

December 2025

Clark County Bar Activities

Pages 5, 8, 10-12, 14-16, 18



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CLARK COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

COMMUNIQUE

The SciTech Issue

Looking to the Future of SciTech Law

Learn more from articles on pages
6, 20, 22, 24, and 26



COMMUNIQUE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CLARK COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

On the cover

Radhika Kunnel, Ph.D., and Kerstan Hubbs, M.S.



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Communiqué Editorial Calendar

Cover Date	Topic	Closing Date
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 2026*	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
December 2026	Immigration Law	11/1/2026

*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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Communiqué Subscriptions, CCBA Memberships Expire December 31

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Communiqué subscription is included with the CCBA membership. CCBA membership is annual and expires on December 31.

Please renew a CCBA membership at ClarkCountyBar.org or call the CCBA office at 702-387-6011. Thank you!

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Bar Activities

Event Calendar

Bar members are invited to attend bar activities

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- Dec. 4 Clark County Bar Luncheon – Page 14
- Dec. 5 Community Service Committee Meeting – Page 16
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Learn more at <https://clarkcountybar.org/events/> or call 702-387-6011.

Bar Services

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Reach out for information and updates about CCBA activities:

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Atticus and the Algorithm

By Joel D. Henriod

We've all seen the headlines about lawyers who relied too heavily on AI—and learned the hard way that confidence isn't competence. The technology is improving fast, and it's clearly here to stay. The challenge is learning to use it as Atticus Finch would have: with care, humility, and a sense that wisdom is still the lawyer's most reliable software.

The fastest search engine

Not long ago, the fastest search engine in any office was the senior partner's memory. Research meant books, pencils, and long nights in the library. Now, a few keystrokes summon more precedent than a lifetime of shelves. AI can draft, cite, and even predict. It saves time—but justice has never been a race.

If Atticus practiced today, he'd use the software gratefully, then double-check the work. He'd understand that a correct answer isn't always a complete one. Because he sees how doctrines weave together, he'd sense when the algorithm's response was accurate yet shallow. His human intuition would prompt the machine to go further—to find meaning as well as information.

The moral operating system

The law runs on something deeper than data. Fairness, proportion, and mercy don't appear in search results. They depend on conscience—the one operating system that can't be coded.

Atticus would keep that compass close. He'd let the machine handle the noise while he listened for the human truth underneath. That's the art of advocacy that no algorithm can imitate.

The relationships that matter

AI can summarize discovery or draft a motion, yet it can't build trust. The client-lawyer bond still rests on listening and understanding. The same holds true between lawyers and judges, lawyers and juries, even lawyers and one another. Collegiality can't be automated.

Atticus would know that the health of the profession lives in those relationships. Our shared work—within firms, courts, and bar associations—keeps the law personal and credible. Technology may support that process, but the human connection is what makes it breathe.

The human circuit

Science and technology will keep expanding access to justice in ways our predecessors could hardly imagine. They are good tools—so long as steady hands guide them.

Every advance in science calls for an equal advance in ethics. Atticus would remind us that wisdom still matters and that character remains the law's most reliable code. When we gather, debate, and learn from one another, we sharpen the one instrument technology can't replicate—the moral reasoning of the human mind.

So bring your gadgets to the next mixer. Let AI help with the research. The algorithm will never replace the Atticus. It can only assist him. **C**

Joel D. Henriod is a litigator who specializes in appeals at Henriod Stern. He practices in substantive areas ranging from personal injury and product liability to commercial and public-sector disputes involving election law, breach of contract, taxation, eminent domain, governmental regulation, etc. He serves as CCBA president through December 2025.

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2026 CCBA Board of Directors Election

On Thursday, December 4, 2025, the Clark County Bar Association (CCBA) will hold the election for the 2026 CCBA Executive Board of Directors on the same day of the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon & Annual Meeting.

This year's ballot includes two uncontested races. The uncontested races feature five incumbents running to retain their seats on the board and one nominee vying for one open position on the board. The open position was created from the appointment of a current director to serve as secretary for the organization next year.

Attorney members are invited to cast their votes electronically by visiting <https://clarkcountybar.org> on the day of the event or by absentee ballot before December 4, 2025. See below for more information about the candidates, polling information, absentee ballots, and additional members of the CCBA Executive Board of Directors.

Candidates (*terms to expire 12/31/2027*):

Vote for **any (one or more)** to retain their current seat:

- **Annette Bradley*** Retired
- **Joshua Dresslove*** of Dresslove Law
- **Alia Najjar*** of Najjar Law Firm
- **Michael Nunez*** of Skane Mills
- **Michael Wendlberger*** of Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada

Candidates (*term to expire 12/31/2027*):

Vote for **only one** to fill **one vacant seat**:

- **Catherine Wiersch** of Eighth Judicial District Court

Polling information for CCBA's election day:

Attorney members may cast their ballot electronically by visiting <https://clarkcountybar.org> on December 4, 2025.

Absentee ballot information:

Attorney members who cannot submit a ballot on December 4, 2025 (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 clarkcountybar.org, and upon request from the CCBA.

Bar Election Ballot



Scan QR code to open ballot page at clarkcountybar.org.

Additional members of the 2026 CCBA Executive Board of Directors:

- **Christena Georgas-Burns*** of Nevada Office of the Attorney General (term to expire 12/31/26)
- **Alexandra Matloff*** of Wood Smith Henning & Berman LLP (term to expire 12/31/26)
- **Paul Lal*** of NV Energy (who will also serve as Treasurer in 2026 and with a term to expire 12/31/26)
- Judicial Appointee (*term to expire 12/31/27*): **The Honorable Bita Yeager** of Eighth Judicial District Court, Dept. 1
- *Ex Officio* (*term to expire 12/31/26*): President 2025 **Joel Henriod*** of Henriod Stern PLLC

Officers (*terms to expire 12/31/26*):

- President 2026: **James T. Leavitt*** of Leavitt Legal Services PC
- President-Elect 2026: **Heather Anderson-Fintak*** of Southern Nevada Health District
- Secretary 2026: **Jacquelyn Franco*** of Backus Burden

**Denotes person currently serving on the board.*



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Mark's Blanket the Homeless Activity

On Saturday, December 6, 2025, the CCBA will send a small group of volunteers to give away blankets during lunch service at the Shannon West Homeless Youth Center a facility operated by HELP of Southern Nevada. Any extra blankets may be distributed to their homeless youth center, and/or their family housing program, adult housing program, and homeless response teams.

During December, over 500 rescue blankets will be delivered to charities serving homeless people in southern Nevada including:

- Las Vegas Rescue Mission
- Salvation Army Veteran Services
- HELP of Southern Nevada
- Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth (NPHY)
- Project 150
- The Shade Tree

The gifts are from Mark's Blanket the Homeless, a community outreach program of the Clark County Bar Association. The CCBA collects monies throughout the year and purchases blankets for delivery in the fall. Financial gifts can be made for this purpose at clarkcounty-bar.org or to the Clark County Bar Association, 717 S. 8th Street, Las Vegas, NV 89101. For more information, contact Stephanie at the CCBA or CCBA Community Service Co-Chairs Angela Dows and Alicia May.



Bar Members Present CLE Programs

This fall, several bar members volunteered to present continuing education to benefit the CCBA.

Trial and appellate lawyer **Marshal Willick** presented "Law Firm Safety and Security: People, Premises, and Information" on October 9, 2025.

Insurance litigator **Jeff Bolender** presented "Prompts That Work: From Legal Pad to Launch Pad" and "Nevada's Duty to Defend: Triggers, Pitfalls, and Independent Counsel Rights" on October 22 and November 13, 2025, respectively.

Eighth Judicial District Court **Judges Jacob Reynolds, Jacqueline Bluth, and Maria Gall, and Nevada Supreme Court Justice Douglas Herndon** participated in the panel discussion to educate bar members on the rule and case law surrounding summary judgments. "Filing Successful Summary Judgment Motions as Plaintiff or Defendant" on October 24, 2025.

ADR/Discovery Commissioners **Hon. Erin Lee Truman** and **Hon. Adam Ganz** presented "Passage of AB3 and its Impact on the Nevada Mandatory Arbitration and Short Trial Programs" on November 19, 2025.

CCBA records most of its CLE programs and makes them available in the CCBA's Audio/Visual Library to rent for a small fee.



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CCBA members who would like to make a CLE presentation to benefit the CCBA should submit a proposal to the CCBA CLE Committee for review. For more information, submit a proposal, or request the CCBA's Audio/Visual CLE Catalog, contact Donna at Donnaw@clarkcountybar.org or (702) 387-6011.

Avoiding Burnout CLE Program Free for CCBA Members January 22, 2026

On January 22, 2026, commercial litigator Jennifer Braster and boundary expert Sheryl Green will make a special presentation for the continuing legal education of Nevada lawyers in a special program produced by the Clark County Bar Association and sponsored by Las Vegas Legal Video and Worldwide Litigation Services.

Jennifer Braster is the co-managing partner of Naylor & Braster, a boutique commercial litigation firm celebrating its twelfth year in business.

Sheryl Green is the owner of Sheryl Green Speaks and the author of *You Had Me At No: How Setting Healthy Boundaries Helps Banish Burnout, Repair Relationships, and Save Your Sanity*, and works with organizations and audiences across the country to create cultures where people can truly thrive.

Jennifer and Sheryl will present “Avoiding Burnout: Mental Health Struggles in the Legal Profession” via Zoom during a lunchtime learning CLE program.

This CLE program will provide an overview of the unique stressors attorneys face, their impact on well-being, and the importance of recognizing mental-health concerns early to maintain competence and professionalism. Learn how to identify the warning signs of burnout, understand its effects on decision-making, and learn practical strategies to establish and maintain healthy professional boundaries.

Attendance to this live webcast is free and only for current CCBA members on January 22, 2026. This lunchtime learning program will be held via Zoom from 12:00 to 1:15 p.m. and offers 1.0 general CLE credit for Nevada lawyers. RSVP to the CCBA is required by January 20, 2026.

All RSVPs must be made to the CCBA at least 48 hours before the event starts. Pricing of the live webcast event is included with the 2026 CCBA membership. CCBA membership will be verified upon RSVP. During the event, attendance will be taken, and only those Nevada lawyers in attendance will have their attendance reported to Nevada’s Board of Continuing Legal Education. 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 or (702) 387-6011. **g**

Lunchtime Learning CLE Webcasts Complimentary for CCBA Members

CCBA members can get access for up to 13 hours of CLE programming provided via live webcasts (via Zoom) with a current CCBA membership. Offer includes CLE reporting for each completed program. To benefit from this complimentary bar service, the CCBA member must RSVP for the scheduled webcast and login to participate in the live webcast.

For more information about CCBA’s CLE programming, contact Donna at donnaw@clarkcountybar.org, (702) 387-6011, or visit clarkcountybar.org.



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State Bar President Kari Stephens Speaks at Bar Luncheon December 4, 2025

On Thursday, December 4, 2025, CCBA members and their guests are invited to attend the CCBA Annual Meeting & Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon sponsored by First Legal, Quality Analytics, and Western Alliance Bank.

Guest speaker is **State Bar of Nevada President Kari Stephens**. Kari L. Stephens is a partner at Jeffrey Burr and the managing attorney of the firm's Summerlin office. Kari has been practicing probate and trust law in Las Vegas for 25 years and previously practiced law in both Oregon and Washington. Kari is actively involved in volunteering her time in the legal community. She is the President of the State Bar of Nevada, having assumed the role on July 1, 2025. Prior to being elected as an officer, Kari served as a member of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Nevada since 2014. She also has the distinction of being the 2013 Past-President of the Clark County Bar Association having served on the Association's Executive Board from 2006-2014.

Additionally, the Clark County Bar luncheon event will feature the presentation of the CCBA's Volunteer Appreciation Awards and election of the 2026 CCBA Executive Board.

The event will be held at Morton's The Steakhouse, 400 E. Flamingo Road. Check-in and networking begin at 11:30 a.m. The luncheon program will be held from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. The price to attend the luncheon on December 4, 2025, is \$65/CCBA member and \$80/non-member. RSVP with



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Chief Justice Douglas Herndon Speaks at Bar Luncheon on January 29, 2026

On Thursday, January 29, 2026, CCBA members and their guests are invited to attend the Clark County Bar Luncheon at Fogo de Chão Brazilian Steakhouse, 360 E. Flamingo Road. Check-in, networking, and access to the marketplace buffet begin at 11:00 a.m. The luncheon program will be held from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

Guest speaker is **Chief Justice Douglas Herndon**. Chief Justice Herndon was elected to the Nevada Supreme Court in 2020, beginning his first term in January 2021. He assumed the role of Chief Justice on January 6, 2025. He previously served as a district judge in the Eighth Judicial District Court, from 2005 to 2020.

Additionally, the Clark County Bar luncheon event will feature the swearing-in ceremony of the 2026 CCBA Executive Board.

The price to attend the event on January 29 is \$65/CCBA member, and \$85/non-member. RSVP with payment to the Clark County Bar Association is required by Friday, January 23, 2026. RSVP at clarkcountybar.org or (702) 387-6011.



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Bar Activities

Bar Committee Meetings

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, December 10, 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: Friday, December 5, 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, December 19, 2025, 12 to 1 p.m., via Zoom.**

New Lawyers Committee

Co-Chairs: Pranava Moody and Danielle Jimenez

Coordinates with the William S. Boyd School of Law to produce 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, December 11, 2025, in person at CCBA, 717 S. 8th Street, Las Vegas (with Zoom option).**

Publications Committee

Co-Chairs, Editor-In-Chiefs: Nick Michaud and Pooja Kumar

Plans content for upcoming issues of the bar journal *Communiqué*. Meets: 2nd Fridays. **Next meeting: Friday, December 12, 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.



Bar Members Hosting Donuts with DICE Events

This year, several bar members made the time to meet with students as part of the CCBA's Donuts with DICE program. Special thanks to participating bar members:

- Angela Cook
- Carmen Ermer
- LaTeigra Cahill
- Mariteresa Rivera-Rogers
- Melissa Corral
- Michael Flagg
- Michael Nuñez
- Paul Ray
- Peggy Liou
- Rae Canady

Donuts with DICE is a mentorship program where law school students and pre-law students can meet with CCBA attorneys over donuts and coffee to receive advice about navigating their careers and insights about the legal profession. To learn more about Donuts with DICE, reach out to DICE Chair **Michael Nuñez** at mnunez@skanemills.com or Stephanie at the CCBA office at 702-387-6011.



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Las Vegas Justice Court Case Management System Upgrade Planned for December 4-5, 2025

On November 6, 2025, the Las Vegas Justice Court announced that the court's Technology Division plans to upgrade the Odyssey Case Management System to Odyssey 2023 during the first week of December 2025. See below for their planned schedule and system outage notice.

Upgrade Schedule:

- **Thursday, December 4** – The upgrade process will begin **after business hours** and will continue overnight.
- **Friday, December 5** – **Odyssey will remain offline** during the morning while the upgrade is completed and tested.
 - End User Acceptance Testing (UAT) will take place between **7:00 AM and 1:00 PM**
 - Based on testing feedback, we will make a **Go / No-Go decision** for the official release by **end of day Friday**.

System Outage Notice:

Odyssey will be **unavailable during the upgrade window** (Thursday evening, 5:30pm through mid-day Friday). We will send out notification when the system is available.

Public Notice *In Re* Reappointment of United States Magistrate Judge Carla L. Baldwin

The United States District Court, District of Nevada, is establishing a panel to consider the reappointment of United States Magistrate Judge Carla L. Baldwin, whose term will expire on August 27, 2026. The term of a magistrate judge is 8 years.

The duties of a magistrate judge include the following: (1) conduct preliminary proceedings in criminal cases; (2) conduct trial and disposition of misdemeanor cases; (3) conduct various pretrial matters and evidentiary proceedings on delegation from the judges of the district court; and (4) conduct trial and disposition of civil cases upon consent of litigants.

Written comments are invited from members of the State Bar of Nevada and the public as to whether Magistrate Judge Carla L. Baldwin should be reappointed by the court. Comments must be submitted no later than **January 30, 2026**.

Comments can be emailed to Debra Kempf, Clerk of Court at: comments_magistrate@nvd.uscourts.gov.



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Technology and Justice: Nevada's Courts Embrace Innovation

By Chief Justice Douglas Herndon

Science and technology continue to reshape nearly every aspect of modern life, and the practice of law is no exception. In Nevada, the appellate courts have made notable progress in adopting new tools that improve access to justice, enhance efficiency, and strengthen public trust in the legal system.

One significant advancement is the integration of artificial intelligence within the Administrative Office of the Courts' Self-Help Center. The self-help chatbot leverages AI to provide support in more than 50 languages. Online forms are now available in several languages, including Spanish, Mandarin, Vietnamese, and Tagalog, allowing self-represented litigants to receive assistance for a wide range of legal issues. By meeting individuals in the language they understand, the courts continue to close the distance between justice and the communities they serve.

We are also moving beyond forms toward guided interviews, creating legally sufficient pleadings through a question-and-answer format. We continue to expand the topics available, including the recent release of an appellate module on the revamped website. From January through October 2025, the self-help website hosted a total of 10,577 complete guided interviews, including 5,807 case eligibility reviews and 4,771 file-ready case packets. The most common guided interviews are name change and divorce eligibility. Joint divorce and protection orders are the top two pleadings.

Technology is also transforming guardianship oversight. Nevada is the first state in the nation to launch

a guardianship reporting portal that enables financial institutions to import financial data directly into court systems. This innovation simplifies reporting, saves time, and provides court staff with analytical tools to identify potential risks. More importantly, it strengthens judicial

oversight by allowing early detection of suspicious activity and timely protection for vulnerable individuals.

These developments represent more than simple upgrades. They reflect a continuing commitment to transparency, accountability, and public service. The use of AI and data integration tools

helps the judiciary fulfill its mission to deliver fair, timely, and accessible justice more effectively than ever before.

As members of the State Bar of Nevada, we are witnessing an important moment in the evolution of our legal system. From courtroom technology to digital filings and AI-assisted resources, innovation challenges each of us to consider how we can apply similar tools in our own practices to better serve clients and the public. The future of law in Nevada is one where technology and justice advance together—and that future has already begun. **C**

As members of the Nevada Bar, we are witnessing an important moment in the evolution of our legal system.

Chief Justice Douglas Herndon was elected to the Supreme Court of Nevada in 2020, beginning his first term in January 2021. He assumed the role of Chief Justice on January 6, 2025. He previously served as a district judge in the Eighth Judicial District Court, from 2005 to 2020.



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What is SciTech Law?

By Kerstan Hubbs

Science and Technology (also known as “SciTech”) law is an interdisciplinary legal field that addresses the complex legal issues arising from scientific discoveries and technological advancements. Does this mean that only attorneys who work in these fields should take notice? In short, the answer is a resounding “No.” On the contrary, the explosion and advancement by way of automation and artificial intelligence (AI) have assured us all that legal professionals need to be cognizant of how SciTech will touch and concern clients and litigants.

SciTech law, similar to many emerging areas of law, can be daunting to keep up with for many legal professionals. Under the Nevada Rules of Professional Conduct (NRPC) Rule 1.1 (Competence), the rule requires lawyers to provide competent representation to clients, which includes maintaining technological competence. This obligation is supported by the 2012 ABA Comment No. 8 on Rule 1.1, which states “. . . that lawyers should keep abreast of changes in the law and its practice, including the benefits and risks associated with relevant technology, and engage in continuing education regarding technology.”

SciTech encompasses many areas of law

SciTech can be found in all domains of our life now, including but not limited to online purchases, communications, advertising, healthcare, manufacturing, electronics, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, professional services, and big data use and management. It is not a

separate practice area in the legal field; rather, it merges with a wide range of legal specializations. At this time, some of the most consequential areas of law include:

**Science and Technology
(also known as “SciTech”)
law is an interdisciplinary
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and technological
advancements.**

- Intellectual property (IP): IP law includes trademarks, copyrights, and patents. With so many ways in which technology can mimic and/or derive information from imagery, written and/or audio works, and inventions, novel manners for protection and enforcement of these intangible property rights must be readily adapted to this new environment.
- Data privacy: New privacy protection laws, national and international in nature, require disclosures stating what data is being acquired, why it is being acquired, and more importantly, where it will be stored, shared, managed, and processed. Consumers have rights as to the oversight and control of their private and sensitive personal information.
- Cybersecurity and cybercrime prevention: Hacking, data theft, and ransomware are some of the newest threats online. Private companies and government municipalities must make sure they keep up with developing technology, obtain quality commercial cyber insurance coverage, and contract talent or maintain staff nearby that can counter a security breach immediately.
- E-commerce: Buying and selling online has be-

come second nature to us all. It shows no sign of slowing down. All data processors must adhere to privacy laws and regulations as they apply to consumers in each jurisdiction where the business and/or consumers may operate or reside, respectively.


- Healthcare: The use of personal health information to advance AI innovations in healthcare raises challenges related to privacy and equity. Regulators, practitioners, and the public have concerns with delegating control of patients' health to technology. Within the healthcare world, minor errors can lead to personal injury of the patient.
- Artificial intelligence (AI): AI and machine learning are transforming almost every industry. The ethical use of AI, especially in areas like facial recognition, predictive analytics and negligence liability are moving too fast for legislative and courtroom proceedings to predict. Laws around AI are constantly evolving, but businesses must, in real time, comply with laws and regulations just as rapidly.
- Blockchain technology & smart contracts: Blockchain offers decentralized and secure ways in which data and transactions can be recorded. Smart contracts use blockchain technology to execute and enforce agreements once predetermined conditions are met, which can improve efficiency, transparency, and security in transactions.

So how can the legal community manage this competence requirement?

First and foremost, they will need to ensure to include Sci-Tech content in their continuing legal education studies each year. Secondly, they can join the Sci-Tech Section of the State Bar of Nevada. This will ensure that attorneys stay involved with under-

standing and developing legislation and regulations that will encompass many aspects of everyday life. It will also afford attorneys an opportunity to share their insights with others, making the Nevada legal community a competitive state for advancing science and technology.

Members in good standing of the State Bar of Nevada and law students who do not have voting rights can opt to pay an annual fee of \$25 to participate. The Sci-Tech Section of the State Bar of Nevada is a great way to meet like-minded colleagues and to stay abreast of this dynamic and new area of law.

Learn more by visiting the SciTech Section's page: <https://nvbar.org/for-lawyers/bar-service-opportunities/join-a-section/science-technology-law-section/>. 

Kerstan Hubbs has her MS in biology and has practiced law for over 15 years in Nevada. She is the managing attorney of Essential Legal Services. Her firm specializes in estate planning, civil litigation, corporate law, and real property law. Kerstan serves as Secretary on the SciTech Section, State Bar of Nevada.



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SciTech Law Beyond Artificial Intelligence: The Real Question: Can Nevada Lawyers Afford to Ignore SciTech?

By Radhika Kunnel, Ph.D., Kerstan Hubbs, M.S., Nicholas Thayer, and Nicholas Shook

When people hear “SciTech law,” the conversation often defaults to intellectual property and artificial intelligence. While important, these represent only a fraction of the field. As board members of the State Bar of Nevada’s Science and Technology (“SciTech”) Law Section, we want to highlight why Nevada attorneys should pay attention to this expanding practice area both for growth opportunities and to stay abreast of technological competence.

Artificial intelligence (AI) dominates technology headlines, but Nevada’s legal landscape is being reshaped by far more. SciTech law addresses legal issues arising from scientific discoveries and technological innovation, and it now touches nearly every client and practice area. Understanding SciTech law is no longer optional; it has become a fundamental dimension of legal competence.

Potential pitfalls: the cost of technological incompetence

Remember the “I am not a cat” Zoom mishap during the pandemic? Or the routine stream of AI hallucination cases we now hear about? These aren’t just embarrassing moments—they’re warnings about real professional risks. Under Rule 1.1 of the Nevada Rules of Professional Conduct, lawyers must provide competent representation, including maintaining technological competence. Comment 8 to the American Bar Association Model Rules of Professional Conduct requires attorneys to “keep abreast of changes in the law and its practice, including the benefits and risks associated with relevant technology.”

The consequences of ignoring this duty are sig-

nificant. In September 2025, a Washoe County judge sanctioned two attorneys for submitting 14 fictitious ChatGPT-generated citations, making clear that “the AI made me do it” is not a defense. But the pitfalls extend far beyond generative AI mishaps. See *CommNV, LLC v. Uprise LLC*, No. CV23-02123 (Nev. 2d Jud. Dist. Ct., Washoe Cnty. Sept. 10, 2025) (order imposing and suspending sanctions) (finding at least 14 fictitious case citations).

Failing to understand the technologies your clients use can result in malpractice exposure, ethics violations, missed opportunities, and lost clients. Automation, digitalization, and big-data systems have woven themselves into commerce, healthcare, finance, and communication. Whether you’re drafting contracts, managing discovery, or advising on compliance, technological ignorance is no longer defensible. The question isn’t whether you’ll encounter these issues; it’s whether you’ll be prepared when you do.

The expanding SciTech law landscape

SciTech law may be the most interdisciplinary practice area, intersecting with virtually every legal specialty. It encompasses intellectual property, privacy, cybersecurity, corporate, healthcare, and environmental law, reaching into emerging areas like blockchain, quantum computing, and space law.

Consider how pervasive this shift has become: Intellectual property now covers genomics, clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats (“CRISPR”) editing, and personalized medicine. Corporate deals involve cryptocurrency, non-fungible tokens (“NFTs”),

and digital-asset regulation. Regulatory lawyers navigate telemedicine licensing, U.S. Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) pathways, and autonomous vehicle rules. Privacy counsel routinely advises on biometric and genetic data protection. Environmental agreements cover renewable energy, carbon capture, and climate-tech innovation.

Even traditional practices are transforming. Family lawyers handle digital asset division and social-media evidence. Criminal defense attorneys interpret digital forensics and encryption. Employment counsel advise on algorithmic hiring, remote-work monitoring, and cybersecurity protocols. Every legal practice area now has a SciTech dimension, even something as fundamental as defining best evidence standards for deepfakes.

Nevada’s biotech boom

Nevada’s biotechnology (“biotech”) growth exemplifies the opportunities SciTech law creates. Since 2018, the state’s biotech sector has expanded by 22 percent which is twice the national rate, supporting over 9,400 jobs across 1,000 companies. This surge reflects deliberate investment in innovation: four medical schools (including Roseman University of Health Science and its new program), two R1 research universities, and the rapidly developing Las Vegas Medical District that turned \$75 million in public funds into \$500 million in private investment. (See generally, Biotechnology Innovation Org. & TEconomy Partners, *The U.S. Bioscience Industry: Fostering Innovation and Driving America’s Economy Forward—Nevada State Profile* (2023), <https://grow.lvgea.org/hubfs/NV-BIO2022%20-%20state%20profile.pdf>.)

These developments generate sophisticated legal work across multiple disciplines. Nevada’s expanding biotech ecosystem needs lawyers who can translate complex science into practical legal solutions. Those who build this fluency will find expanding practice opportunities in a field central to the state’s economic growth.

Join the SciTech law section

As technology continues to evolve, the SciTech law section of the State Bar of Nevada provides a forum to learn, collaborate, and stay ahead. Members of the State Bar of Nevada in good standing can join for an annual fee of just \$25 (law students may join without voting rights).

Learn more at: <https://nvbar.org/for-lawyers/bar-service-opportunities/join-a-section/science-technology-law-section/>.

Conclusion

Artificial intelligence may command attention, but Nevada’s legal future will be shaped by the full spectrum of scientific and technological change – from biotech and blockchain to climate and quantum technologies. Lawyers who invest in understanding these developments will not only remain competent but will help define Nevada’s next era of innovation. **G**

Radhika P. Kunnel holds a Ph.D. and is licensed to practice law in Nevada and New York. As founding chair of the SciTech law section of the State Bar of Nevada, she is committed to bridging science, technology, and law in Nevada. She brings extensive experience in health and biotechnology to her legal practice, working at the intersection of innovation and regulatory compliance.



Kerstan Hubbs has her MS in Biology and has practiced law for over 15 years in Nevada. She is the managing attorney of Essential Legal Services. Her firm specializes in estate planning, civil litigation, corporate and real property law. Kerstan serves as Secretary on the SciTech Law Section of the State Bar of Nevada.



Nicholas Shook is an engineer on the Open Education team at Apple, where he teaches the Swift programming language and cloud computing to developers worldwide. Outside of work, Nick volunteers his time as an attorney with local legal aid foundations and strongly believes that open source software can significantly advance access to justice.



Nicholas Thayer is a JD/MBA student at the William S. Boyd School of Law, where he founded and serves as President of the Generative AI and Legal Technology Club and is Student Representative for the SciTech law section of the State Bar of Nevada.



How Technology Puts Powerful Storytelling Within Every Lawyer's Reach

By Rachel Gezerseh, Ryan Casey, and Ian Samson

In 2025, telling your client's story is about more than presenting evidence—it's about helping decision-makers understand the full human impact of a preventable harm. Using multimedia presentations allows us to capture and share those stories in ways that build connection, empathy, and accountability. And with the tools available today, every lawyer has the power to do this, without a production crew, studio, or big budget.

Gone are the days when creating a compelling settlement presentation required professional filming and high-end editing. Today, a lawyer with a smartphone, a light, and a plan can create a visual record that shows the depth of what's been taken from your client and moves others to act.

The process is surprisingly simple. You don't need to be a filmmaker—you just need to learn the story, illustrate the story, and present the story in a way that honors its emotional truth.

1. Learn the story: Start filming early

The most powerful stories come from real, organic moments—the first time your client explains how their life has changed, the early months of struggle and adjustment, or a family member's grief when they speak from the heart about how life has changed after tragedy.

That's why recording client conversations early is essential. A Zoom interview or a quick phone video from your first meeting can become invaluable later, capturing the story while it's still unfolding—before memories fade or day-to-day difficulties become normalized. These early recordings preserve your client's authentic experience while it is still fresh.

Ask about routines, relationships, joys, and traditions—the parts of life that defined your client's experience before tragedy struck. Asking, "What did a normal day look like before?" often reveals more than any medical chart. Do the same with family and friends—their stories fill in gaps your client may not be able to express. A spouse recalling the quiet shift in a morning routine or a child talking about what "Dad used to do" can provide emotional depth that resonates far beyond fact testimony.

2. Illustrate the story: Show, don't just tell

We live in a visual world. Judges, fact finders, and adjusters expect to see information, not just hear it. Words alone often fall short of helping others grasp the full reality of ongoing pain, disability, or loss. That's where "before and after" visuals matter.

Today, a lawyer with a smartphone, a light, and a plan can create a visual record that shows the depth of what's been taken from your client and moves others to act.

Use photos, videos, home movies, screenshots of text messages, or clips from social media. Show your client hiking with their family before the collision and then struggling to walk down a hallway afterward. Show the grandmother dancing at a wedding before a slip-and-fall and then struggling at home because she can't move the same way. Show the teenager's trophies on the shelf, and his quiet withdrawal from the world after a traumatic brain injury.

You don't need a production company to do this. A simple portable equipment kit—a digital camera, two lightweight LED lights, a clip-on mic, and a portable document scanner—is enough to record compelling video and collect essential evidence. It costs under \$1,000 and fits in a carry-on suitcase. Our attorneys have used this exact setup to film with clients in their homes, hospital rooms, backyards, and living rooms across the country. It allows us to build powerful visual evidence without the production expense, and without losing the authenticity that matters most.

3. Present the story: Let it be seen, heard, and felt

When you've gathered the materials from your client, it's time to shape them into a presentation that honors the truth and invites understanding. This might take the form of a 10- to 20-minute settlement video, a multimedia mediation presentation, or a trial demonstrative. With this, you are building a bridge between your client's world and your audience.

Use simple tools like Canva, iMovie, or CapCut to combine:

- Recorded interviews
- Home or phone video clips
- Text messages, photos, or documents
- Medical illustrations or day-in-the-life footage

The goal is emotional clarity. Don't tell the adjuster that your client can no longer walk unaided—show them taking 15 painful steps. Don't say that the decedent was loved—let the jury hear their last voicemail.

Today, every lawyer has the ability to bring the human truth of a case to light using tools already on their desk or in their pocket. Justice now depends on our willingness to use those tools with empathy, intention, and the courage to show what harm really looks like. You don't need a studio. You don't need a crew. You just need to ask, "Tell me what's been taken from you," and press record. **G**

Rachel Gezerseh is a trial attorney at Panish Shea Ravipudi LLP, representing plaintiffs in catastrophic personal injury, wrongful death, and product liability cases in California and Nevada. A former litigator at Jones Day, she now focuses on securing justice for individuals and families harmed by negligence and dangerous products.



Ryan Casey is a trial attorney in his 15th year at Panish Shea Ravipudi LLP. He is based primarily in Los Angeles and is licensed in California, Arizona, and Nevada. He specializes in complex catastrophic personal injury, product liability, and wrongful death cases.



Ian Samson is a trial attorney at Panish Shea Ravipudi LLP, representing plaintiffs in catastrophic injury, wrongful death, and product liability cases. He is admitted to practice in both California and Nevada.



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Jump with Both Feet


By Paul Wolfram

When I worked as a Family Court Law Clerk, in 2021, I received the best advice about this profession: ‘Jump in with both feet.’ When the opportunity arose to work with the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada’s (LACSN) Pro Bono Project, in 2025, it was time to jump. If you are considering taking on a case or two, I urge you to do the same. This last year has been the most rewarding and humbling experience of my career thus far.

At the beginning of the year, I started taking cases through the Pro Bono Project. I took on a few cases through the Children’s Attorney Project (CAP), a program which gives a voice to the children in our community who are going through a difficult time in their young lives. My clients have ranged from newborns to teenagers, and have had every problem from: “How am I going to get to football practice?” to “Where am I going to live?” While the issues are challenging, you are reminded just how important the work is and why you became a lawyer in the first place.

I have also done a couple “Ask-A-Lawyer” sessions, speaking with members of the community about their options for landlord-tenant issues they are facing. While you can’t solve every problem with a short phone call, I have never spoken with a group of individuals who are more appreciative of a few minutes of your time.



Lastly, the community involved in pro bono is amazing. Every judge I have appeared in front of expresses sincere appreciation, and they do everything they can to call your case as soon as possible. The people at LACSN, including all the pro bono mentors, are top-notch. They are generous with their time and never hesitate to lend a helping hand. While the thought of stepping outside of your comfort zone is daunting, it could not be made any easier because of this wonderful community.

If you, at all, have the itch to take on some pro bono cases, please jump in with both feet, you won’t regret it! 

Paul Wolfram obtained his J.D. from the William S. Boyd School of Law in 2021. After serving a clerkship with the Eighth Judicial District Court Family Division, he joined Ace Law Group where he represents plaintiffs in a variety of matters; including personal injury, employment discrimination matters, and landlord-tenant disputes.

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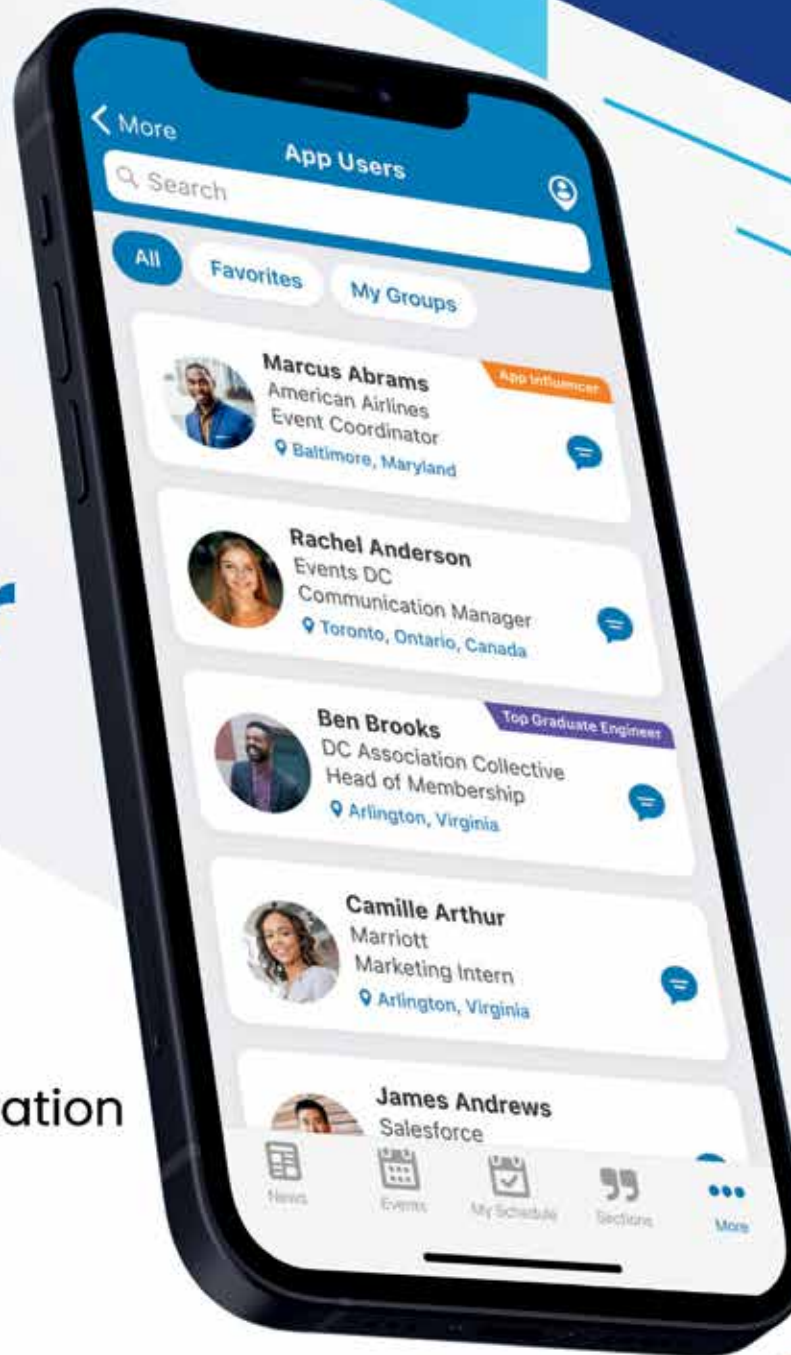


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