

April 2026

Lunchtime Learning CLE Webcasts

Free for CCBA members on April 9, 15, 30

See pages 7, 10, 12



COMMUNIQUE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CLARK COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

Family Law

Nevada Asset Protection Trusts: An Alternative to Prenups

By Rock Rocheleau and Shane Jasmine Young

See page 18

Helpful Tips for Successful Representation in Child Support Court

See page 16

Photo courtesy of Regulus Media Group.

COMMUNIQUE

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On the cover

Rock Rocheleau and Shane Jasmine Young. Photo courtesy of Regulus Media Group.



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COMMUNIQUÉ

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CLARK COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

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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. Email: editor@clarkcountybar.org. 

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Communiqué Editorial Calendar

Cover Date	Issue Theme	Closing Date
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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Bar Services

Advertising Opportunities

Space in the *Communiqué* is available for select businesses to showcase their accomplishments, professional services, and products in upcoming issues of the color print magazine *Communiqué*.

For more information, contact StephanieAbbott@clarkcountybar.org, (702) 387-6011.

Bar Activities

Event Calendar

Bar members are invited to attend bar activities

- Apr. 1 Legal Support Professionals Committee Meeting
- Apr. 2 5th Annual Meet Your Law Students Mixer – Page 9
- Apr. 2 Lunchtime Learning CLE Webcast
- Apr. 3 Community Service Committee Meeting
- Apr. 8 CLE Committee Meeting
- Apr. 9 Lunchtime Learning CLE Webcast – Page 12
- Apr. 10 Publications Committee Meeting
- Apr. 10-11 27th Annual CCBA Moot Court Competition – Page 10
- Apr. 14 Civil Bench-Bar Meeting – Page 12
- Apr. 15 Lunchtime Learning CLE Webcast – Page 10
- Apr. 16 New Lawyers Committee Meeting
- Apr. 16 8th Annual Pub Crawl – Page 9
- Apr. 17 DICE Meeting
- Apr. 28-29 2026 Nevada District Conference
- Apr. 30 Lunchtime Learning CLE Webcast – Page 7
- May 1 Areas of Practice Listings Sign-up Deadline
- May 1 Community Service Committee Meeting
- May 6 Legal Support Professionals Committee Meeting
- May 12 Civil Bench-Bar Meeting – Page 12
- May 13 CLE Committee Meeting
- May 14 New Lawyers Committee Meeting
- May 8 Publications Committee Meeting
- May 15 DICE Meeting
- June 5 Community Service Committee Meeting
- June 17 Lunchtime Learning CLE Webcast

Learn more at <https://clarkcountybar.org/events/> or call 702-387-6011.

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Lunchtime Learning CLE

The AI Command Model: Control, Clarity, and Compliance

Offering 1.0 General CLE Credit to Nevada Lawyers

Featuring



Jeffrey Bolender
Bolender Law Firm PC

This CLE program reframes attorney supervision and use of artificial intelligence through proven command-and-control frameworks drawn from military operational doctrine. The emphasis is practical rather than theoretical. Participants are introduced to concrete structures for delegating work to AI systems in a manner that is auditable, repeatable, and professionally defensible. Topics also include using structured command formats to improve prompt clarity, stress-testing AI outputs before reliance in client matters, embedding professional responsibility obligations as hard constraints rather than after-the-fact checks, and managing AI use as an ongoing operational process rather than a series of isolated experiments. The program is designed for practicing attorneys and does not require a technical background.

Live webcast (via Zoom):

Thursday, April 30, 2026, 12:00-1:15 p.m.

FREE for CCBA members

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

RSVP to the CCBA before April 28, 2026

clarkcountybar.org • 702-387-6011



This program is produced by
Jeffrey Bolender
of CCBA's CLE Committee.





CCBA Pub Crawl

By James T. Leavitt

It's April, and spring is in the air! This is one of my favorite times of year for the CCBA because we are having our 8th Annual Pub Crawl! In our last issue of the *Communiqué*, due to a scrivener's error, we failed to include the date for the event. To be clear, we will be holding it on April 16th, 2026. This is a free event open to all of our members. Please RSVP by April 14, 2026.

First, a little background. Way back in the before times (prior to the pandemic in 2020), I proposed to the CCBA board that we put on a pub crawl in the Arts District as a benefit to our members. I've always enjoyed pub crawls and thought it would be a great way to get our members together. The initial pub crawl was a smashing success, exposing our members to the amazing bars that the Arts District hosts and allowing us to get together in an informal setting outside of court.

When everything shut down in March of 2020, there were a lot of unknowns. Sadly, we were forced to cancel the pub crawl that year. Nonetheless, when everything started to reopen the following year, this event was the first in-person event that the CCBA put on. After the horrors of the pandemic and the isolation that grew out of it, the opportunity to gather with our colleagues was a welcome respite. Indeed, it is this event that has helped the CCBA cement itself as the "fun bar" every year since.

For those of you who have not attended in previous years, allow me to provide a few details. Each year we choose five bars in the Arts District to patronize. Usually, we choose new bars each year through a detailed vetting process months ahead of the actual event. This provides quality control over locations for our members. During the crawl, we provide one drink ticket and spend about half hour per stop.

This year, I would like to encourage all of you who plan to attend to either use a ride share app or (if you must drive) use a service like "Designated Drivers" (at

702-456-7433). It's a service that will drive your vehicle and you home for a nominal fee. As lawyers, we know that there is no excuse to drive impaired. I can't wait to see all of you there! **G**

James T. Leavitt operates *Leavitt Legal Services, P.C.* in Las Vegas, Nevada. His practice focuses primarily on bankruptcy law and criminal law. James earned his Bachelors in U.S. History from UNLV and his Juris Doctorate at the John Marshall Law School in Chicago. James serves as CCBA President through December 2026.

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Bar Activity

5th Annual Meet Your Law Students Mixer

Private event for law students to meet members of the bench and bar before interviews are held for summer intern and extern positions. Sponsorships available.

When & where:

- Thursday, April 2, 2026, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- Claggett & Sykes Law Firm, 4101 Meadows Lane, Las Vegas

Who & why:

- Managing and hiring partners from Nevada law firms, Nevada judges, law students
- Featuring complimentary food and beverages while supplies last
- Free admission to UNLV law students and CCBA members

RSVP/Contact:

Donna at the CCBA office at 702-387-6011 or donnaw@clarkcountybar.org.

Sponsors:



Bar Activity

8th Annual Pub Crawl

CCBA members are invited to join CCBA President James T. Leavitt on our annual pub crawl.

When & Where:

Hop on/off at any point along the crawl in the Las Vegas Arts District.

- Thursday, April 16, 2026, 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.
 - 1st Stop (5–5:45 p.m.):
The Stadium (food)
1508 S. Main St.
 - 2nd Stop (6–6:30 p.m.):
The Dustland Bar
1433 S. Commerce St.
 - 3rd Stop (6:45–7:15 p.m.):
Voodoo Brewing Company
1415 S. Commerce St. #130
 - 4th Stop (7:30–8 p.m.):
Johnny CoCo's
32 W. Imperial Ave.
 - 5th Stop (8:15–9 p.m.):
ReBar (food)
1225 S Main St

Who & why:

- CCBA members
- Featuring complimentary drink ticket (1 per person) available at each venue and snacks at The Stadium and ReBar for CCBA members while supplies last
- Please use a ride share app like Uber or Lyft, or (if you must drive) use a service like Designated Drivers (702-456-7433).

RSVP deadline: 4/14/2026

Contact:

Donna at the CCBA office at 702-387-6011 or donnaw@clarkcountybar.org. Sponsorships available.

Sponsors:

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Volunteers Needed to Judge Moot Court Competition

Attorneys and judges are needed to judge the law students in the 27th Annual CCBA Moot Court Competition at the UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law, on April 10 and 11, 2026.

- **Friday, April 10:**
 - Preliminary Round 1: 6:00-6:50 p.m.
 - Preliminary Round 2: 7:00-7:50 p.m.
- **Saturday, April 11:**
 - Semifinal Round: 10:00-10:50 a.m.
- **Round structure:** Each round will have two competitors. Each competitor has 15 minutes to argue (30 minutes total). After the arguments, competitors leave the room so the judges can fill out the score sheets (about 5 minutes). Then, the competitors return to the room to receive feedback (10-15 minutes). Judges will need to arrive at least 15-30 minutes prior to the start of the round(s) they signed up for. Food/drink will be provided each day.
- **Leading up to the competition:** Event organizers will contact the judges to relay information about the moot problem, competition schedule, and how to get to Boyd, among other pertinent info.
- **Judge sign-up:** Reach out to Erik L. Mehaffey at jankeel@unlv.nevada.edu or Drianna Dimatulac at dimatd1@unlv.nevada.edu.

Court-Annexed Arbitration CLE Program

Live webcast free for CCBA members on April 15, 2026

- Guest speakers: Hon. Erin Truman and Hon. Adam Ganz, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)/Discovery Commissioners, Eighth Judicial District Court
- Course description: This program will discuss how the passage of AB3 affects the future of the Court-Annexed Arbitration Program in the EJDC. The changes to the rules, including the recent ADKT 0630, will be presented, and practice pointers will be given regarding how to present your case at the Request for Exemption stage.
- Produced by: Stephen F. Smith of CCBA's CLE Committee
- When: Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 12:00 to 1:15 p.m.
- Where: Online via Zoom
- Offers: 1.0 general credits for Nevada lawyers
- Live presentation (via Zoom): FREE for CCBA members
- Recorded materials rental: \$25/CCBA member or \$50/non-member

RSVP to CCBA by 4/13/2026: Complete the RSVP form at clarkcountybar.org or call 702-387-6011.



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Baseball Ticket Special Offer

The CCBA holds a limited number of tickets to select home games of the Las Vegas Aviators this season. CCBA is pleased to offer* use of our available tickets to current and paid CCBA members on a first come, first served basis.

To request use of the CCBA tickets, CCBA members will need to submit a request with the following information:

- **CCBA member name**
- **Email address—the email address associated with the Las Vegas Aviators' Ticketmaster account.**
- **1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices of home game day (select from list at ClarkCountyBar.org).**

Submit requests via email to Donnaw@clarkcountybar.org.

*Restrictions apply. Use of tickets is restricted to paid CCBA members. CCBA's tickets are not available for use by persons with a free membership type (e.g. law student members). Participating members may only attend one game per season. For more information, see <https://clarkcountybar.org/ccba-baseball-tickets-special-offer/> or call (702) 387-6011.



THESE ARE THE NIGHTS YOU REMEMBER

LAS VEGAS AVIATORS 2026 SCHEDULE



MARCH/APRIL

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
				\$ 27 7:05PM	\$ 28 7:05PM	\$ 29 12:05PM
30 6:05PM	31 11:05AM	1 7:05PM	2 7:05PM	3 7:05PM	4 7:05PM	5 12:05PM
6 6:45PM	7 6:45PM	8 6:45PM	9 6:45PM	10 6:37PM	11 6:45PM	12 6:45PM
13 6:05PM	14 6:05PM	15 6:05PM	16 6:05PM	17 4:05PM	18 4:05PM	19 4:05PM
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27 6:05PM	28 6:05PM	29 7:05PM	30 7:05PM			

MAY

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
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11 6:45PM	12 6:45PM	13 6:45PM	14 6:45PM	15 6:45PM	16 6:45PM	17 1:00PM
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25 6:05PM	26 6:05PM	27 7:05PM	28 7:05PM	29 7:05PM	30 6:05PM	31 1:35PM

JUNE

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JULY

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AUGUST

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31						

SEPTEMBER

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
	EP 1 6:35PM	EP 2 11:05AM	EP 3 5:35PM	EP 4 5:35PM	EP 5 6:35PM	EP 6 11:05AM
7 7:05PM	8 7:05PM	9 7:05PM	10 7:05PM	11 7:05PM	12 7:05PM	13 12:05PM
14 6:05PM	15 6:05PM	16 6:05PM	17 6:05PM	18 6:05PM	19 6:05PM	20 12:05PM
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- PCL WEST**
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- *GAME TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. ALL TIMES ARE PST.



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LIFE'S BETTER AT LAS VEGAS BALLPARK

First Judicial District Court Adopts Nevada Arb, Short Trial Rule Amendments

On February 26, 2026, the First Judicial District Court in Carson City, Nevada, filed an order entitled, "In the Matter of the Administrative Order Re: Amendments to the Nevada Alternative Dispute Resolution Rules and Nevada Short Trial Rules." See ADKT 0630 at https://nvcourts.gov/supreme/decisions/administrative_orders.

Per the order, the First Judicial District Court adopts the Supreme Court of Nevada's amendments to the Nevada Arbitration Rules and Nevada Short Trial Rules per ADKT 0630, issued by the Supreme Court of Nevada on February 10, 2026. The First Judicial District Court's order includes a copy of ADKT 0630 for reference.

The amendments are effective March 9, 2026.

For more information about the First Judicial District Court, view their page at <https://www.carsoncity.gov/government/departments-a-f/courts/>. 

Bar Services

Nevada Appellate Summaries

Read "Nevada Appellate Court Summaries" by Joe Tommasino online at www.clarkcountybar.org.



WCBA & CCBA
Cross-Court CLE Series: Part III
APRIL 9, NOON - 1PM, 1 GENERAL CREDIT, ZOOM


Judge Bluth
Dept. 6, Eighth Judicial District Court
Clark County


Judge Riggs
Dept. 3, Second Judicial District Court
Washoe County

REGISTER NOW AT
www.wcbar.org

  

Bench Bar Meeting

Civil Bench-Bar Meeting

Attend in person or via Zoom

Host: Eighth Judicial District Court - Civil Department

When: Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 12:1:00 p.m.

Where: Regional Justice Center, Courtroom 14A and Zoom

Next meetings: 5/12/2026 (No meetings June, July, August), 9/8/2026, 10/13/2026, 11/10/2026, 12/8/2026

Contact: EJDCBenchBar@gmail.com

Bar Services

Sponsorship Opportunities

Opportunities are available to select businesses to sponsor bar activities, including:

- CCBA's Anniversary Party
- 40 Year Club Luncheon
- Bar Luncheons
- CLE Programming
- Meet Your Judges Mixer
- Meet Your Law Students Mixer
- New Admittees Reception
- CCBA eNews

Contact: Donna (702) 387-6011, donnaw@clarkcountybar.org.



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Justice is Local

By Judge Alicia Albritton

Most people only see court on television. They believe judges act like Judge Judy and expect forensic evidence in every trial. In people's eyes, court is always dramatic! In truth, people who must come to court do not find it exciting or dramatic.

People's first interactions with municipal court are often due to traffic violations. Traffic safety, whether a minor traffic offense or driving under the influence, is of great concern. The number of injuries and deaths of people riding electric devices has increased 400% in recent years. The court has a responsibility to adjudicate traffic cases in a manner that considers the needs and safety of the community.

Municipal courts handle a myriad of cases affecting the community. Municipal courts are most likely a person's first and possibly only interaction with the justice system. After *Andersen v. Eighth Jud. Dist. Ct.*, 135 Nev. Adv. Op. 42, 448 P.3d 1120 (2019), it is possible that the first jury a person will serve on will be in a municipal court.

Beyond driving under the influence, and battery constituting domestic violence, municipal courts also handle animal control cases. Henderson Municipal Court hears appeals of dangerous and vicious dog declarations and cases requesting the return of animals impounded due to animal cruelty. These cases can be emotionally charged, as pets are considered family. Animal control cases are an example of deeply personal matters handled while exercising procedural fairness in applying the law.

Municipal courts balance accountability and rehabilitation through alternative treatment courts. Henderson Municipal Court has two (2) alternative treatment courts: A.B.C. Drug Court and Veterans Treatment Court, which I preside over. Alternative treatment courts

offer participants treatment for underlying issues, such as substance use, mental health conditions, co-occurring disorders, and service-related injuries, while holding them accountable for their actions. Such courts reduce recidivism while upholding the law.

Equally as important as accountability is that every person, accused and victim, deserves the opportunity to

be heard and treated with dignity and respect. How the court treats people shapes their thoughts of the justice system. Additionally, the court must be transparent, so people know the court's decisions are fair, impartial, and rooted in the law; hence, court proceedings are public and open to anyone.

I welcome and encourage all to watch a court calendar. Seeing justice in action reminds people that the decisions made in municipal courts directly impact the community. **G**

Equally as important as accountability is that every person, accused and victim, deserves the opportunity to be heard and treated with dignity and respect.

Judge Alicia Albritton has presided over Henderson Municipal Court Department 1 since August 2022. Formally a 16-year Clark County Office of the District Attorney prosecutor, she earned her Juris Doctor from the University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce Law Center and undergraduate degree from Utah State University.

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OBT's Leigh Goldberger and Ben Youngstone. Photo by Christopher Peddecord. Photos courtesy of Oregon Ballet Theatre.



Helpful Tips for Successful Representation in Child Support

By Michelle Thomas and Darcy Plambeck

Have you ever wondered why child support court operates differently from family court? Understanding these distinctions—and the governing legal framework—can help practitioners more effectively navigate child support proceedings. The following overview provides practical explanations and tips for successful representation.

What is on the weekly child support calendar?

Child support court generally hears three types of matters each week:

- Order to show cause (enforcement) hearings: Mondays, Tuesday afternoons, Wednesdays, and Thursday mornings
- Modification hearings: Tuesday mornings
- Establishment hearings: Thursday afternoons

Knowing the weekly calendar is essential for proper scheduling and client expectations.

Why can't the District Attorney Family Support Division ("DAFS") postpone initiating a case until family court is resolved?

The IV-D Child Support Program is governed by strict federal timelines under 45 C.F.R. § 303.4(d), which requires an order for support to be established within 90 calendar days of locating the noncustodial parent. In addition, NRS 425.3835(1) expressly provides that a court may not stay a child support proceeding due to any pending or prior action involving divorce, custody, or related family law matters.

Why can't DAFS agree to continue a hearing?

Pursuant to NRS 125B.150(3), the DAFS does not represent any parent, guardian, or child. DAFS appears

solely on behalf of the State of Nevada. As a result, DAFS cannot stipulate with only one party to continue a hearing. Any continuance must be stipulated to by both parties and submitted to the court, or requested individually by a party for the court's consideration.

How do I appear in a child support case without a case number?

Many child support matters are enforced administratively, meaning no formal child support case number (R#) exists for filing an appearance. To obtain information, counsel may submit a letter of representation on firm letterhead to DAFSLegalGroup@ClarkCountyDANV.gov. Once an attorney is on file, DAFS will communicate exclusively with counsel rather than the represented party.

How can I obtain a child support payment record?

Either party may request a payment record by appearing in person at DAFS (1900 East Flamingo Road) or by calling 702-671-9200. Attorneys requesting records on behalf of clients must be the attorney of record, as described above.

How do I ensure a child support order is enforceable by DAFS?

To be enforceable, an order must include:

- Gross monthly income (GMI) and applicable percentage;
- A sum-certain dollar amount;
- A clear start date; and
- Identification of which party is responsible for health insurance and childcare costs

Orders containing conditional language or varying monthly amounts cannot be entered into the NVKids system (the statewide child support computer system)

and, therefore, cannot be enforced by DAFS. If health insurance is not addressed in a family court order, a child support court hearing will be required.

How do I draft a judgment for arrears enforceable by DAFS?

Judgments for arrears must clearly identify both principal and interest. For example:

The arrears period from November 1, 2022, through June 20, 2024, is reduced to judgment in the amount of \$9,000.00, consisting of \$7,000.00 in principal and \$2,000.00 in interest.

If interest is not expressly included, the NVKids system cannot calculate or enforce past interest.

Can a client pay on only one child support case?

Respondents often have multiple active child support cases. Federal law establishes a mandatory distribution hierarchy under 42 U.S.C. § 657, which prevents a respondent from directing payments to only one case. Payments received by the State Collection and Disbursement Unit (SCaDU) are distributed automatically by NVKids according to federal requirements.

Why isn't DAFS aware of family court proceedings?

DAFS does not receive automatic notice of orders issued in divorce or custody cases. To ensure coordination, parties or counsel should file relevant family court orders in the child support case and, when applicable, email copies to DAFSLegalGroup@ClarkCountyDANV.gov.

How do I contact a DAFS attorney?

Questions may be directed to the DAFS legal department at DAFSLegalGroup@ClarkCountyDANV.gov. **C**

Michelle Thomas serves as Chief Deputy District Attorney in the Criminal Division for Clark County, Nevada. Michelle has practiced in the criminal, juvenile, and child support divisions. Prior to law school, Michelle was a teacher. Her public service career reflects a commitment to justice, education, and serving families.

Darcy Plambeck serves as Deputy District Attorney in the DA Family Support Division (DAFS). Before joining DAFS, Darcy completed an externship at DAFS and practiced as a private attorney. Her passion for helping the families in our community brought her back to the District Attorney's Office.

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Nevada Asset Protection Trusts: An Alternative to Prenups

By Rock Rocheleau and Shane Jasmine Young

The Nevada Asset Protection Trust (NAPT) is a self-settled spendthrift trust allowed under NRS Chapter 166. It lets a person (the “Settlor”) transfer assets into a permanent trust for their own benefit while protecting those assets from future creditors.

Nevada is widely seen as the strongest state for domestic asset protection because of our short two-year time limit on transfers, no exception creditors (including divorcing spouses), and consistently favorable court decisions.

When properly set up, the NAPT allows the Settlor to keep rights, control, and flexibility without giving up creditor protection. It’s a powerful planning tool for those who want to reduce lawsuit risk, improve long-term wealth preservation, and protect separate property.

If there was ever an example of “having your cake and eating it too” in estate planning, this would be it. In fact, the only way for a creditor to collect on someone’s

NAPT assets would be by proving the Settlor’s initial transfer of assets to the NAPT was a fraudulent transfer under NRS 112, made with actual intent to defraud that specific creditor.

While prenups certainly have their place, they also come with well-known weaknesses: intense court scrutiny, enforceability challenges, and the emotional difficulty of negotiation.

Nevada law also allows the Settlor to name a “Trust Protector,” who sits above all trustees of the trust. The Trust Protector can work in a non-fiduciary role and has the power to change or update the terms of the trust, even if the trust is permanent. A Trust Protector is one of the most strategically valuable features of the NAPT, offering an extra layer of oversight, flexibility, and legal strength.

How does the NAPT compare to a Prenuptial Agreement (Prenup)?

While prenups certainly have their place, they also come with well-known weaknesses: intense court scrutiny, enforceability challenges, and the emotional difficulty of negotiation. In contrast, the NAPT can offer a more

Rock Rocheleau is the managing partner at Right Lawyers, which only handles divorce and custody cases. Right Lawyers are unique in only charging flat fees and in their passion of promoting “No Fight Divorce” services. Rock and Right Lawyers have been voted Best of Las Vegas Divorce Lawyer eight times.

Shane Jasmine Young is an attorney and founder of Young Law Group: 46-time Best of Las Vegas Gold Winner. Shane focuses her practice on legal life planning, including asset protection, trusts and estates, and business. She is passionate about educating, counseling, and providing innovative, comprehensive, customized asset protection solutions and strategies.



predictable, lasting, and strategically better structure, especially for clients who want to shield separate property from future marital claims.

Enforceability is the main advantage of a NAPT. Prenups, even when carefully written, can be challenged. A spouse can fight a prenup on grounds such as pressure, lack of independent legal advice, or unfairness, and courts regularly throw out prenups based on such factors.

The NAPT, on the other hand, avoids these challenges because the divorce court doesn't have authority over assets placed in a NAPT before the marriage. Once the trust is properly funded and the required waiting period has passed, the assets are better protected from community property claims raised in a divorce.

A NAPT can even designate assets acquired during the marriage, which are normally considered community property, to be separate property and not divided in a divorce.

Nevada is a community property state. This means any assets acquired during the marriage (regardless of the name on a deed, title, account, or trust document) will be considered community property and divided equally in a divorce. Separate property is an asset acquired before marriage and is mostly protected from claims raised in a

divorce.

NRS 125.125 allows spouses to transfer assets into a permanent trust and designate them as separate property. Even assets acquired during a marriage can be transferred into a trust and designated as one spouse's separate property. This is where a NAPT works like legal separation with an advantage. The NAPT limits the separate property to only those assets placed in the trust.

Another advantage of a NAPT over a prenup is the personal tension that prenups can create. Couples often hesitate to bring up the topic of a prenup for fear of hurting the relationship. A trust created well before marriage avoids the negotiation process entirely.

Finally, a NAPT offers broader usefulness than a prenup. While a prenup addresses only marital rights, the NAPT shields assets from a wide range of potential creditors, business debts, professional malpractice claims, and general lawsuit exposure. For high-risk professionals or business owners, this dual-purpose protection is a significant advantage.

The NAPT offers a more resilient, private strategy for preserving separate property from the possibility of a divorce. In certain situations, the NAPT is better than the prenup. **G**

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Changing Lives Through Pro Bono Family Law

By Maria Rios Landin

I was called to serve, and what better way to do it than during difficult times such as a divorce, child custody matter, or parental abduction case. Family law litigants experience a rollercoaster of emotions, but those who cannot afford counsel often experience even greater fear. Through pro bono work, I have learned not only how to reduce that fear, but also sometimes how to make it vanish—and that is deeply rewarding.

Money comes and goes, but there is only one family. No one should walk into a courtroom alone to fight for their loved ones or for property to which they may be entitled.

Some clients fear that a spouse will evict them during a divorce, that the other parent will hurt or hide their children, that they will be arrested in court because they are undocumented, or they simply feel lost. When I hear those fears, I begin running through the family law ABCs and procedural roadmaps. Slowly, hope and relief begin to appear.

As cases move forward, my pro bono clients often express gratitude for taking the time to explain each step, for appearing in court with them, or simply for guiding them out of the darkness they felt trapped in. Sometimes, obtaining a default divorce is all that is needed—but even that can mean everything to a pro bono client because it closes a painful chapter.

I have always wanted to advocate for others, teach, and change lives. Pro bono family law allows me to do all three. We should always remember that when we have the power to act, we should use it, so I encourage everyone to take at least one pro bono family law case. 

Family law litigants experience a rollercoaster of emotions, but those who cannot afford counsel often experience even greater fear.

Maria Rios Landin is the founder of Landin Law Firm, concentrating on family law and criminal defense. She was honored with the 2025 Pro Bono Rising Star Award, serves as a CASA volunteer, teaches Business Law at the College of Southern Nevada (CSN), and regularly provides free consultations at the Las Vegas Mexican Consulate.

Community Outreach Activity

Pro Bono Project

Take one new case

Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada is the agency of last resort for many low-income individuals and families who face critical legal problems that affect their basic needs.

The Pro Bono Project coordinates private attorneys who generously volunteer to provide free legal assistance to individuals who cannot afford an attorney.

They need YOUR help to accomplish our mission of preserving access to justice for all southern Nevadans. Getting involved in public interest law is essentially life-changing.

Please consider becoming a volunteer to help with the:

- Pro Bono Project
- Partner in Pro Bono Program
- Ask-A-Lawyer Program
- Federal Pro Bono Program
- Education Advocate Program
- Interpreter Program

For more information, contact the Pro Bono Project at (702) 386-1070.

Sign up at <https://www.lacsprobono.org/>.



Community Outreach Activity

Volunteers Needed for HCPOA Mobile Workshop on June 11, 2026

We are in need of at least 20 attorney volunteers for this CCBA community outreach activity to benefit the clients served by the Southern Nevada Senior Law Program (SLP).

- **When:** Tuesday, June 11, 2026, 9 a.m.-Noon
- **Where:** MLK Senior Center, 2420 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Building B, N. Las Vegas 89032
- **What:** The Health Care Power of Attorney Mobile Workshop involves guiding a senior through the process of executing a Health Care Power of Attorney. The clients will be preregistered and scheduled for one-hour appointments with the volunteer attorneys. Each attorney will have three appointments in total. The HCPOA will be executed in the presence of the attorney and notary, and the original and copies will be given to the client upon completion. SLP staff will subsequently take a copy along with the registration form and ensure filing with the Secretary of State Lock Box. The goal is for at least 15 volunteer attorneys and 45 senior clients to have three 1-hour appointments per attorney scheduled by the senior center staff. The clients will be prepared in advance about the questions they will be asked to answer when executing the HCPOA.
- **Offers:** 1 hour CLE credit for 3 hours of pro bono service for Nevada lawyers
- **CLE training before event:** A one-hour pre-recorded CLE video and PowerPoint presentation called "Health Care Power of Attorney" are available on demand for non-estate planning attorneys. An optional Zoom meeting to cover logistics and answer any questions for the volunteer attorneys will be held on June 4, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.
- **Volunteer sign-up:** Contact JoAnn Fuscarino at jfuscarino@snslp.org or William Voy at wvoy@snslp.org, (702) 329-2201.



A vertical advertisement for Las Vegas Legal Video (LVLV) with a futuristic, digital theme. At the top, the text "Las Vegas Legal Video" is in a white, sans-serif font, followed by "LVLV" in large, bold, white letters inside a black rectangular frame. Below this, a list of services is shown: "Presentation", "Graphics", "PowerPoint", "Equipment", "Exhibits", and "Animations", each with a small circle to its left. To the right of this list is a circular icon containing a white scale of justice. Below the list, the word "TRIAL" is written in large, green, block letters. In the center, there is a large, detailed image of a human eye, surrounded by various digital overlays, including a circular dial, a person icon, and some data-like elements. Below the eye, the word "VIDEO" is written in large, green, block letters. To the left of "VIDEO" is a circular icon containing a white video camera. To the right of the camera icon is a list of services: "Depositions", "Editing", "Inspections", "Enhancement", "Surveillance", and "Documentaries", each with a small circle to its left. At the bottom, the phone number "702.655.5858" is displayed in large, white, bold digits, followed by the website "www.lasvegaslegalvideo.com" and the address "729 South Seventh Street, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101" in a smaller white font.

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Real Estate Standard of Care Expert Witness - Fiduciary Duties, Property Management, Premise Liability, Listing & Buyer Brokerage Agreements, Purchase Contracts & Leases, Nevada Law on Disclosures, Broker Supervision, & Ethics of the Profession. Contact: Steven J. Kitnick, CNE, CFAC, CSP, GRI, RRG 702-326-8722 ~ StevenKitnick@NVRExpert.com www.NVRExpert.com ~ Integrity & Objectivity. Personable & Likeable. Excellent communication & presentation skills. Calls "Balls & Strikes." Steve is an experienced real estate expert witness. Steve is among Nevada's leading real estate expert witnesses. Over 45 cases in the past 7 years. 35% Plaintiffs 65% Defendants. CV, List of Cases, & Fee Schedule available upon request.

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