science & Technology	11/1/2025
January 2026	Five Things	12/1/2025
February 2026	Bankruptcy Law	1/2/2026
March 2026	Law Practice Management	2/1/2026
April 2026	Family Law	3/1/2026
May 2026	Labor & Employment Law	4/1/2026
June/July 20256	Ethics	5/1/2026
August 2026	Land Use Law	7/1/2026
September 2026	Discovery	8/1/2026
October 2026	Pro Bono	9/1/2026
November 2026	Appellate Law	10/1/2026

*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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Bar Services

Communiqué Advertising Special Offers Expire December 1, 2025

Special offers* are available for new ad placement orders completed from September 1 to December 1, 2025:

- **Buy 3 Ads, Get 1 Free** – Purchase 3 new ads and get the 4th free!
- **Complimentary Ad Design** – Available with purchase of a new ad!

For more information and to request a quote, contact Stephanie at StephanieAbbott@clarkcountybar.org, (702) 387-6011.

*Restrictions apply. All advertisers must adhere to size specification, standards, and policies contained on the *Communiqué's* official rates and specifications sheet.

Bar Activities

Event Calendar

- Sep. 1 *Communiqué Advertising Special Offer Begins - Page 5*
- Oct. 1 *2026 CCBA Membership Early Bird Offer Begins - Page 7*
- Oct. 2 *Lunchtime Learning CLE - Page 6*
- Oct. 8 *CLE Committee Meeting - Page 18*
- Oct. 9 *Lunchtime Learning CLE - Page 8*
- Oct. 10 *Publications Committee Meeting - Page 18*
- Oct. 14 *Civil Bench-Bar Meeting - Page 8*
- Oct. 14 *Board of Directors Nomination Deadline - Page 10*
- Oct. 16 *New Lawyers Committee Meeting - Page 18*
- Oct. 17 *Community Service Committee Meeting - Page 18*
- Oct. 22 *Lunchtime Learning CLE - Page 10*
- Oct. 23 *Monthly Mixer - Page 12*
- Oct. 24 *Lunchtime Learning CLE - Page 12*
- Oct. 31 *Mark's Blanket the Homeless Donation Deadline - Page 6*
- Nov. 1 *2026 CCBA Membership Early Bird Offer Expires - Page 7*
- Nov. 7 *Community Service Committee - Page 18*
- Nov. 12 *CLE Committee Meeting - Page 18*
- Nov. 13 *Lunchtime Learning CLE - Page 14*
- Nov. 19 *Lunchtime Learning CLE - Page 18*
- Nov. 20 *New Lawyers Committee Meeting - Page 18*
- Nov. 20 *Holiday Mixer & Ugly Sweater Contest - Page 12*
- Nov. 21 *DICE Meeting - Page 18*
- Dec. 1 *Communiqué Advertising Special Offer Expires - Page 5*
- Dec. 4 *Annual Meeting & Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon*

Learn more / RSVP: <https://clarkcountybar.org/events/>, 702-387-6011

Lunchtime Learning CLE

In Rem, In Reach: Understanding Nevada's Jurisdictional Foundation in Trust Litigation

**Live webcast free for
CCBA members October
2, 2025**

Guest speakers:



Alan D. Freer and Jeffrey P. Luszeck

Solomon Dwiggins Freer &
Steadman, Ltd.

When: Thursday, October 2,
2025, 12:00 to 1:15 p.m.

Where: Online via Zoom

Offers: 1.0 general CLE credit
for Nevada lawyers

**Live presentation (via
Zoom):** FREE for CCBA
members only

Recorded materials rental:
\$25/CCBA member or \$50/non-
member.

RSVP to CCBA:
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Book Cleaning Activity Highlights

On September 13, 2025, bar members volunteered to clean children's books at Spread the Word Nevada.

Attorney Memorial Service Highlights

On September 12, 2025, members of the bench and bar gathered for a special event at the Supreme Court of Nevada, in Las Vegas, to honor Nevada attorneys who have passed on during the last year. The following is a list of the Nevada Bar members who were honored::

- Christopher B. Anthony
- Henry R. Gordon
- Nedda Ghandi
- Robert L. Petroni
- Steven C. Devney
- Thomas W. Davis
- Tracy A. DiFillippo
- Walter R. Cannon
- William J. Crowell
- William K. Skaggs
- David A. Rich

The annual attorney memorial services are produced by the Clark County Law Foundation in conjunction with the Clark County Bar Association, State Bar of Nevada, Eighth Judicial District Court, U.S. District Court, and the Federal Bar Association-Las Vegas Chapter. For more information, contact Patrick at the Clark County Law Foundation, (702) 333-8277.

Community Outreach

Mark's Blanket the Homeless Program (2025)

Donations deadline: October 31, 2025

CCBA's Community Service Committee annual effort to purchase blankets for our annual community outreach activity.

Please scan this QR code and donate today.

Thank you!

Learn more at clarkcountybar.org, (702) 387-6011.



Become an active CCBA member for 2026

Early Bird Renewal Period
Begins October 1, 2025

Early bird special offer expires
November 1, 2025

LEARN MORE



Early Bird Special Offer*

\$25 discount off the 2026 CCBA membership fee, available October 1 to November 1, 2025.



plus Two free recorded CLE programs:

Defending a State Bar Grievance

- Speakers: Rob Bare of The Law Office of Rob Bare, PLLC; Glenn Machado of Machado Law, PLLC; and Michelle Alarie of Alarie Law
- Recorded: 6/5/2025
- Format: Audio/Video
- Offers: 2.0 hours ETHICS CLE credit (NV)

Abe Lincoln, Esq.: Lessons from the Trial Lawyer Who Became President

- Speaker: Jeff Bolender, Esq. of Bolender Law Firm, PC
- Recorded: 3/20/2025
- Format: Audio/Video
- Offers: 1.0 hour general CLE credit (NV)

*Restrictions apply. Early bird special offer expires on November 1, 2025. For more information, visit clarkcountybar.org, call 702-387-6011, or reach out to Donna at donnaw@clarkcountybar.org.

Lunchtime Learning CLE

Law Firm Safety and Security: People, Premises, and Information

Live webcast free for CCBA members on October 9, 2025

Guest speaker:

Marshal S. Willick

Willick Law Group

Course

description:

This CLE will cover some basic precautions lawyers must take in the present day to ensure basic security for themselves, their employees, their clients, their facilities, and their information, both physical and electronic.

When: Thursday, October 9, 2025, 12:00 to 1:15 p.m.

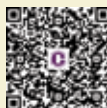
Where: Online via Zoom

Offers: 1.0 general CLE credit for Nevada lawyers

Live presentation (via Zoom): FREE for CCBA members only

Recorded materials rental: \$25/CCBA member or \$50/non-member.

RSVP to CCBA:
clarkcountybar.org
(702) 387-6011



Early Bird Special for 2026 CCBA Membership Begins October 1, 2025

Expires on November 1, 2025

CCBA membership is annual and expires on December 31, 2025. Members are encouraged to renew their memberships as early as October 1, 2025. A special offer is available to members who renew before November 1, 2025. Details about the special offer are listed on page 7.

27th Annual Client Counseling Competition

Volunteers are needed on October 3 and 4, 2025

Attorneys, judges, and mediators are needed to judge the students in the 27th Annual Client Counseling Competition this year. The competition provides 1L students at Boyd their first opportunity to practice their interpersonal skills, as future attorneys, through a consultation with a mock client.

- **When:**
 - **Friday, October 3, 2025:**
 - Preliminary Round 1: 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. (arrival at 5:30 p.m.)
 - Preliminary Round 2: 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. (arrival by 7:00 p.m.)
 - **Saturday, October 4, 2025:**
 - Semifinal Round: 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. (arrival at 9:00 a.m.)
 - Final Round: 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- **Where:** UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law
- **Who:** Volunteers should be Nevada attorneys, judges, or mediators.
- **Bonus:** Judging the competition qualifies as pro bono service!

For more information and to volunteer, reach out to CCBA's New Lawyers Committee Co-Chair Alexandra Matloff (amatloff@wshblaw.com) or Boyd Law student Drianna Dimatulac (dimatd1@unlv.nevada.edu).

Civil Bench-Bar Meeting

Attend in person or via Zoom on October 14, 2025

- **Host:** Eighth Judicial District Court - Civil Department
- **When:** October 14, 2025, 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.
- **Where:** Regional Justice Center, Courtroom 10D and Zoom
- **Next meeting:** December 9, 2025
- **Contact:** EJDCBenchBar@gmail.com



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Las Vegas, Nevada 89113

Lunchtime Learning CLE

Prompts That Work: From Legal Pad to Launch Pad

**Live webcast free for
CCBA members on
October 22, 2025**

Guest speaker:

Jeff Bolender

Bolender Law Firm, PC

About: Transform Your Practice
with Practical AI Applications in
60 Minutes

Topics:

- Foundation Skills: Prompts That Work
- Advanced Applications: Your AI Legal Team
- Strategic Brainstorming: Never Start from Scratch
- Live Demonstrations Using Nevada Case Study

When: Wednesday, October 22,
2025, 12:00 to 1:15 p.m.

Where: Online via Zoom

Offers: 1.0 general CLE credit
for Nevada lawyers

**Live presentation (via
Zoom):** FREE for CCBA
members only

Recorded materials rental:
\$25/CCBA member, \$50/non-
member

RSVP to CCBA: clarkcountybar.
org, (702) 387-6011



Notice of Election for 2026 CCBA Executive Board

Deadline for nominations is October 14, 2025

Nominations from current members to serve on the 2026 CCBA Executive Board will be accepted Monday, September 1 through Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. Nominations should be sent to the CCBA President Joel Henriod at Prez@ClarkCountyBar.org. The nominating committee shall consider the following criteria and characteristics as applied to each prospective nominee in their application:

- Each prospective nominee must be an Active Member in good standing of the Association;
- Demonstration of past service to the Association;
- Contribution to creating balance on the Executive Board of representation amongst various areas and types of the practice of law;
- Professionalism;
- Knowledge and expertise in an area in which the Association needs or desires assistance;
- Such other factors as the Nominating Committee may deem relevant and appropriate; and

Notice continued on page 12



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(Pictured L to R) Lisa Anderson, Jason Mills, Toby Yurek

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Las Vegas, NV 89102
702-384-1616

RENO, NV

5375 Kietzke Lane
Reno, NV 89511
775-553-0000



Lunchtime Learning CLE

Filing Successful Summary Judgment Motions as Plaintiff or Defendant

In-person presentation free for CCBA members on October 24, 2025

Lunch provided by Henriod Stern

Guest speakers:



Judge Jacqueline Bluth
Eighth Judicial District Court, Dept. VI



Judge Maria Gall
Eighth Judicial District Court, Dept. IX



Judge Jacob Reynolds
Eighth Judicial District Court, Dept. XXIX



Chief Justice Douglas Herndon
Supreme Court of Nevada, Seat D

Course description: In-depth discussion of the rule and case law surrounding summary judgments, identifying frequently unused tools that can benefit your case, shorten trial, and bring down costs. Learn successful strategies to win motions for summary judgment as a plaintiff or defendant.

When: Friday, October 24, 2025, 11 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Where: Regional Justice Center, Courtroom 17A, 200 Lewis Ave., Las Vegas, NV

Offers: 2.0 hours CLE for Nevada lawyers. Attendance will be taken and reported to the NV CLE Board for only those NV Bar members in attendance.

Bonus: Lunch provided by Henriod Stern for the first 50 attendees

RSVP to CCBA: clarkcountybar.org, (702) 387-6011



Notice continued from page 10

- All of the above criteria as well as the Director's attendance at meetings and events, service on committees, and any other efforts to promote the Purpose of the Association set forth in Section 1.

The election will be held at the Annual Meeting & Volunteer Appreciation luncheon on Thursday, December 4, 2025. Get details at clarkcountybar.org or call (702) 387-6011.

Monthly Mixer

CCBA members are invited to attend our monthly mixer on their own dime and time. The next event will be on October 23, 2025, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at Davy's, 1221 S. Main St., Las Vegas, NV 89104. Dates and locations of monthly mixers are subject to change.

Bar Activity

CCBA Holiday Mixer Featuring Ugly Sweater Contest

When: Thursday, November 20, 2025, 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Where: [TBA]

Sponsorship opportunities available.

For more information, contact: Donna donnaw@clarkcountybar.org, (702) 387-6011.





NEVADA'S
PREMIER INJURY
LAW FIRM

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GREAT NEWS!

NEVADA LEGISLATURE FIXES NRS 616C.215 - BREEN/VASQUEZ

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Las Vegas, NV 89102
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HENDERSON, NV
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Suite 190
Henderson, NV 89074
702-384-1616

RENO, NV
5375 Kietzke Lane
Reno, NV 89511
775-553-0000

SPARKS, NV
420 USA Pkwy
Suite 106
Sparks, NV 89434
775-593-8933

Nevada's Duty to Defend: Triggers, Pitfalls, and Independent Counsel Rights

Live webcast free for CCBA members on November 13, 2025



Guest speaker:

Jeff Bolender, Bolender Law Firm, PC

Course description: When a lawsuit is filed, one of the first questions clients ask is: Will my insurance cover this? In Nevada, the rules about when an insurance company must defend its policyholder are especially important—and sometimes surprising.

This one-hour program will walk you through the essentials of Nevada's "duty to defend," why it matters in everyday practice, and what happens when an insurer refuses to step in. You'll also learn how conflicts of interest can change who controls the defense and what that means for your client.

When: Thursday, November 13, 2025, 12:00 to 1:15 p.m. • **Where:** Online via Zoom

Offers: 1.0 general CLE credit for Nevada lawyers

Live webcast (via Zoom): FREE for CCBA members only

Recorded rental: \$25/CCBA member or \$50/non-member

RSVP to CCBA: clarkcountybar.org, (702) 387-6011



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Pro Bono Menu

By Michael Wendlberger



October is National Pro Bono Month, and the best way to celebrate is to lend your voice to a pro bono client. Let this month inspire you to get involved and provide a voice to a vulnerable client. Pro bono expands access to justice, connects attorneys to the community, and fulfills the ethical obligation of Rule 6.1.

There are three legal aid non-profits in Clark County, offering a menu of pro bono opportunities.

Southern Nevada Senior Law Program ensures access to justice for seniors in our community. Volunteer attorneys can assist seniors in executing simple estate plans, healthcare powers of attorney documents, and simple wills.

Nevada Legal Services is Nevada's statewide legal aid organization. Volunteer attorneys can represent clients in various areas, including consumer public benefits and housing law; volunteer for clinics such as name change and record sealing clinics; or participate in the Lawyer in the School program.

Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada provides representation to clients who are unable to protect their rights because they can't afford an attorney. Volunteer attorneys can give a voice to clients in consumer, family law, appeals, federal, or CAP matters. The most significant need and the biggest impact an attorney volunteer can provide is by giving a child a voice in our CAP program.

Whichever legal aid provider a pro bono volunteer chooses, they will have access to training, mentors, sample pleadings, malpractice insurance, and CLE credit for the time spent on a pro bono matter. Plus, attorneys will feel good at the end of the day. So get started today and pick something off the pro bono menu today. 🍽️

Michael Wendlberger is the Director of the Pro Bono Project at Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada (LACSN). 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 can learn more and take a case listed at <https://www.lacsnprobono.org/>.

Pro Bono Community

Partners (l-r): Alex Cherup (Nevada Legal Services), Diane Fearon (Senior Law Program), and Michael Wendlberger (Legal Aid Center).

Pro Bono Organizations



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snslp.org



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Bar Activities

Bar Committees

CCBA members are invited to join one or more committees and help the CCBA in its efforts to enrich the lives and careers of our members and our community.

CLE Committee

Chair: Trisha Conlon

Plans programming for the continuing legal education of CCBA members. Meets: 2nd Wednesdays. **Next meeting: Wednesday, October 8, 2025, 12 to 1 p.m., via Zoom.**

Community Service Committee

Co-Chairs: Angela Dows and Alicia May

Plans activities that provide outreach services to the community at large in southern Nevada. Meets: 1st Fridays. **Next meeting (special date): Friday, October 17, 2025, 12 to 1 p.m., via Zoom.**

Diversity and Inclusion Committee for Equity (DICE)

Chair: Michael J. Nuñez

Plans activities to facilitate constructive discussion and enhance understanding of diversity issues. Meets: 3rd Fridays. **Next meeting: Friday, November 21, 2025, 12 to 1 p.m., via Zoom.**

New Lawyers Committee

Co-Chairs: Benjamin Doyle and Alexandra Matloff

Coordinates William S. Boyd School of Law student competitions, pub crawls, and the Meet Your Judges Mixer. The New Lawyers Committee is for attorneys admitted to practice in Nevada within the last seven years, regardless of age. Meets: 2nd Thursdays. **Next meeting: Thursday, October 16, 2025, 12 to 1 p.m., in person at CCBA, 717 S. 8th Street, Las Vegas (with Zoom option).**

Publications Committee

Co-Chairs, Editors-in-Chief: Nick Michaud and Pooja Kumar

Plans content for upcoming issues of the bar journal *Communiqué*. Meets: 2nd Fridays. **Next meeting: Friday, October 10, 2025, 12 to 1 p.m., via Zoom.**

For more information, reach out to the committee chairs, see <https://clarkcountybar.org/about/committees/>, or contact the CCBA office at 702-387-6011.

Lunchtime Learning CLE

Passage of AB3 and its Impact on the Nevada Mandatory Arbitration and Short Trial Programs

Produced by Stephen F. Smith

Live webcast free for CCBA members November 19, 2025

Guest speakers:

Hon. Erin Truman and Hon. Adam Ganz

ADR/Discovery Commissioners, Eighth Judicial District Court



Course

description: This seminar will review the language of AB3 that passed in the 2025 Nevada Legislature, review the statute's effective date and the resulting changes to both the Mandatory Arbitration Program and Short Trial Program. We will discuss the changes the statutes governing ADR in Nevada, including the addition of new automatic exemptions case categories, change in applicable caps on awards, and changes to permissible awards of attorney fees in the arbitration program.

When: November 19, 2025, 12:00 to 1:15 p.m.

Where: Online via Zoom

Offers: 1.0 general CLE credit for Nevada lawyers

Live presentation (via Zoom): FREE for CCBA members only

Recorded materials rental: \$25/CCBA member or \$50/non-member.

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CHAP Rental Assistance Program No Longer Accepting Applications, Las Vegas Justice Court Eviction Diversion Program Still in Place

The Clark County Eviction Prevention and Fixed Income Rent Assistance programs have completed its allocation of available dollars and is no longer accepting applications for rental assistance. The Las Vegas Justice Court Eviction Diversion program continues as a collaborative community program that postpones eviction proceedings to connect tenants with resources like legal aid and rental assistance. This program will continue to expand in the future to meet the needs of the community to the greatest extent possible.

While the remaining funding for the Clark County Eviction Prevention and Fixed Income Rent Assistance program is limited, applications in the current queue will

be processed in the order they are received until funding is exhausted; priority will be given to the elderly and people with disabilities referred by the Eviction Diversion Program at the Las Vegas Justice Court.

Individuals in need of assistance can contact the Clark County Social Services call center at 702-455-4270 for information on other available programs and resources. Anyone needing information on eviction prevention tips or how to respond to an eviction can visit the Civil Law Self Help Center website, <https://www.civillawselfhelpcenter.org>, or can visit the Civil Law Self Help Center in person at 200 Lewis Avenue, first floor.

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How New Laws Will Shape the Las Vegas Justice Court

By Judge Melisa De La Garza

Nevada's 2025 legislative session introduced an array of reforms addressing criminal and civil issues. Many of these changes to the law will significantly influence the operations of the Las Vegas Justice Court starting October 1, 2025.

One of the most impactful reforms increases the punishments for repeat DUI offenders. Senate Bill 309, which passed unanimously, targets minimum jail sentences, alcohol evaluations, and enhancements. The mandatory minimum jail sentence for a second DUI offense will increase from 10 days to 20 days. Additionally, the threshold for a mandatory alcohol evaluation will drop from 0.18% to 0.16%, prompting earlier intervention. There will also be potential enhancements for offenders committing another DUI offense while participating in the Felony DUI Specialty Court Program.

AB475 allocated funding for eviction diversion efforts across the state. Final appropriations included \$15 million to Clark County. This funding is intended to support programs that help tenants at risk of eviction by providing rental assistance, case management, and court diversion services. With the funding, the Las Vegas Justice Court's Eviction Diversion Program, which is a collaboration between the Justice Court, Clark County Social Services, and Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, will continue to mitigate the increasing number of evictions and provide a path to housing stability for vulnerable populations.

In 2021, AB116 reclassified many minor traffic violations—such as some speeding violations, seat belt in-

fractions, or expired registration—from criminal misdemeanor crimes to civil infractions. That meant that being cited for certain offenses no longer resulted in a criminal charge or a criminal record. Additionally, the court was required to cancel bench warrants for failure to pay or appear issued before January 1, 2023. SB 359, effective

October 1, 2025, now allows the court to combine a criminal misdemeanor complaint and a civil infraction into a single consolidated hearing, streamlining proceedings.

Changing court procedures in response to new legislation can be difficult as it

requires more than just revising policies on paper—it demands a complete shift in how cases are processed, staffed, and tracked. Courts must overhaul long-standing workflows, retrain staff, reprogram case management systems, and educate the public, all while still keeping up with day-to-day caseloads. These transitions often create temporary confusion, backlogs, and inconsistent application of rules, as judges, clerks, and attorneys adjust to unfamiliar processes. However, LVJC is committed to administering justice in a fair and efficient manner. **■**

Many of these changes to the law will significantly influence the operations of the Las Vegas Justice Court starting October 1, 2025.

Judge Melisa De La Garza was raised in Las Vegas and graduated from Eldorado High School. She received her undergraduate degree from UNLV and her J.D. from Creighton University. Her legal career has included being a Deputy District Attorney, Deputy Public Defender, private practitioner, and Hearing Master. In 2018, Judge De La Garza was elected as a Justice of the Peace for Las Vegas Justice Court. In 2024, she was elected as Chief Judge.



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Making Pro Bono Painless: Practical Steps for Integrating Service into Your Legal Practice

By William D. Nobriga

Practicing law is demanding—mentally, emotionally, and especially in terms of time. Billable hours, large projects, team meetings, written motions, and court appearances fill lawyers' schedules. Adding pro bono work to this already full plate can seem impossible. Yet lawyers can and should make time for it. Pro bono work not only helps the community, but it also provides unmatched opportunities to develop legal skills for newer lawyers. More importantly, it fulfills an ethical duty: the Nevada Rules of Professional Conduct state that "[e]very lawyer has a professional responsibility to provide legal services to those unable to pay," according to NRPC 6.1(a). This rule also provides an aspirational goal of providing at least 20 pro bono hours per year.

This means that the question is not whether lawyers should do pro bono work but, rather, how lawyers can make pro bono work a consistent part of their practices. By following these few simple steps, you can integrate pro bono work into your everyday practice.

1. Take pro bono cases that are feasible with the amount of time you have

The first step is to ensure that the cases you take are within the time limitations of your work schedule. Pro bono cases do not have to be hundreds of hours. There are many pro bono opportunities that are not time intensive. For example, the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada offers opportunities to answer discrete questions that individuals may have through its Ask-A-Lawyer Program. This program has a limited time commitment and provides a benefit to the community. This is an excellent way to begin pro bono work with a minimal time commitment.

For more traditional cases, you should look at the facts of the case and try to determine how time inten-

sive the case will be. You should ensure that the scope of your representation is clear and is limited to the work that needs to be done. This way, you can take cases that are within your time capacity. That said, there are times where cases expand beyond your expectations. You should keep this in mind and schedule accordingly.

2. Prioritize pro bono work

The best way to make pro bono a consistent part of your practice is to prioritize it. Treat pro bono clients with



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Making pro bono work a priority will ensure that you take both the client and the work seriously. This will allow you to manage your pro bono cases in the same manner that all other cases are managed, and pro bono cases will become a normal part of your practice routine.

3. Work in a team

Even when you prioritize pro bono work and evaluate a case to ensure that you have the time to commit, pro bono matters may be more time-consuming than you initially thought. For example, resolving a case may lead to taking on additional work beyond the scope of the original representation agreement. I had this experience in a family law appeal where I ultimately ended up helping in the underlying case as well.

A way to combat this is to work in a team while doing pro bono work. Collaborating with colleagues helps prevent pro bono matters from exceeding your capacity.

4. Take pro bono matters that interest you

Finally, taking pro bono matters that interest you will

help to ensure that you do more pro bono work. There is a broad spectrum of legal needs in our community. If you pick matters that interest you and that align with your skill sets, pro bono work becomes less of a chore and more of an area to help with your own development as a lawyer. For example, I have experience doing appellate work and enjoy appeals. The Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada has an appellate program that guarantees oral argument. Through this program, I have been able to draft appellate briefs and argue cases before appellate courts, which has helped me further develop that skill set.

Pro bono work is important and highly rewarding. Lawyers are uniquely positioned to serve their communities—and we should embrace that privilege by helping those in need. We should all do more pro bono work. **C**

William D. Nobriga is an associate at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck LLP, with experience in commercial and employee-benefits litigation and administration. He has appellate experience before Nevada's appellate courts and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and takes pro bono appeals through the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada.



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The Importance of Civic Education

By Kimberly Maxson-Rushton

Civic education is all about understanding that the law can provide a cloak of protection of one's speech, homestead, and fundamental human rights, and at the same time be the mechanism for finding truth and discovering new paths. Through the Nevada Center for Civic Education ("NVCCE"), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, programs such as "We the People," "Project Community," and "National History Day" assist elementary school, middle school, and high school students become informed and active participants in our democracy. In doing so, students develop a keen understanding of the Constitution of the United States and the value of constitutional literacy and community engagement. Additionally, programs such as these challenge students to compare the intent of the framers of the Constitution to modern-day issues. This requires students to think critically and to articulate a position on matters that are currently being debated by the United States Congress.

There are multiple reasons why anyone would choose to become an attorney. I submit that somewhere in that mental equation is the desire to help others and to positively impact our community. As a nonprofit, the NVCCE relies on fundraising, grant funds, and volunteers; otherwise, there is no consistent funding source to sustain the center's initiatives. Yet the number of students interested in civic education and engagement continues to grow—statewide—every year. Without funding, the NVCCE cannot provide schools with the tools and resources needed to keep up with student interest. The positive influence civic education programs have on students is immeasurable: (i) in-depth knowledge of the Constitution; (ii) presentation of persuasive oral argument; (iii) application of Constitutional principles to current events; and (iv) the opportunity to receive constructive feedback from community leaders who graciously serve as judges.

In doing so, students develop a keen understanding of the Constitution of the United States and the value of constitutional literacy and community engagement.

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NVCCE has worked with over 7,000 Nevada students in ten different counties and continues to expand into new schools in both populated and rural areas of the Silver State. Its overall budget in 2024 was \$500,000.00. However, due to recent cuts in government funding and grants, NVCCE stands to lose close to \$300,000 this school year. As evidenced by the data retained since We The People and Project Citizen started, students who participate in civic education initiatives attend college, secure legislative and congressional internships, and go on to become active members of their community.

There is no question that contributing to NVCCE is an investment in Nevada's students and its future. As artfully stated by Rogers Professor David S. Tanenhaus, Boyd School of Law:

A shared passion for civic education and what [Abraham] Lincoln called, "the perpetuation of our political institutions" brought us together as teachers and Nevadans. It didn't matter whether our politics aligned because we shared something more significant. We were mutually committed to the democratic experiment and were inspired by watching the next generation of Americans learn how to become engaged citizens and leaders.

Below is a link to the NVCCE website. I encourage my CCBA colleagues and your law firms to make a financial contribution, one which is meaningful and will help ensure the sustainability of the NVCCE's programs and initiatives. Additionally, please consider volunteering your time. Serving as a judge for We The People competitions for close to two decades has been an amazing experience for me, and it serves as a constant reminder of how smart our high school students are and how bright their future, and Nevada's future, is. <https://nvcce.org/> 

Kimberly Maxson-Rushton is an administrative attorney whose practice focuses on advising gaming, cannabis, transportation, and tax clients through complex regulatory and licensing matters in Nevada. Kimberly is the former chief of the Nevada Attorney General's Office and chair of the Nevada Transportation Authority. She serves on the board of directors of Opportunity Village and the Public Education Foundation, and is a trustee of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

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My Experience as a CAP Attorney

By Cassandra Cummings

Every year attorneys are required to disclose their pro bono activities as part of the bar renewal process. The form has a space to mark stating that you did not provide pro bono services, that you donated to organizations, or that you provided pro bono services. There were several reasons that I was concerned about taking a pro bono case, including the time it would require, the overwhelming number of options, and the fear that I would not know what I was doing. I am sure that many readers can relate to one, or all, of those concerns.

Luckily, early in my career I attended a lunch at my then-firm hosted by representatives from the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada's ("LACSN") Children's Attorney's Project ("CAP"). They introduced us to CAP, which was created in 1999 with the goal of providing abused and neglected children with a voice so that they can speak up about what they want for their home, family, and future. Prior to CAP's formation, children did not have separate counsel and, thus, were subject to what the district attorneys and case workers thought was in the children's best interests.

I signed up for my first CAP case at the conclusion of the presentation. It was nerve-wracking to agree to take on a case so early in my career that was so far outside of any area I had ever practiced. The attorneys at LACSN made the process much less daunting by providing training, pairing me with a mentor, and providing a step-by-step guide for getting started. Additionally, the most common forms are available through LACSN, and everyone is always eager and willing to help the pro bono attorneys.

My first CAP case was heartbreaking. The things my clients experienced were unimaginable. They were two, five, and ten years old when I took the case. I went to the foster home to meet them, and they were, understandably, nervous to meet another new adult. Remembering the training, I informed them that they were my boss and

could tell me anything but that I could only share the information they gave me permission to share. The ten-year-old thought this was "pretty cool"; the five-year-old relished the idea of being a boss; and the two-year-old handed me a toy.

I represented those clients for three years during which time we talked about school, activities, the future, and toys. We worked on homework together. They drew pictures for me. I cried at their adoption hearing. The facts of that case stick with me to this day, but they pale in comparison to the feeling of watching those children go from scared and uncertain to happy and loved. I was hooked and signed up for my next case.

There are many benefits of being a CAP attorney, including improvement in communication and observational skills. Communicating legal concepts to children in a way that they will understand and appreciate takes work. Several of my clients have been non-speaking, either because of age or developmental delays, which requires me to observe them in their environment to look for signs that they are happy and thriving. One tip for anyone taking these cases—always bring a legal pad, pens, pencils, and highlighters. Many of my non-speaking clients drew with me before they spoke to me, and I still have their drawings.

I know that adding hours to our already busy schedules may be overwhelming, but I assure you that it is worth your time and effort.

I have watched my clients go from non-speaking to talking nonstop and from struggling with education to achieving honors at school. It is my honor and privilege to help my clients through the difficult times in their young lives and to speak up for them when they are unable to do so themselves.

There are other benefits as well. Every year, I get to mark the box on the disclosure form stating that I provided pro bono services. On busy calendar days, some judges will ask if anyone has an open pro bono case and will call that attorney's case first, no matter where it falls on the docket. My pro bono service has saved me time in court on several occasions.

I know that adding hours to our already busy schedules may be overwhelming, but I assure you that it is worth your time and effort. Unfortunately, there is always a need for CAP attorneys. Please consider signing up to take a case. You will not regret the experience. **C**

Cassandra Cummings is a member of the litigation team at Ladah Law Firm representing individuals who have been injured as the result of another's negligence. She is in her 14th year as a CAP attorney and mentors new attorneys through the State Bar's Transitioning into Practice program.



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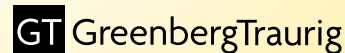
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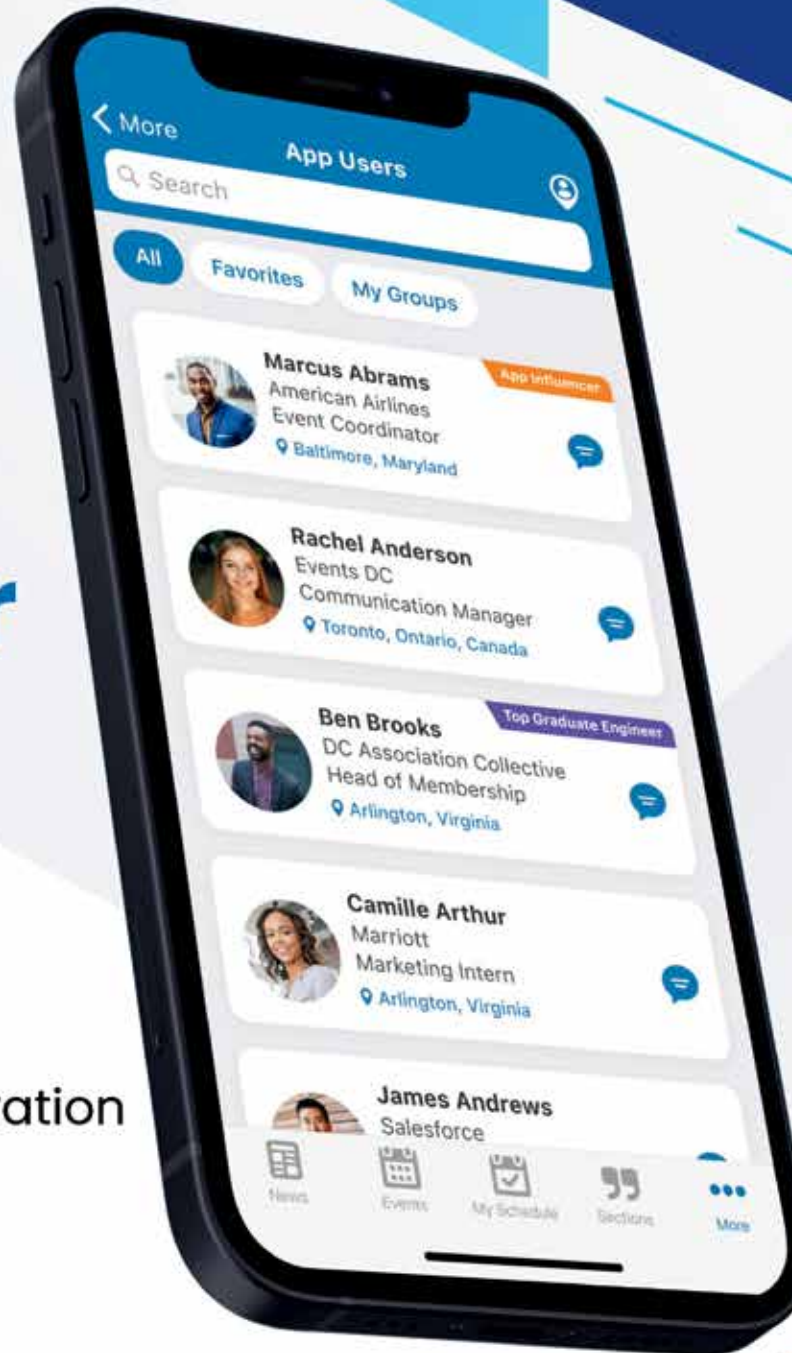


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