



Nevada Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission

Meeting - Friday, June 9, 2023 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://nvbar.zoom.us/j/85111842776>

Meeting ID: 851 1184 2776

877 853 5257 US Toll-free

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You may simply click the link to join with computer audio if your computer has speakers/microphone.

If your computer does not have speakers/microphone or you are in a location where audio would disturb others you may use your phone for audio.

Meeting Agenda

I. Opening Statements from Co-Chairs & Commission Roll Call	5 minutes	
II. Consent Agenda	5 minutes	Tab 1
• Approval of March 17, 2023 Commission Meeting Minutes		
III. Discussion Items		Tab 2
• Pro Bono Promotion Update	10 minutes	
○ State Bar of Nevada Section Pro Bono Challenge		
○ Recognition event dates (NSC/NCOA, EJDC, SJDC)		
○ Results		
• Limited Practice Rule – Next Draft Update	10 minutes	
• Gaps in Services	10 minutes	
• IOLTA	10 minutes	
○ IOLTA Town Hall CLE		
○ CRA next steps		
○ Financial institution outreach		
• Commission Member Term Expirations	5 minutes	
• State Bar of Nevada Dues Check Off Donations	10 minutes	
• Unbundled Services CLE, NVL article, Judicial ed.	10 minutes	
• Medical-Legal Partnership Discussion	10 minutes	
• Legislative and Eviction Diversion Update	10 minutes	
• Elder Grant – Library Legal Kiosk Program Update	5 minutes	
• Court Forms and Translations Update	5 minutes	
IV. Reports	10 minutes	
V. Other Business	5 minutes	



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VI. Informational Items

Tab 3

- Legal Aid Provider Highlights
- Self-Help Center Statistics
- Triannual Provider Call Recap
- Nevada Bankers Association *The IOLTA Report*
- Public Awareness

Upcoming Access to Justice Commission Meetings

Meetings are Fridays at 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

November 3, 2023

Our Purpose

- Assess current and future civil legal needs.
- Develop statewide policies to improve legal service delivery.
- Improve self-help and pro bono services.
- Increase public awareness of the impact of limited access to justice.
- Investigate and pursue increased funding.
- Recommend legislation or rules affecting access to justice.



ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

Access to Justice Commission Meeting Minutes Friday, March 17, 2023 – 2:00 p.m.

Commission Members Present

Justice Elissa Cadish, Co-Chair
Justice Kristina Pickering, Co-Chair
Justice James Hardesty
Connie Akridge
Annette Bradley
Milan Chatterjee
Diane Fearon
John Fortin
Dawn Jensen
Doreen Spears Hartwell
Margaret Lambrose
Judge Cynthia Lu
Ann Walsh Long
Joseph McEllistrem
Victoria Mendoza
Judge Bridget Robb
Marisa Rodriguez
Judge John Schlegelmilch
Judge Connie Steinheimer
Judge E. Alan Tiras
Adam Tully
Steven "J.T." Washington
Michael Wendlberger
Peter Wetherall
Judge Nathan Tod Young
Tara Zimmerman

Guests Present

Mark Brandenburg
Barbara Buckley
Ciara Clark
Rhea Gertken
Justin Iverson
Barbara Keyl
Susan Myers
Susan Splan

Staff Present

Brad Lewis



Call to Order/Roll Call/Minutes

The Access to Justice Commission meeting was called to order. Justice Cadish welcomed all, and a roll call was conducted. She noted two revisions to the November 4, 2022 minutes and requested approval. After being moved by Judge Young and seconded by Doreen Spears Hartwell, the minutes were voted unanimously and adopted for the record.

Pro Bono Reinvigoration

Brad highlighted the progress on the Section Pro Bono Challenge. Members of participating sections earn points based on their activities. Cases earn three points, Ask-A-Lawyer or Lawyer in the Library events earn two points, and for every \$500 in section donations one point is awarded to the sections. As of March 15, there were nine sections with points on the [leaderboard](#). It's a friendly competition that challenges sections to engage in pro bono supported by the State Bar of Nevada, all legal aid providers, the judiciary, and the Commission.

Judges Kishner and Steinheimer hosted the kickoff events to encourage section leaders to engage with the challenge. Many judges attended the kickoffs, including Commission member Judges Lu and Robb. Additionally, judicial recognition for the leaders and winners was determined to be the best reward for participating. The Nevada Supreme Court and Nevada Court of Appeals will host a recognition luncheon and the Eighth Judicial District Court and Second Judicial District Court will host receptions this fall. Sections and section members will also be recognized at the State Bar of Nevada annual Bar Conference in June and featured in *Nevada Lawyer*.

Justice Cadish thanked members of the judiciary for supporting pro bono efforts and Judge Young shared he is glad to see this initiative. Diane Fearon said the challenge has been important to Southern Nevada Senior Law Program's new pro bono push.

Limited Practice Rule

A draft Limited Practice Rule and forms developed by the Limited Practice Rule Committee were shared with the Commission for feedback. Justice Cadish requested that Rhea Gertken of Nevada Legal Services, the primary Committee drafter, share an overview. Ms. Gertken outlined that the goal is to provide a hiring pipeline for legal aid by allowing law school graduates to work for legal aid organizations for up to 18 months, even after having failed a bar exam, as "supervised legal practitioners". She highlighted the details of the draft and Justice Cadish sought feedback from Commission members.

Annette Bradley asked if the intention was to allow supervised legal practitioners to not only prepare documents but also file them. Regarding Section 5, Justice Pickering asked if the supervising attorney must always be present in court. Doreen Spears Hartwell shared she believed the draft rule did a good job of outlining the details, and questioned the intent related to the ability of the supervised attorney practitioners to appear in court versus only file in court, and which courts are most appropriate, Justice



Courts and/or District courts. She noted, for example, that consumer fraud cases are heard in District Court. Michael Wendlberger asked if capacity was considered related to consent.

Each matter received feedback related to the value the supervising attorney brings to this rule and it seemed most believed in allowing significant supervising attorney discretion. Judge Young shared that if part of the goal is to expand the ability to represent the underserved in court, then the discretion of the supervisor promotes the ability to maximize representation. It also promotes the concept under discussion that to qualify to pass the bar more internship-type approaches and experiences are valuable. Barbara Buckley echoed those sentiments.

Justice Hardesty thanked the Limited Practice Rule Committee for their work and urged the Committee to resolve the ambiguity related to supervised legal practitioners and supervising attorney appearances and oversight discretion and it was agreed the Committee would further consider how the elements discussed might best be handled.

Legislative and Eviction Diversion Update

Barbara Buckley reported that Jonathan Norman, Statewide Advocacy, Outreach and Policy Director, Nevada Coalition of Legal Service Providers, was busy in Carson City for the legislative session. She noted two eviction-related bills under consideration, and shared that a rental assistance appropriation is needed targeted to the elderly, disabled, and emergency cases to cover one to two months or rent in crisis situations to prevent homelessness. One housing initiative is to prevent the need for multiple credit/background checks and application fees. Overall, she shared that the pandemic wreaked havoc on mental health and this is affecting many areas of legal aid services.

IOLTA

Justice Hardesty, IOLTA Rate Review Committee Chair, referenced the meeting materials for a broad update. He outlined a meeting scheduled for March 21 with Bank of Nevada to consider pursuit of a “prime rate” premium tier IOLTA interest rate that could be based on some formula tied to the Federal Funds Target Rate. The plan is to gain feedback and seek discussions with additional financial institutions. The Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) credit discussions continue. In some states, IOLTA is eligible for CRA credit but not in Nevada. Advancement will include discussions with Bank of Nevada new CEO Bob Cerminaro, former CEO John Guedry, the Nevada Bankers Association and more.

The IOLTA Rate Review Committee meeting is set for April 18 where these items will be discussed further. Mark Brandenburg is the new president of the Nevada Bar Foundation (NBF), and former president Margaret Lambrose will end her service to the Commission on July 1. Mr. Brandenburg will be presented for nomination to the Commission at the June meeting. Mr. Brandenburg shared that the recent increase in interest rates has been dramatic and that he is committed to cooperating on a program that has the potential to increase NBF granting for 2024.



Unbundled Services

The two-year pilot rule was filed August 16, 2022, with an effective date of November 1, 2022. Little activity has been reported to date, but Justice Cadish did share recently at the Family Law Conference in Lake Tahoe. Ms. Gertken suggested it may be that not many attorneys know much about it and suggested a CLE to inform and educate attorneys on the benefits of the new rule to both attorneys and clients. Justices Cadish and Pickering are willing to review and discuss the CLE idea and potentially participate in the CLE if done by Zoom. Ms. Hartwell suggested that it could be promoted in the State Bar of Nevada eNews, *Communique*, *The Writ*, and *Nevada Lawyer*.

Nevada Attorney General Office of Military and Legal Assistance (OMLA)

New Commission member Special Assistant Attorney General and Director of the Office of Military Legal Assistance, Dawn Jensen, shared an update on OMLA which assists veterans, active military, and reserve service members with civil legal issues. OMLA started in 2015 and has gained good momentum over the years. Events and clinics, often in cooperation with Nevada's legal service providers, are offered statewide. OMLA has no income restrictions. OMLA has recently resumed broader engagement with both disabled and active military, especially through a new "virtual lawyer line" and freshened website. Ms. Jensen thanked the Commission for inviting her to serve.

Elder Grant – Library Legal Kiosks

Susan Myers, legal kiosk project manager for Nevada Legal Services, followed on from Ms. Jensen saying that she would add the updated OMLA website to the Nevada legal resources directory she is assembling. Ms. Myers reported that the first 10 kiosks have been committed for placement in Nevada libraries, and others are in the works. This includes Pahrump and additional rural communities of Carson City, Elko, Ely, and in Lyon County. Installations in Southern Nevada will start soon. Ms. Myers then shared a [web demonstration](#). You can access the kiosk legal information through "Please select your current Legal Kiosk location" on the home screen. The kiosks will also include Zoom and Blue Jeans access for court hearings and have printers for forms. She noted a couple of updates needed on the Nevada legal services directory brochure that Brad will update. Judge Young commended this work and offered to meet with Ms. Myers when she's in Douglas County. He noted that the Douglas County Law Library has moved to the Douglas County Public Library. Justice Pickering appreciated the great work.

Commission Member Term Expirations

Ms. Hartwell, Commission Nominating Committee Chair, referenced the roster in the materials and noted that several members terms expire July 1. She requested members reach out to her or Brad regarding reappointment or rolling off. We encourage members to continue if interested.

Creed of Professionalism and Civility

The State Bar of Nevada Board of Governors recently issued a [Creed of Professionalism and Civility](#). Ms. Buckley shared that she feels it is beneficial for the judiciary to support the creed. She shared a recent



example of a judge preempting bad behavior which was much appreciated by a staff attorney. Justice Pickering offered support for the creed and encouraged adoption and action.

Brad thanked Commission members for their engagement, and reminded all that we welcome additional committee involvement in areas appealing to members.

Reports

- Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada – Ms. Buckley noted that demand for legal services is high, with 400-500 clients per day visiting the Civil Law Self Help Center. A large percentage of those customers are addressing eviction related matters. Referrals remain elevated. Finally, she referenced a Bloomberg Law series on guardianships, and noted Nevada’s success.
- Nevada Legal Services – Peter Wetherall shared that Linda Rincon recently filled a pro bono project manager position as efforts continue to enhance pro bono services. The Reno offices moved to Virginia Street in December. The Las Vegas offices flooded in August of 2022, and NLS has now leased the fourth floor of the Bridger Street building which is a dramatic improvement.
- Southern Nevada Senior Law Program – Ms. Fearon reported that the new LegalServer case management system implementation is improving case tracking and follow up. SNSLP is seeing more demand for services, and more staff and compensation pressure. Efforts are underway to assure SNSLP is a good career choice for interested attorneys. SNSLP is seeing transportation barriers with seniors as they try to access services. They are also working on outreach to the Latino market to have better service alignment with the southern Nevada population.
- Northern Nevada Legal Aid – Tara Zimmerman said that NNLA’s upcoming luncheon is on April 21. Formerly the “Child’s Voice Luncheon”, the lunch is now named “Voices for Justice” to better reflect the wide array of services offered.
- Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevadans – Victoria Mendoza shared that VARN continues to have staffing challenges and are currently seeking a receptionist and domestic violence attorney. Cases have returned to pre-pandemic levels. The VARN grant for the Justice Center van is expected to be up and running in six months.

Adjournment

Justice Cadish asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Hartwell moved, Judge Young seconded, a vote was taken and the meeting adjourned.

Informational Items

Informational items included the following. Details upon request from the Commission:

- Legal Aid Provider Highlights
- Self-Help Center Statistics
- Triannual Provider Call Recap
- Nevada Bankers Association *The IOLTA Report*
- Public Awareness

Proposed Rule 49.5 of the Supreme Court Rules

Rule 49.5. Limited practice for Supervised Legal Practitioners.

1. Eligibility. Application for limited practice for law school graduates employed by or associated with an organized legal services program approved by the Access to Justice Commission or its designee and funded from state, federal, or recognized charitable sources that provides legal assistance to indigents in civil matters, and supervised by a member of the State Bar of Nevada who meets the eligibility requirements as a supervising lawyer.

2. Requirements. A graduate applying for limited certification as a supervised legal practitioner under this rule shall:

- (a) Have completed a full course of study and graduated with a juris doctorate or equivalent law degree from a law school approved by the American Bar Association;
- (b) Intend to become a member of the Nevada bar;
- (c) Not have been denied admission to the practice of law in Nevada for any reason except for failing to attain a passing score on any examination;
- (d) Certify that the applicant is not currently subject to discipline for academic dishonesty or the subject of a pending disciplinary matter in any jurisdiction; and
- (e) Apply for certification with the Nevada state bar pursuant to this rule using the attached form or a different form furnished by the Nevada state bar.
 - (1) The application shall include a written certification that the applicant has read and is familiar with the Model Rules of Professional Conduct of the American Bar Association and the Rules of Professional Conduct of this court and will abide by the same in the activities permitted by this rule. The filing of an application pursuant to this rule is deemed a consent by the applicant to be subject to all disciplinary processes of the court and the state bar. Any offense that would subject a lawyer admitted to practice law in this state to suspension or disbarment may be punished by suspension or forfeiture of the applicant's privilege of taking the bar examination and being licensed to practice law in this state.
 - (2) The application must be accompanied by a statement from the applicant's supervising attorney, on a form substantially similar to the form Declaration of the Supervising Lawyer Pursuant to Rule 49.5, attesting that the applicant will be a full-time employee or otherwise associated with the organization in a full-time capacity except for periods when studying or sitting for the Nevada Bar examination and that the nature of the employment conforms to the requirements of this rule.

3. Certification.

- (a) Unless sooner withdrawn or terminated, certification under this rule shall remain in effect as long as the supervised legal practitioner remains eligible to participate in the activities permitted under this rule.
- (b) The certification may be terminated by the state bar at any time without notice or hearing and without any showing of cause by mailing a notice of such termination to the supervised legal practitioner and the supervising lawyer.

- (c) The certification terminates automatically whichever occurs sooner:
 - (1) If the supervised legal practitioner does not pass the Nevada bar examination after having made 2 attempts.
 - (2) Eighteen (18) months after the supervised legal practitioner has graduated from law school.
 - (3) If the supervised legal practitioner leaves the employ of an organized legal services program approved by the Access to Justice Commission or its designee and funded from state, federal, or recognized charitable sources that provides legal assistance to indigents in civil matters, except for employment with a different organized legal services program as described herein.

4. Supervision. A “supervising lawyer” shall mean either a member of the state bar in active practice employed by an organized legal services program approved by the Access to Justice Commission or its designee and funded from state, federal, or recognized charitable sources that provides legal assistance to indigents in civil matters. A supervising lawyer shall:

- (a) Be an active resident member of the state bar and, before supervising the activities specified in subsection 5, shall have actively practiced law in Nevada as a full-time occupation for at least five (5) years.
- (b) Supervise not more than two (2) supervised legal practitioners concurrently.
- (c) Personally assume professional responsibility for all work undertaken by the supervised legal practitioner while under the lawyer’s supervision.
- (d) Assist and counsel the supervised legal practitioner in the activities permitted by this rule and review such activities to the extent necessary for the proper training of the practitioner and protection of the person on whose behalf the legal practitioner is appearing.
- (e) Not be required to be continuously personally present throughout the activities permitted under subsection 5 after a period of time deemed appropriate by the supervising lawyer.
- (f) Be responsible to the court for all filings, and the supervising lawyer’s name must be on all pleadings, briefs, or other papers prepared by the supervised legal practitioner for filing; and the supervising lawyer must read and approve any documents prepared by the supervised legal practitioner for execution by any person before submission to that person.
- (g) Notify the state bar in writing promptly whenever supervision of the supervised legal practitioner pursuant to this rule ceases, unless by reason of automatic termination pursuant to section 3(c)(1) or (2) above.

5. Activities permitted under this rule. Under the limited application of this rule, the supervised legal practitioner may, under the supervision of a supervising lawyer, but without requiring the supervisor’s continued presence after a period deemed appropriate by the supervising lawyer, engage in the following activities:

- (a) Appear in any state court, a legislative body or an administrative tribunal without the presence of the supervising lawyer. The supervised legal practitioner shall announce their appearance as a supervised legal practitioner at the beginning of any hearing or proceeding.

- (b) Prepare documents to be filed in any state court or with a legislative or administrative body. The supervised legal practitioner shall announce their appearance as a supervised legal practitioner at the beginning of any hearing or proceeding.
- (c) Prepare transactional documents such as contracts, incorporation papers and by-laws, and filings required by a state, federal, or other governmental body.
- (d) Negotiate and mediate the settlement of claims and disputes.
- (e) Prepare and mail correspondence.
- (f) Counsel and give legal advice.

The legal services organization shall notify the client that a supervised legal practitioner may represent them during the pendency of the case.

6. Use of supervised legal practitioner's name. The name of a supervised legal practitioner under this rule may properly be:

- (a) Signed and printed or typed on briefs, pleadings, and other similar documents on which the supervised legal practitioner has worked under the direction of the supervising lawyer if the supervised legal practitioner is clearly identified as certified under this rule.
- (b) Signed to letters written on the supervising lawyer's letterhead that relate to the supervised work if the supervised legal practitioner is clearly identified as certified under this rule.

7. Compensation. A supervised legal practitioner may neither ask for nor receive any compensation or remuneration of any kind directly from the person on whose behalf he or she renders service. This shall not prevent a nonprofit organization rendering legal aid to indigent persons from compensating the supervised legal practitioner for his or her services and from applying to the court for attorney's fees in appropriate cases.

8. Other Lawful Acts. Nothing in this rule shall affect the right of any supervised legal practitioner who is not admitted to practice law to engage in any legal-related services he or she might lawfully do otherwise.

9. Place of filing. All documents required to be filed with the state bar by this rule shall be filed with the admissions director of the state bar.

STATE BAR OF NEVADA
3100 W. Charleston Blvd., Ste. 100
Las Vegas, Nevada 89102

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION
FOR LIMITED LICENSURE OF

_____,

AS A SUPERVISED LEGAL PRACTITIONER.

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION OF LIMITED LICENSURE FOR SUPERVISED
LEGAL PRACTICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUPREME COURT RULE 49.5

I hereby apply for limited licensure in accordance with Supreme Court Rule 49.5 and
certify as follows:

1. My full name is: _____.
2. My present address is: _____.
3. Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 49.5, I certify that I have graduated from
_____, a law school approved by the ABA and have
received a juris doctorate degree or equivalent law degree. I graduated on _____.
4. I intend to become a member of the Nevada bar.
5. I applied to take the Nevada bar examination in _____ and my
application was submitted on _____.
6. I have not been denied admission to the practice of law in Nevada for any reason
except for failing to attain a passing score on the examination.
7. I am not currently subject to discipline for academic dishonesty or the subject of a
pending disciplinary matter in any jurisdiction.
8. I have read and am familiar with the Model Rules of Professional Conduct of the
American Bar Association and the Rules of Professional Conduct of the Supreme Court of
Nevada. I will abide by the same in the activities permitted by Supreme Court Rule 49.5.
9. I hereby irrevocably consent to be subject to all disciplinary processes of the State
Bar of Nevada including but not limited to the imposition of fines by Disciplinary Boards, the
Board of Governors of the State Bar of Nevada or by the Nevada Supreme Court and consent
that any offense which would subject an attorney to suspension or disbarment may be punished

by suspension or forfeiture of my privilege of taking the Bar Examination or being licensed to practice law in the State of Nevada.

10. I am employed by _____, and my activities will be supervised by _____.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the law of the State of Nevada that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: _____

Signature

Printed Name

STATE BAR OF NEVADA
3100 W. Charleston Blvd., Ste. 100
Las Vegas, Nevada 89102

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION
FOR LIMITED LICENSURE OF

_____,

AS A SUPERVISED LEGAL PRACTITIONER.

DECLARATION OF SUPERVISING LAWYER PURSUANT TO
SUPREME COURT RULE 49.5

I hereby certify as follows:

1. I am an active resident member of the State Bar of Nevada and have been actively practicing law in Nevada as a full-time occupation for at least five (5) years.

2. I am employed by _____, an organized legal services program approved by the Access to Justice Commission or its designee and funded from state, federal, or recognized charitable sources that provides legal assistance to indigents in civil matters.

3. I will supervise the activities of _____ pursuant to Rule 49.5. I do not currently supervise more than 1 other supervised legal practitioner. _____ is a full-time employee or associated full time in an employment capacity with the organization.

4. I assume professional responsibility for any work undertaken by said supervised legal practitioner.

5. I will assist and counsel the supervised legal practitioner and review the activities of the supervised legal practitioner to the extent required under the Rule and for the protection of the client.

6. I have read and am familiar with the provisions of Rule 49.5 and will fully comply with said Rule.

7. I will promptly notify the State Bar of Nevada in writing whenever my supervision of the supervised legal practitioner terminates unless terminated automatically because the supervised legal practitioner has passed the Nevada bar examination, fails the examination a second time, or 18 months has passed from the date of graduation.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the law of the State of Nevada that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED: _____

Supervising Lawyer

Employer

Employer Address

City, State, Zip

Bar Number

Proposed retainer language update for all legal aid provider retainer agreements:

<Legal aid provider> has discretion to assign your case to the staff member(s) it deems appropriate throughout the duration of this representation, including (but not limited to) lawyers, paralegals, law clerks, Supervised Legal Practitioners (Nev. Sup. Ct. R. 49.5), certified law students (Nev. Sup. Ct. R. 49.3), or any other individual authorized to work on such matters under the Supreme Court Rules adopted by the Supreme Court of Nevada. The staff assigned to your case may change at any point during your representation based on the needs of the organization.



ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

MEMO

Date: June 9, 2023

To: Access to Justice Commission

From: Connie Akridge for Doreen Spears Hartwell, Chair, ATJC Nominating Committee

CC: ATJC Nominating Committee, Brad Lewis

RE: Access to Justice Commission Nominating Committee Recommendation

Several Commission member terms expire July 1, 2023. Below are recommended for a vote by the ATJC Nominating Committee.

Vote requested for June meeting:

Nominated, slot:	Reappoint or replace /organization:	Term to expire:
Bobbette Bond, 2(h)	Reappointment/Culinary Health Fund	7/1/26
Annett Bradley, 2(i)	Reappointment/Southern NV Health Dist. Ret.	7/1/26
Milan Chatterjee, 2(i)	Reappointment/Milan's Legal	7/1/26
Diane Fearon, 2(e)	Reappointment/Southern NV Sr. Law Prog.	7/1/26
Courtney Kinsella, 2(g)	Constantine Arhontas /UNLV PILA President	5/1/24
Judge Joanna Kishner, 2(a)	Reappointment/EJDC	7/1/26
Margaret Lambrose, 2(e)	Mark Brandenburg /Nevada Bar Foundation	7/1/26
Augusta Massey, 2(i)	Jennifer Richards /NV DHHS, ADSD	7/1/26
Judge Cynthia Lu, 2(a)	Reappointment/SJDC	7/1/26
Judge Bridget Robb, 2(a)	Reappointment/SJDC	7/1/26
Judge John Schelgelmilch, 2(b)	Judge Kriston Hill /Elko County (4JDC)	7/1/26
Raine Shortridge, 2(i)	Reappointment/Nevada State Bank	7/1/26
Glen Stevens, 2(h)	Reappointment/United Healthcare	7/1/26
Steven "J.T." Washington, 2(i)	Reappointment/ Holland & Hart	7/1/26
Michael Wendlberger, 2(e)	Reappointment/Legal Aid Ctr. of So. NV	7/1/26
Judge Nathan Todd Young, 2(i)	Reappointment/Douglas County (9JDC)	7/1/26

Pending for November meeting:

Nominated, slot:	Reappoint or replace /organization:	Term to expire:
Judge E. Alan Tiras, 2(c)	TBD NJLJ President Judge Miller to appoint	7/1/27

We are happy to answer any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Dues Check Off:

After engineering a reversal of a downward donation trend in 2019, over the last two years voluntary donations to pro bono and the Nevada Bar Foundation are waning, as follows:

- 2019 \$70,483
- 2020 \$99,652
- 2021 \$116,425
- 2022 \$102,772
- 2023 \$73,092

Preliminary plans to reverse this trend include:

- Being transparent that only about 500 of 10,000 members donate
- Increase clarity that 100 percent of contributions go to legal aid and/or NBF
- Create brief, concise promotion language – no long communications - focused on results
- Implement an automatic donor thank you letter for a near immediate thank you vs. lag time

If you have ideas or different opinions about what will restore donor growth, please share.

Unbundling Lunch & Learn CLE –

This is a draft concept for feedback for an Unbundling Lunch & Learn CLE to address the lack of private bar awareness of the expansion of the limited scope representation rule statewide so that potentially interested attorneys can be enticed to accept, particularly, complex family law matters on a pro bono basis.

Goals: Inform attorneys about Limited Scope Representation and how it can benefit them in taking on complex family law matters on a limited basis, especially in pro bono cases. That they can define the scope of services and then withdraw once the services identified in the agreement are complete. The forms aid in notifying the court of the limited scope of services and provide clarity that the attorney can withdraw once finished.

From a broader perspective, identifying the departures from the Clark County rule to clarify when parties can be contacted directly by opposing counsel, mandating eservice to parties directly, and ensuring parties and courts are informed with the standardization of the forms.

CLE title: Limited Scope Representation: New Rule Benefits Attorneys & Clients

Panel: Rhea Gertken, Deputy Director, Nevada Legal Services; Tara Zimmerman, Executive Director, Northern Nevada Legal Aid; Justice Cadish and Justice Pickering, Nevada Supreme Court.

Discussion: Last year the Supreme Court adopted District Court Rule 26 expanding the ability of attorneys to enter into Limited Scope Representation Agreements with clients statewide. While primarily designed to help with placement of extended service family law matters through the pro bono programs of the five legal services organizations, the rule applies whether cases accepted on a pro bono basis or for payment of a fee.

The legal services providers will discuss the specific need of assistance in court in family matters and the justices will discuss the background and process to adopt the rule.

- Overview of rule and case types
 - New advantages for attorneys
 - New advantages for clients
 - Forms and eFiling
 - Pilot period
- Q & A
- Pro Bono Encouragement

Format: Zoom. Recorded for on demand access.

Timing: TBD, potentiall noon “lunch and learn”, check with CLE team on best times.

Price: Free

Promotion/Follow up: Develop promotion and follow up plan to include SBN eNews, standalone emails, social media, and *Nevada Lawyer*. Leverage other opportunities as possible, e.g., CCBA, WCBA, etc.

News & Notes

PRO BONO NEWS

Limiting the Scope of Legal Services: A Way to Aid Pro Bono Clients and Beyond

BY RHEA GERTKEN, ESQ., DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NEVADA LEGAL SERVICES



In November 2022, a new district court expanded limited scope representation, commonly called unbundled services, to every court across Nevada. While originally proposed to encourage pro bono participation in the programs of the five legal service organizations in Nevada, the rule is not limited only to pro bono service.

The legal services of an attorney drastically improve the outcomes of matters before the court. Allowing a party to obtain even short-term assistance from a skilled attorney, especially at key decision points in a case, can help the bench move cases to resolution, help the bar manage busy and sometimes overwhelming caseloads, and help individuals afford an attorney even for a short time rather than be forced to appear for a contested hearing pro se.

The Limited Scope Representation rule of District Court Rule 26 allows attorneys, whether paid or pro bono, to enter into a limited-scope representation agreement with a client to provide discreet services in family law matters. The proposed forms with the rules were designed to be transparent with the court and the client about the limitations of the attorney's representation, while also ensuring attorneys may withdraw once the services are complete.

The rule also addresses other concerns that practitioners have had with the local rule in the Eighth Judicial District Court, and requires notice to parties, requirements to ensure parties are included in eservice, and allows for the client to object if the attorney has not actually completed the

outlined scope of services. Additionally, the rule clarifies that attorneys may contact parties directly to discuss ongoing matters that are outside the limited scope of the representation. The rule also now applies statewide as a district court rule. The purpose of the rule, though, is to allow attorneys to withdraw by filing a form Notice of Completion of Services in Limited Scope Representation once those enumerated legal services have been completed.

"The limited scope attorney shall then be allowed to withdraw from the matter if no objection is filed and the court determines the services in the limited scope representation are complete." DCR 26(6)(d).

Nevada Legal Services (NLS) has been offering cases for pro bono placement pursuant to this rule statewide and can assist pro bono volunteers by communicating the limitations in the representation with the client. If it determines a case is appropriate for placement under this new rule, NLS will now be offering it for placement as limited-scope representation. When speaking with a client at an Ask A Lawyer event, if you find that the client will be beneficially assisted by your accepting the case for further representation on a limited scope, NLS is more than happy to place the matter for limited scope pro bono services.

Sign up to become a volunteer with NLS or any of the legal services providers in Nevada if you would like to help a client in need while also limiting your time commitment in long term family cases.

Senior Law Program Receives Donation from Bailey Kennedy

Southern Nevada Senior Law Program (SLP) announced that it received a pledge from the Bailey Kennedy law firm for \$25,000 over the course of the next five years, becoming the first Senior Advocates Sustaining Supporter for its Senior Advocates Pro Bono Program.

The Senior Advocates Program launched in October 2021 to expand the capacity of SLP in meeting the high volume of needs of vulnerable seniors. The program has grown to include more than 30 caring pro bono attorney volunteers. Senior Advocates provide additional capacity alongside SLP's hardworking staff attorneys, enabling the organization to serve more than 2,100 seniors last year.

Managing Partner John R. Bailey has made not only a substantial financial commitment on behalf of the firm

but also has committed to becoming a Senior Advocate alongside his associate attorneys by donating their time and expertise doing pro bono work for SLP.

SLP is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that does not charge its low-income and/or fixed-income clients for legal services. SLP is funded by generous grants and community and client donations, and serves seniors aged 60 years and older in Southern Nevada. For senior clients facing eviction, access to legal assistance can mean the difference between facing homelessness and knowing they will have a safe place to sleep at night. SLP is there to help older adults with a serious illness diagnosis obtain a Power of Attorney Health Care and Will on an expedited basis.

Elder Grant Library Legal Kiosk Project 060923 –

The Legal Kiosk Project has made significant progress since the last report. Ten kiosks were installed in Southern Nevada in late April, with six in the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, three in North Las Vegas Library District, and one in the Pahrump Community Library. Twelve kiosks were installed throughout Northern Nevada the week of May 29.

Web developer A2J Tech conducted technical training sessions on how to use the kiosks for library staff prior to installation. Project manager Susan Myers and Ann Walsh Long, Director of the Nevada Supreme Court Law Library, have conducted virtual and in-person trainings for library staff in Southern Nevada regarding using the legal kiosks to provide patrons with legal information (vs. legal advice) and referrals to resources. Legal information trainings will be held for the Northern Nevada libraries soon.



Access to Justice Highlights 1st Quarter 2023

Overall Stats

Total Cases/Clients Helped				
	1 st Qtr	2 nd Qtr	3 rd Qtr	4 th Qtr
Consumer Rights Project	2,185			
Guardianship Advocacy Project	2,346			
Minor Guardianship Advocacy Program	565			
Family Justice Project	819			
Immigration Advocacy Project	1,519			
Children's Attorneys Project	2,654			
Education Advocacy Program	166			
Volunteer Education Advocacy Program	141			
Civil Law Self-Help Center	16,520			
Family Law Self-Help Center	22,621			
Vegas Strong Resiliency Center	861			
Community Legal Education Classes	600			
Pro Bono Cases Placed	141			
AAL Clients Served	901			
TOTAL SERVED	52,039			

Overall Highlights

Minor Guardianship Reform

Guardianship Advocacy Program (GAP) attorneys Debra Bookout and Marina Dalia-Hunt as well as Children's Attorneys Project (CAP) attorneys Janice Wolf and Xavier Planta, as well as ED Barbara Buckley, have been working on reforms to the minor guardianship system which would ensure relative caregivers in that system have access to resources to support those children and that parents know their rights in their system to ensure that children have the best chance with both their parents and relatives. Certain children have been falling through the cracks of both the dependency and minor guardianship systems, and our advocacy has been to ensure that children are not treated differently depending on the courthouse door they enter. Stakeholders

from the Court and DFS have willingly joined these conversations to improve the lives of children. AB 446 also covers this important issue.

U.S. Congressional Crime Survivors and Justice Caucus Allied Professional National Award

Working with Congresswoman Dina Titus and her staff, the Legal Aid Center; the Vegas Strong Resiliency Center; Clark County; Las Vegas Metro Police Department; and the State of Nevada were named the recipients of the 2023 U.S. Congressional Crime Survivors and Justice Caucus Allied Professional National Award. The award recognizes the efforts of individuals, organizations and/or coalitions that directly benefit crime victims, but who are not direct victim service providers (including but not limited to criminal and juvenile justice, health, mental health, faith communities, academia and educators, and civic leadership. The honorees demonstrate leadership, creativity, and commitment in linking allied professions to improve the plight of crime victim in our Nation.

State Bar of Nevada Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Medallion



The State Bar of Nevada recognized the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada's commitment to incorporating diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives in its practice by awarding us the medallion as a partner in DEI.

Pro Bono Volunteer of the Month Recipients:

- January – Meng Zhong
- February – Ogonna Brown
- March – Africa Sanchez

Staff Awards

Michael Wendlberger
Clark County Bar Association Volunteer of the Year

Angela Cook

Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame (inducted in March 2023)

Clark County Bar Association Circle of Support, Diversity and Inclusion Committee for Equity

Christena Georgas-Burns

Recognized as the Clark County Bar Association New Lawyers Committee Co-Chair

New Fellows

We have chosen our 2023 Fellows, and we are thrilled with the new, young legal professionals joining Legal Aid Center.



Civil Justice Fellow – Madison Johnson

Madison will work in the Family Justice Project with a focus on human trafficking and domestic violence.



Diversity and Justice Fellow – Josh Lozano

Josh will work in the Consumer Rights Project.



Melanie Kushnir Access to Justice Fellow – Ciara Clark

Ciara will work with the Pro Bono Project.



Paul Padda Law Community Justice Fellow – Anthony Anguille-Valles

Anthony will work with the Consumer Rights Project, the Family Justice Project, and the Children's Attorney Project.

Inaugural Pipeline Fellows

Harrison Bohn
Nina Marcello
Grace Warburton
Michael Warth
Garrison Wright

Community Outreach Events – 45 events this quarter serving 1,002 people

Asylum Preparation Workshop

On January 28, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada Immigration Advocacy Attorneys and Legal Advocates, Catholic Charities, the local chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, and the William S. Boyd School of Law Immigrant Rights Coalition (a student organization) processed asylum applications (I-589) for over 60 Cubans.

Community Law Day

In February, Legal Aid Center's Guardianship Advocacy Program, the William S. Boyd School of Law, Nevada Legal Services, and Southern Nevada Senior Law Program conducted a Community Law Day at the East Valley Library. We assisted close to 40 seniors and young adults with disabilities by providing information on avoiding court intervention as you age and supporting independence for disabled young adults. Every attendee had the opportunity to meet with an attorney.

Family Justice Project Open House

Over 30 representatives from our partner agencies, congressional offices, and organizations who assist victims of domestic violence joined us on March 23 for the Family Justice Project (FJP) Open House. FJP attorneys, the directing attorney of the Family Law Self Help Center, and the director of the Vegas Strong Resiliency Center talked about the history of FJP, recent accomplishments and challenges, the need to be a trauma-informed organization and future goals. The event has led to productive conversations with the Sheriff's Office, the Family Justice Center and other groups.

Legal Aid Center in the News

Las Vegas felon accused of defrauding Holocaust survivor out of life savings -
<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/crime/las-vegas-felon-accused-of-defrauding-holocaust-survivor-out-of-life-savings/ar-AA19PUZM?ocid=hpmsn&cvid=1c0a84ada10e42ff868de57d82be52c3&ei=31>

There is a backstory involving our amazing team at the VSRC. Christy had the two women come in to meet with her on an eviction issue because they no longer had access to any of their own accounts to pay rent. She discovered that others in the complex were defrauded and she helped

gather documents and information for the investigation. The women introduced Christy to the holocaust survivor, and Christy connected him with Jewish Family Services to obtain funding to assist holocaust survivors. All of these people have been able to stay in their homes thanks to negotiations between Tyler and the landlord. Advocates worked very hard to stop the bleeding with their accounts and credit.

Both of the women had language barriers and all of them had technology barriers. Without the structure of the VSRC & Legal Aid Center working together, there would have been a more dire outcome.

We continue to work with them as they keep hitting bumps, but they are on their way to recovery.

- <https://www.nevadacurrent.com/2023/01/13/end-of-rental-assistance-program-prompts-fears-evictions-will-spike/>
- <https://www.ktnv.com/news/legal-aid-center-of-southern-nevada-to-host-briefing-on-eviction-crisis-in-clark-county>
- <https://www.reviewjournal.com/business/legal-aid-center-addresses-evictions-as-rental-help-winds-down-2713803/>
- <https://news3lv.com/news/local/legal-aid-center-of-southern-nevada-warns-of-eviction-crisis>
- <https://www.nevadacurrent.com/2023/01/18/legal-aid-urges-lawmakers-to-reconsider-previously-declined-eviction-bills-tenant-protections/>
- <https://www.8newsnow.com/investigators/las-vegas-area-evictions-to-increase-as-rental-assistance-program-ends/>
- <https://espanol.reviewjournal.com/noticias/local-noticias/termina-ayuda-para-pago-de-rentas-en-el-sur-de-nevada-legal-aid-center-aborda-ayudas-206158/>
- <https://www.8newsnow.com/news/local-news/more-clark-county-residents-could-face-eviction-as-rental-assistance-program-narrows-requirements/>
- <https://www.reuters.com/legal/government/nevada-lawyer-seeks-upend-states-forfeiture-laws-2023-01-20/>
- <https://www.reviewjournal.com/business/legal-aid-groups-seek-more-tenant-protections-as-eviction-filings-rise-2716123/>
- <https://www.8newsnow.com/news/politics/web-extra-legal-aid-center-of-southern-nevada-on-looming-evictions/>
- <https://www.nevadacurrent.com/2023/01/26/housing-justice-advocates-weigh-in-on-white-house-plan-to-bolster-tenant-protections/>
- <https://www.nevadacurrent.com/2023/01/31/center-offering-legal-information-on-eviction-civil-matters-sees-high-volume-of-clients/>
- <https://lasvegasweekly.com/news/2023/feb/02/what-to-expect-during-nevadas-legislative-session/>
- <https://www.reviewjournal.com/news/politics-and-government/nevada/first-black-woman-on-nevadas-high-court-appointment-bigger-than-just-me-2731118/>
- <https://www.8newsnow.com/news/hope-for-the-best-but-plan-for-the-worst-las-vegas-family-awaits-clark-county-rental-assistance-approval/>

- <https://www.ktnv.com/news/clark-county-evictions-on-the-rise-following-change-to-rental-assistance-program>
- <https://www.ktnv.com/news/its-unsanitary-residents-at-las-vegas-apartment-complex-complain-of-rat-infestation>
- <https://noticiasya.com/nevada/2023/03/02/madre-hispana-enfrenta-desalojo-apesar-de-ser-propietaria-de-la-vivienda/>
- <https://www.nevadacurrent.com/2023/03/17/republic-services-ramps-up-lawsuits-against-nevadans-over-trash-bills/>
- <https://www.reviewjournal.com/news/politics-and-government/against-the-odds-afghan-family-reunites-in-las-vegas-2741218/>
- <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/us-law-week/guardians-abuses-persist-as-one-states-easy-fix-goes-unmatched>
- <https://www.fox5vegas.com/2023/03/15/nevada-proposed-bill-aims-reform-fees-rental-tenants-faces-scrutiny-landlords-businesses/>
- <https://news3lv.com/news/local/vegas-strong-resiliency-center-speaks-about-trauma-mass-shootings-cause>

Consumer Rights Project Case Highlights

Caroline*

Caroline, age 70, took her car to Tropicana Tires* to replace a faulty catalytic converter. Because she couldn't afford the full cost of the work, Tropicana Tires signed her up for financing through an outside company. Although Caroline paid off the full amount, she discovered that her car still wasn't running properly.

She took the car back to Tropicana Tires, which was completely unhelpful in resolving the problem. They even made her pay for a second catalytic converter that was never installed.

She later took the car to another shop for a brake issue. They put the car on a lift and pointed out that the original catalytic converter was still in the vehicle, along with a random pipe that had been added. She realized that Tropicana Tires had never installed a new catalytic converter in the first place; they had merely installed a piece of junk on the underside of her car.

She then took the car to three different Autozone locations, all of which diagnosed a catalytic converter problem.

Understandably upset with Tropicana Tires, Caroline filed a complaint with the DMV. Following an investigation, the DMV forced Tropicana Tires to replace the catalytic converter for free. The car ran smoothly after that.

Caroline, however, still wanted to try to recover the amounts that she paid above and beyond what it should have cost to replace the catalytic converter the first time. She came to Legal Aid Center for assistance. An attorney met with her and went over the small claims process in detail.

Caroline's attorney assisted her with preparing the demand letter and exhibits showing all her expenses associated with the catalytic converter problem. The attorney also conducted research to ensure that she was suing the right entity.

Caroline then sued Tropicana Tires in small claims court and got a judgment in her favor for a substantial part of her expenses. She returned to Legal Aid Center for assistance with collections. Caroline's former attorney met with her to explain the collections process, and reached out to the DMV to find out the name of Tropicana Tires' bond company so that Caroline can ask for payment of the judgment from the bond.

Caroline was very grateful for Legal Aid Center's help in every step along the way to her victory in small claims court.

*Name changed to protect client's confidentiality

*Name of opposing party changed

Guardianship Advocacy Project Case Highlights

Jane,*

My 76 year old client, Jane, had been in Spring Valley Hospital since January 30, 2023. Jane was taken to Spring Valley because she was feeling dizzy and having chest pain, she agreed to get checked out at the hospital. They initially did some labs and gave her IV fluids. Beyond that, she did not receive further medical treatment.

In March the hospital filed a Petition for Guardianship over the person and estate. The physician's certificate completed by a doctor at the hospital that had just met Jane listed her mental diagnosis as "Altered Mental Status" and "Dementia". This is interesting because it does not appear in the records that she was ever officially tested using any generally accepted cognitive assessment exam or tool for dementia. The doctor said she exhibits "poor insight and judgment". They concluded that she is facing substantial and immediate risk of financial loss simply because she is homeless.

Jane is independent in caring for herself. The hospital seemed to think that because she didn't have an address that she needed to be placed in an assisted living facility. She repeatedly denied needing or wanting to be placed in an assisted living facility.

When I first met Jane she was sitting up in her room dressed and appeared well groomed. I introduced myself and she brought me a chair. She has been adamant since my first meeting with her that she was being held there against her will and that she just wanted to leave. She has her personal items in a storage unit but moves from place to place, usually staying in hotels around town. This is the lifestyle she chooses, the lifestyle that makes her happy. She enjoys getting her hair done, spa days and movies just like many of us.

At the first guardianship hearing, I placed my client's objection on the records. My client was also present via blue jeans and stated her objection to the guardianship. The court found that the

hospital presented clear and convincing evidence that a guardianship is needed but because of client's objection asked the attorneys to meet to discuss less restrictive alternatives.

There were no less restrictive alternatives available to Jane as she does not have any family that she is comfortable having as her power of attorney. The rep payee option is not a feasible alternative because Jane's lifestyle is one of moving from place to place.

Jane presented a written notice to Spring Valley Hospital advising that she chooses to leave the hospital against medical advice. As she was walking out, she reports being "man" handled and forced back to her room. Jane was so very upset.

On April 13, 2023 at the continued citation hearing, I continued to object on behalf of Jane. I really believe that my client was going to be placed under guardianship because of being perceived as homeless. The Court finally agreed to deny the guardianship over the person of my client. The judge did grant a guardianship over the estate but that does not prevent Jane from leaving the hospital and living life as she chooses. The last time I spoke with Jane she shared her excitement of being able to go catch up on some of the movies she has missed while being stuck in the hospital. She left Spring Valley Hospital on the day the Court denied the guardianship over the person.

I hope Jane is either getting her hair done or watching a movie and enjoying this lovely spring weather.

*names have been changed to protect confidentiality

Family Justice Project Case Highlights

Assisted client with filing for divorce. Parties had a lengthy marriage and two minor children both of which were special needs children. Opposing party left the family about two years ago and left client to raise the children which was a constant struggle given the child's medical issues. We filed a complaint for divorce on client's behalf and requested that she be awarded the martial home (trailer home). Opposing party did not answer and thus we filed for a default judgment against him. The concern and most important issue for the client was being awarded the martial residence, however, awarding the client the residence would require the court to make a finding that allowed for uneven distribution of community property. The matter was eventually set for a prove-up hearing. During the hearing, the court asked that we make our argument for why the court should allow for the uneven distribution of property. We advised the court that the opposing party had in fact abandoned the family two years ago. Since leaving, he failed to pay any child support/spousal support. Client has been left to struggle and only take part-time work in order to be able to take the children to their medical appointments. The current mortgage payments were very low and forcing client to sell and obtain new housing would create a hardship to both client and the children. After hearing the argument presented, court agreed and granted the martial residence to the client.

Immigration Advocacy Project Case Highlights

Myriam*

Myriam came to Legal Aid seeking our assistance because she fled her home country of Afghanistan during the tragic fall of Kabul when the Taliban took over the city and country back in August of 2021. Myriam was seeking asylum and with the help of Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, she was granted her request which gave her the security and peace of mind to remain in the United States and away from harm in Afghanistan.

Myriam is the sister of the first female presidential candidate of Afghanistan who helped her during her campaign and assisted protests that were seeking equal and fair treatment of women living in Afghanistan. The campaign was very dangerous, as many people did not want to empower women by having an Afghan female run for presidency. Myriam received threatening calls, trying to push her to have her sister give up her political career for their safety. The antagonists threaten to kill all the family members if her sister did not stop her political campaign.

Myriam was not only a vulnerable person because she was a young woman, she was also faced with the challenges of living with a mental disability. With the help of her sister, Myriam and her elderly mother were able to make it safely to the air force base in Kabul where they were airlifted to safety on a perilous journey to the United States. Thanks to Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, her asylum was granted and it gave her a great relief. Myriam was very thankful and said, “I am very happy that I can stay here and don’t have to go back to Afghanistan where I would be forced to marry or be killed”.

*names have been changed to protect confidentiality

Children’s Attorneys Project Case Highlights

Karla*

Karla is a seven-year-old girl who has significant behavioral issues that have developed over the past year. She has disrupted several placements and had been residing at Child Haven for nearly a year. In spite of having no placement options and no adoptive prospects, the District Attorney’s office was pushing for termination of parental rights. Meanwhile, Karla’s CAP attorney had requested her case be referred to the multi-agency staffing meeting. At that meeting, it came out that after seeing her recently for a diagnostic assessment, it was the opinion of Karla’s psychologist that she was so deeply attached to her mother that terminating her rights would likely detrimental to her stability and not in her best interests. Karla’s CAP attorney spoke with her DFS case worker, who agreed that between this new assessment and the mother’s recent progress the termination proceedings should be suspended for the time being and efforts made to return Karla home to her mother on a safety plan instead. The District Attorney’s office

yielded to its client, and now efforts are under way to return Karla home to her mother instead of terminating her mother's rights.

*names have been changed to protect confidentiality

Education Advocacy Program Highlights

Since doubling the size of our education team in the past 4-6 months, our focus has been on internal professional development, on streamlining our workflows, and capturing more of the tremendous work of our team through data. We hope to continue internal training, but also turn our focus to targeted outreach and stakeholder trainings this summer.

We began identifying a number of priority populations to target with proactive advocacy and to strategize impact complaints and litigation: 1) children in need of dyslexia screening under state law and, prospectively, accommodations modifications and specialized instruction under NRS and IDEA; 2) foster children 14 and older who qualify for transitional services under the IDEA; 3) children on the Autism Spectrum who've been denied FAPE and also discriminated against; and 4) children repeatedly informally removed and removed without due process from instruction in violation of their educational rights. We are also looking into extreme civil rights violations within academic centers aka behavior schools. Additionally, we are monitoring for implementation of state law requirements for of FAPE in residential and acute hospital settings.

This school year our team has faced unprecedented push-back from the school district, and brazen disregard for disciplinary due process for children with disabilities and children in foster care. But we continue to have wins in manifestation determinations, foster presumption meetings, and expulsion appeals where our clients have compelling facts and law on their side.

In January and February the team took on the school district in two due process hearings regarding children with dyslexia, one of which resulted in the parent getting an evidence based dyslexia program implemented and related services ordered for her son. We are hopeful to disrupt unscrupulous settlement practices that coerce parents and EDMs to choose between getting some remedy for their IDEA claims, but be forced to waive rights to other civil claims.

This quarter our VEA program continued to work with the Department of Family Services to identify displaced children and high needs children in need of urgent volunteers to get them Child Find Services or to advocate when their educational rights were at stake. We continue to train and assign new volunteers, and lead the charge to reinstitute the IDEA-mandated surrogate process for all displaced children within the school district.

A number of very troubling education related bills were introduced during the legislative session this quarter, which we are working with our statewide advocate to combat in the interest of our clients and their children. Provisions that would permit permanent expulsion of children as young as kindergarten and some that would undoubtedly create an even greater disparate impact on children with disabilities are among some of the most egregious proposals.

Vegas Strong Resiliency Center Case Highlights

Bob*

Bob had been struggling with holding consistent employment due to manifestations of trauma. Bob had once worked in a well-compensated position that had him traveling from California and Nevada. He was renting a space in California, and owned a home in Nevada. Now he could not afford these expenses, but did not know if he should stay in Nevada with the home he owned, try to sell his house and find work in California, or seek help from family in Colorado. California victims of crime benefits had been exhausted, so he was paying out of pocket for needed therapy and medications, which also cut against his other necessary expenses. Bob's family, not knowing the context or updates around the MGM lawsuit brought by some of those affected by Route 91, told him to speak to an attorney about the large settlement for routers they had heard about some time ago. Bob reached out seeking information about the MGM settlement and was soon contacted by the Center's Staff Attorney explaining the status of the settlement, which no new parties could apply to receive benefits, the applicable statute of limitations for the underlying cause of action, and other details. The Staff Attorney took the time to understand Bob's situation, and connected him with financial assistance and specifically the Center's emergency financial assistance.

Bob was walked through possible solutions and discussed Nevada's Foreclosure Mediation program, which Bob did not previously know of. Bob's advocate has been working with Nevada VOCP to find untapped resources and benefits including medical reimbursement and lost wages. Armed with information and some breathing room from daunting bills, Bob is able to make the best decisions for himself moving forward with the assistance and support of the Center's staff empowering him along the way.

Suzanne*

Suzanne came to Las Vegas from Central America in December 2022. Within a month of her arrival, Suzanne was violently stabbed in the abdomen as she walked to the grocery store. Suzanne faced unique barriers as a noncitizen, Spanish-speaking young adult. She expressed interest in accessing services, yet had no idea what was available to her or how to navigate the social services systems on her own. Suzanne was referred to the Vegas Strong Resiliency Center by personnel at the University Medical Center.

Suzanne was residing with her spouse, child and mother-in-law before her victimization. Suzanne's spouse was supporting the family of four. Suzanne contacted the VSRC for assistance with mounting medical bills, food resources and rental assistance as her family was facing eviction. She also requested information about immigration services. The VSRC advocate arranged to meet with the client at the VSRC to discuss her needs and provide information about available resources in her primary language through an interpreter. Based on information shared by Suzanne, the VSRC advocate assisted client with the Victims of Crime application and submitted it on her behalf. VSRC advocate shared information about the Just One Project Food Pantry. The VSRC advocate assisted the client with the U-Visa/Immigration application and provided a soft handoff to a legal advocate in the Family Justice Project. VSRC advocate also

staffed Suzanne's needs with the in-house Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Family Services Specialist and discovered that the client was approved for Medicaid for one month. VSRC Advocate explained the process to pay medical bills and provided Suzanne with a copy of her Medicaid approval letter with billing number.

Suzanne was awarded VOCP benefits for medical expenses, chiropractic and physical therapy, ambulance expenses and medical transport, prescription expenses, and mental health therapy. The VSRC advocate hopes that Suzanne will continue to obtain the services and support she needs to pursue healing, recovery, and a full and satisfying life after her traumatic experience.

*names have been changed to protect confidentiality



First Quarter 2023 Highlights

Outreach

NLS in the Community

01/03/2023	Pershing County Senior Center	Pershing
01/04/2023	Laughlin Pro Bono Ask-A-Lawyer	Clark
01/06/2023	Article re: Criminal Record Sealing for January 2023 Clark County Bar Association Communiqué	Clark
01/06/2023	Basics of Records Sealing Class	Clark
01/09/2023	Huntridge AAL	Clark
01/09/2023	Operation HOME Working Group	Clark
01/10/2023	Pahrump Pro Bono Ask-A-Lawyer	Nye
01/12/2023	Southern Nevada Association of Women Attorneys Family Law Panel CLE Event	Clark
01/13/2023	Summerhill Apartments Resource Partner Meeting	Clark
01/13/2023	Our Center Name & Gender Marker Change Forms Clinic	Washoe
01/13/2023	Basics of Records Sealing Class	Clark
01/16/2023	Record Sealing Class	Clark
01/20/2023	Basics of Records Sealing Class	Clark
01/21/2023	Community Care - Cupcake Girls Event	Clark
01/24/2023	Nevada Homeless Alliance Pop-Up Project Homeless Connect Resource Fair at the Bonneville Transit Center	Clark
01/24/2023	Outreach Carson City Farms and Local Businesses	Carson City
01/25/2023	Ryan White Part A Planning Council Presentation	Statewide
01/25/2023	VA Hospital Ask-A-Lawyer	Clark
01/26/2023	Street Law Presentations 2023	Washoe
01/27/2023	Basics of Records Sealing Class	Clark
01/28/2023	Human Trafficking Awareness	Clark
02/01/2023	Reno Community Court	Washoe
02/01/2023	Laughlin Pro Bono Ask-A-Lawyer	Clark
02/01/2023	Pathway from Poverty Provider Meeting	Clark
02/01/2023	Rapid Response Employ NV Presentation for Custom Ink	Washoe
02/03/2023	Basics of Records Sealing Class	Clark
02/04/2023	UNR-Migrant Worker Rural Outreach Clinic Event	Churchill

02/04/2023	UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law Community Law Day - Guardianship & Supported Decision Making	Clark
02/06/2023	Outreach Winnemucca Farms and Local Businesses	Humboldt
02/06/2023	National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Community Dinner and Resource Fair	Clark
02/07/2023	Pahrump Pro Bono Ask-A-Lawyer	Nye
02/07/2023	National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Community Health Fair	Clark
02/08/2023	UNLV Diversity Program SNAP Presentation	Clark
02/08/2023	Law Library Ask A Lawyer	Clark
02/09/2023	Investiture of Judge Deborah Westbrook	Clark
02/10/2023	Opportunity Alliance Nevada Advisory Call	Statewide
02/10/2023	Basics of Records Sealing Class	Clark
02/11/2023	Beau-T Spa Day at The Centers	Clark
02/13/2023	Operation HOME Working Group	Clark
02/13/2023	Outreach St. Peter, St. Michael's, St. Albert, Immaculate Conception, Holy Cross, and St. Therese of Little Flower Catholic Churches	Washoe
02/15/2023	Howard D. McKibben Inn of Court February Meeting - Speed Networking Event	Clark
02/16/2023	LVMPD Enterprise Area Command Apartment Manager's Meeting	Clark
02/17/2023	Basics of Record Sealing Class	Clark
02/17/2023	Rapid Response - Presentation	Washoe
02/22/2023	Reno Law Fair	Washoe
02/24/2023	Basics of Records Sealing Class	Clark
02/25/2023	UNR-Migrant Worker Rural Outreach Clinic Event	Pershing
02/27/2023	ECDC African Community Center	Clark
02/28/2023	VA Hospital Ask-A-Lawyer	Clark
03/01/2023	Laughlin Pro Bono Ask-A-Lawyer	Clark
03/01/2023	Pathways from Poverty Provider Meeting	Clark
03/02/2023	Reno Sparks Gospel Mission Presentation	Washoe
03/03/2023	Basics of Records Sealing Class	Clark
03/03/2023	Rapid Response - Presentation EmployNV	Washoe
03/03/2023	NAACP	Washoe
03/07/2023	Community Services Agency (CSA) Eviction Presentation	Washoe
03/07/2023	Pahrump Pro Bono Ask-A-Lawyer	Nye
03/08/2023	Law Library Ask A Lawyer	Clark
03/08/2023	Nevada Homeless Alliance Provider Meeting	Clark
03/09/2023	Wilson Elser WAVE Event	Clark
03/09/2023	BWLAVEGAS-Meet and Greet	Clark
03/09/2023	Street Law Presentations 2023	Washoe
03/10/2023	Basics of Records Sealing Class	Clark

03/14/2023	Wells Senior Center 2023	Elko
03/14/2023	Nevada Homeless Alliance Pop-Up Project Homeless Connect at Super 8 Non-Congregate Shelter	Clark
03/14/2023	People First of Nevada Winnemucca Chapter Presentation: NLS and Supported Decision Making	Humboldt
03/15/2023	VA Hospital Ask-A-Lawyer	Clark
03/16/2023	Reno Initiative for Shelter and Equality	Washoe
03/16/2023	SNRHA FSS Landlord/Tenant Basics Workshop	Clark
03/16/2023	ADSD TeMoak Presentation	Elko
03/17/2023	Basics of Records Sealing Class	Clark
03/18/2023	UNR-Migrant Worker Rural Outreach Clinic Event	Lyon
03/22/2023	Veterans Stand Down	Clark
03/23/2023	Supported Decision Making Workshop for Individuals with Disabilities with Clark County School District	Clark
03/23/2023	Silver State Housing	Washoe
03/24/2023	Basics of Records Sealing Class	Clark
03/24/2023	Outreach with Awaken	Washoe
03/25/2023	GenderFest 2023	Clark
03/27/2023	HSA, Men's Crossroads	Washoe
03/28/2023	Reno OMLA Veterans Ask A Lawyer	Washoe
03/29/2023	Reno Community Court	Washoe
03/29/2023	Nevada Homeless Alliance Pop-Up Project Homeless Connect at New Beginnings	Clark
03/30/2023	Farmworker Awareness Day Outreach Event	Lyon
03/31/2023	Basics of Records Sealing Class	Clark
03/31/2023	The Las Vegas Trans Pride	Clark

New YouTube Videos

01/13/2023 NLS Update: Landlord-Tenant Ask A Lawyer
01/01/2023 YouTube Law School: Episode 5: Appeal

Project Updates

PRO BONO

New Cases Placed:

Pro Bono Advice: 139

Pro Bono Extended Services: 50

Judicare: 15

New Cases Accepted for Assistance: 224

Cases waiting for placement: 45

New Volunteers: 17

Our Lawyer in the School Project is up and running and getting ready for summer school at Myrtle Tate elementary school. Our staff are at the school 2 days a week now, but we hope to expand our services in the next school year. We also attended the Family Law Conference in Stateline this year during the amazing snowstorm!

CLEs	
1/20/2023	Probate Basics
3/10/2023	Rights of Unsheltered Individuals
3/28-30/2023	Principles of Fair Housing Litigation

CORE SERVICES

We are starting a new initiative within our Core Services in Reno to assist homeless and at risk individuals in Washoe County. We have staffed a Case Manager to assist in meeting our client's non-legal needs and look at the whole client when devising a legal strategy to help a client. Often legal solutions are bandages over a much deeper issue, and we hope to meet our client's needs more holistically through our Holistic Lawyering Project. We are currently conducting outreach at Reno Community Court and hope to expand our outreach efforts over the summer.

Case Stories

**All client names disguised with aliases for the purpose of this report.*

Subsidized Housing:

Anan* originally from Laos, is an elderly disabled man with limited English proficiency (LEP). Anan lives in a public housing unit owned and operated by the Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority (SNRHA). He lives with disabled adult son and a live-in-caregiver (another adult son). Anan was facing eviction for foot traffic, noise and a smoking violation. He did not understand the meaning of "foot traffic," a common term used by housing authorities to alleged illegal activity without having to prove the illegal activity; thus, he did not fully understand why SNRHA was trying to evict him. NLS assisted him in appealing the notice by requesting an informal hearing and a Laotian interpreter for the hearing. NLS represented him at the informal hearing enforcing his Title VI right to an interpreter during any conference with SNRHA, documenting this in his housing file. We asked they provide Anan with a second chance because of his LEP and that reasonable accommodation be considered due to his son's disability. SNRHA agreed and client is still in his unit. NLS made sure client fully understood the conditions of the agreement.

Subsidized housing:

Steve* is a resident at a 55+ community managed by the SNRHA. Steve contacted our office seeking representation at an eviction hearing scheduled at the Henderson Justice Court. Sadly, at the age of 61, Steve started caring for his two small grandchildren (3 and 1 year old). Unfortunately, his son and mother of his grandchildren posted a video on Facebook of them fighting in front of his grandchildren. This was reported to Child Protective Services and the children were placed with Steve, likely long term. The SNRHA sought to evict him based on a violation of his lease due to additional occupants and on the basis that it is a 55+ community. NLS stepped in and represented Steve at the eviction hearing. We were able to successfully argue on his behalf, and the Judge denied the eviction.

Unemployment Benefits/Pandemic Unemployment Assistance:

Marie* is a mental health nurse and was terminated from her employment after 11 years. She was terminated for alleged misconduct due to continued tardiness. Cathy admitted that she was tardy but explained that she was involved in a car accident, sustained injuries to her back, which caused her pain/discomfort with everyday activities – especially in the morning, when trying to get ready for work. She also explained that her employer was aware of her injuries, that she notified her supervisor when she would be late and, on the days, she was late, she stayed longer to finish her job. She applied for unemployment over a year ago, she has not received benefits, she had to deplete her 401K & borrow money while trying to find another job. NLS helped her set an appeal hearing in April and we represented her at the appeal hearing. The referee determined that the employer did not establish misconduct in connection with her job. She was awarded unemployment benefits and she has already received \$9,600.00. She has regained financial independence and has been able to repay the money she borrowed.

By the Numbers – Core Services	
New cases accepted during the quarter	425
Total cases worked by advocates during the quarter	611

CLEAN SLATE PROJECT

Through our Clean Slate project, NLS provides education and legal assistance to Clark County residents seeking a fresh start by sealing their criminal records. NLS conducted outreach with The Source, Hope For Prisoners, law enforcement agencies and continue with our regular Basics of Record Sealing Classes while ramping up the number of clients we are able to serve through our record sealing efforts.

Community Education Series

Basics of Record Sealing – Community Education Series – 161 attendees

By the Numbers – Clean Slate Project	
New cases accepted during the quarter	64
Total cases worked by advocates during the quarter	110

CONSUMER LAW PROJECT

Case Stories

One area in our rural communities which is a common issue and concern is the use of land sale installment contracts. Sellers often don't understand their responsibilities under Nevada law or the contract. Barry* came to use because he received a 30 day no cause eviction notice for the home he was in the process of purchasing. He had previously rented the home but entered into a sale agreement with the owner to purchase the home and land. He missed a few payments under the land sale installment contract due to a loss of income but was able to make partial payments. He also found employment and would be able to get fully caught.

NLS assisted Barry in contesting the eviction notice. As he had entered into a contract to purchase the land, he was no longer a tenant and had an ownership interest in the property. We also argued that certain terms of the contract were void as deceptive trade practices as they did not comport with Nevada law regarding foreclosure and termination of land sale installment contracts. The eviction was dismissed at the hearing and our client was able to stay in his home.

Dave* and his son reached out because they received a notice of default on their reverse mortgage home loan. Dave had put the house in a trust but did not notify the mortgage lender of the change in ownership. Dave then went into the hospital and the mortgage lender sent a notice of default due to the technical change in ownership. Dave's son and NLS worked with the mortgage lender to supply the necessary documents to avoid default on the home.

By the Numbers – Consumer Law Project	
New cases accepted during the quarter	104
Total cases worked by advocates during the quarter	181

HIV IMPACT LAW PROJECT AND LGBTQ+ LEGAL INITIATIVE

Our HIV Impact Law Project has launched a new LGBTQ+ legal initiative in addition to our continued services to persons living with HIV. We continue to expand our partnerships with Ryan White Part B providers while also conducting legal clinics with our LGBTQ+ partners, including a name and gender marker change clinic with the Center.

By the Numbers – HIV Law Project	
New cases accepted during the quarter	36
Total cases worked by advocates during the quarter	73

INDIAN AND FARMWORKER LAW PROJECT

We have developed a new partnership with the San Manuel Band to expand our ability to serve tribal members across Nevada and look forward to developing a long term partnership to continue to broaden our assistance to tribal members statewide.

Case Story

NLS represented a defendant in the Tribal Court on various felony charges and was being held in County Jail on a drug related charge. Due to successful negotiation, the prosecutor agreed to defer the cases for a year so the client could receive long-term rehabilitative treatment. Our client was able to enter treatment and stayed out of trouble for the year period. His cases were dismissed or closed with credit for time served so that he could work on getting his life back on track.

By the Numbers – Indian and Farmworker Law Project	
New cases accepted during the quarter	32
Total cases worked by advocates during the quarter	136

SENIOR LAW PROJECT

Case Story

Sue's family contacted NLS after the nursing facility in which she lived discharged her without notice and simply dropped her off at the hospital where one of the family members worked. The long term care facility followed none of the proper procedure to evict or discharge a resident from the facility. NLS co-counseled with counsel from ADSD in challenging the facility's action in an administrative proceeding before the Department of Administration. NLS and ADSD were successful in arguing the facility violated its responsibility to secure a safe placement for Sue prior to her discharge and ordered the facility to accept and allow her to return to the facility.

By the Numbers – Senior Law Project	
New cases accepted during the quarter	43
Total cases worked by advocates during the quarter	116

TENANTS' RIGHTS CENTERS

Case Story

Our client contacted NLS for advice regarding an eviction. She received a notice to pay rent or quit for two months of rent. The tenant has applied for and received rental assistance to pay for those 2 months. As landlord had refused to continue accepting rent, she had, but was unable to pay, the next month's rent. After we advised her not only on her legal defenses to the eviction, but provided guidance on how to address the court and advocate for herself, she was able to get the serious issues with the eviction before the judge despite the attorney for the landlord arguing against her. She was able to show the judge the notice applied to the months covered by rental assistance and not the month following where the landlord refused the rent. The eviction was denied and the tenant was able to stay in her home despite the landlord's failure to properly maintain the ledger.

By the Numbers – Tenants' Rights Center	
Total Cases Worked	621

VETERANS LAW PROJECT

Our Veterans Law Project will expand this year to include a grant awarded by the VA to assist veterans at risk of homelessness. We are continuing our partnerships with the VA hospital and reinvigorating the OMLA program with the Attorney General's Office to provide legal services to veterans across Nevada.

Case Story

George* came to NLS from a referral from the Salvation Army's SSVF program – the Supporting Services for Veteran Families program assists homeless or at risk of homeless veterans. He had been evicted from his apartment for failing to pay rent because he did not file his Tenant's Affidavit on time. The SSVF program had paid the rental amounts at issue and he needed the eviction sealed in order to find a new place to live. NLS file a motion to seal the eviction and the court signed the order prior to the hearing on the matter. Our client was able to move forward with his life without having this record affect his ability to find housing.

By the Numbers – Veterans Law Project	
New cases accepted during the quarter	63
Total cases worked by advocates during the quarter	98



Access to Justice Commission June 2023 Meeting

Case Statistics: Case and Client Outcome Report Jan 1-May 15, 2023

Program	Count
Adult Guardianship	789
Child Ad	920
Consumer-Housing (General)	544
General (Misc)	263
Immigration (General)	337
Intake	5
Jail	413
MLP	2
Pro Bono	2
Self Help	691
SLC	696
Victim Advocacy	77
(blank)	9
Grand Total	4748

Closed Reason	Count
Advice & Counsel	485
Limited Action/Brief Service	1435
Client Withdrew/Lost Contact	127
Conflict- Unable to Assist	4
Court Decision	25
Negotiated without Litigation	15
Negotiated with Litigation	11
Administrative Decision	9
Uncontested Court Decision	156
Contested Court Decision	31
Insufficient Merit to Proceed	8
Referral or Information Only	338
Open Cases	2104
Grand Total	4748

Outreach

NNLA conducted outreach at no less than six (6) events in April and May of 2023 and reached over 4,000 people directly. Events attended or hosted included:

- The Biggest Little Easter Egg Hunt & Resource Fair (organized by Washoe CASA & hosted by the Boys & Girls Club)
- Senior Resource Fairs & the Washoe County Senior Fair (organized by Washoe County Senior Coalition & hosted by Washoe County Libraries/Washoe County)

- Pinwheel planting events to raise awareness of Child Abuse Awareness Month (Events vary & include internal events)
- Our internal events (Including our Advanced Care Planning Seminars), and our annual fundraising initiative that was branded as the ‘Voices For Justice’ event for the first time this year
- The UNR Dean’s Future Scholars (DFS) Family Resource Fair at Traner Middle School in Reno, NV

We conducted our 13th annual fundraiser on April 21st, the inaugural ‘Voices For Justice’ luncheon. The luncheon featured a new format that better recognized all that we do at Northern Nevada Legal Aid. The event highlighted the efforts from our Child Advocacy, Immigration, and Adult Guardianship Departments. The event raised nearly \$60,000 in total revenue, and this year we received greater support from local sponsors than in any year prior. Sponsors included:

- First Independent Bank
- Parsons, Behle & Latimer
- Renown Health
- Whittier Trust
- Lewis Roca
- Meadows Bank
- Rimini Street, Inc.
- Gunderson Law Firm
- Holland & Hart
- Urology Nevada
- Washoe County

We continue to seek new events to attend and to increase awareness of our services, and our new name & branding; however, we have plans to attend at least nine (9) more events throughout the year and extending into at least late October. Many of these events, for example Northern Nevada Pride & Juneteenth, are large events and we expect to reach a large volume of Northern Nevadans through our forthcoming outreach.

Program Updates

- NNLA has been conducting clinics for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status clients and is continuing looking at ways to continue to grow this program.
- NNLA continues to operate its Housing Stability Self Help Center located at the Reno Justice Court. Pro se tenants can receive free assistance through the Self-Help Center or a direct referral from the Self-Help Center to a NNLA staff attorney, as appropriate, on legal issues affecting housing stability including, for example, all types of evictions, security deposit returns, and habitability. NNLA has informally expanded its services at the Reno Justice Court to include other legal issues, such as family law and related legal matters. NNLA also continues to operate its general self-help center out of its main office and is looking at ways to expand these services.

- NNLA has hired a new Medical Legal Partnership Attorney. NNLA has been looking at ways to expand its impact at Northern Nevada HOPES--with whom it has a longstanding partnership--as well as looking at ways to expand the MLP Program to include additional community partners.

Case Stories

- Client is a 62 year old woman in a rural county who suffered a severe brain injury after a fall from a horse. After hospitalization in California and therapy back home in Nevada, her sister/Guardian agreed with our NNLA attorney that the time for guardianship had ended. The NNLA attorney arranged for an up-dated capacity evaluation that confirmed that our client had regained sufficient capacity to have the guardianship terminated and all of her rights restore. The Court agreed and the guardianship was terminated.
- Client is a 26 year old male, who despite a traumatic brain injury as a teenager, continued to make dramatic improvements in his abilities. Under the guardianship of his parents and with support from his Northern Nevada Legal Aid attorney he was able to complete therapy and vocational training, get a good job, and along with his lawyer, convince the Court that guardianship was not longer necessary. He has since become a motivational speaker, married a lovely young woman and purchased a home. During the course of his guardianship, NNLA lawyer assisted in accessing therapy and training opportunities that helped him down this path.
- Client came to us in regard to a fraudulent loan application that was completed by a used car salesman. She did not know about the loan until they started calling her and telling her she was behind. The loan was \$1,000. She wanted the loan canceled. NNLA was able to send a demand letter on her behalf and got the loan canceled.
- The client was referred to us by ADSD due to an illegal eviction from a nursing home. NNLA appealed and then we were able to negotiate with the opposing counsel and we got the case dismissed.
- Client and husband are disabled seniors. Client was served a PROQ notice and had a lien put on their mobile home and filed with the Mobile Home Division and client's mortgage company. Client alleged to owe thousands of dollars in arrears. In review of the documents, NNLA attorney saw that lot rent increase provided to client last year only gave them 45 days' notice instead of the statutorily mandated 90 days. The rent increase was illegal. Additionally, Client had continued to pay previous rent amount for the month that landlord had cited in lien. The lien was illegal. NNLA contacted opposing counsel and threatened to file complaints and oppositions if they didn't immediately correct the problem. landlord removed lien, corrected ledger to reflect a zero-dollar balance, and allowed client to continue paying their previous rent amount until April 2023.

- Client is a senior who was forced to break lease by agreement for health agreement. Landlord failed to ever give a security deposit accounting or return prepaid rents. Landlord told client that she broke contract and he didn't need to do anything. On client's behalf we sued landlord in Small Claims Court. He failed to appear and client was awarded a default judgment. NNLA assisted client in putting lien on complex landlord owns for the judgment. He will have to reimburse client if he ever wants to sell property.
- Client is almost 10 years old. She has finally been moved to her identified adoptive home in Tennessee. This has been a long-time coming as Client's plan changed to Termination of Parental Rights almost two (2) years ago. Her staff attorney has had the chance to video visit with Client while she is Tennessee. She had a fun spring break with her new family. They went to "Big Splash" water park. Client has her own room in the home that she helped decorate with dream catchers. She has been able to meet a lot of the extended family via video – so that she is not overwhelmed by too much contact at first. She is looking forward to slowly meeting all of them in person. She enjoys her new school and she has made four new friends there. She has also been taking singing lessons after school, and she is a wonderful singer. Client is looking forward to her adoption finalizing.
- NNLA has seen a large number of unaccompanied minors who have been abused, abandoned, or neglected by one or both parents. These children are unable to return home for their safety due to a variety of reasons: victims of child sexual assault by family members, victims of gang violence, threats, and stalking, victims of violence against women in home country, etc. NNLA has created clinics to best serve these clients, during which we explain the Special Immigrant Juvenile status (SIJS) benefit, screen clients for eligibility for SIJS and start the intake process. Thereafter, three of our departments work together to get these children the SIJS benefit.
- Client is one of our SIJS clients. She is 19 years old and came to the United States in 2021. Client had court in March for her guardianship hearing. Client testified at the hearing and expressed her desire for her mother to be appointed as her guardian. The judge granted our request for guardianship. Both Client and her mother expressed their happiness and gratitude after the hearing. The next step will be for the Immigration Unit to assist with the SIJS filing.
- Client's spouse was routinely using threats of suicide and/or self-harm as well as other manipulative behaviors. Parties had separated, but adverse party was able to convince Client to let him move into her new place after 6 months. Adverse party's behavior escalated within a month to a staged suicide attempt while the parties' two young children were in the home (and left unattended). NNLA was able to secure a six-month extended protection order for Client.

- After obtaining and extended protection order for Client, NNLA assisted with visitation and financial issues as well as referring to other resources, and have also begun divorce case to provide Client and children with safety and stability moving forward.



Date: June 5, 2023

To: Access to Justice Commission

From: Diane Fearon, Executive Director, Southern Nevada Senior Law Program

Re: Updates for January – April 2023 period

Highlights of January – April 2023

Senior Law Program is pleased to report progress on our **Goals for 2023** listed below:

- ❖ Seek funding support to add staffing of a bilingual attorney and a bilingual paralegal, in addition to the current two SLP staff members who are bilingual.
 - **As a result of resource development activities, SLP has been able to add one full-time legal assistant position. This increases our capacity for serving Eviction and Housing clients and establishes administrative support for the Senior Advocates Pro Bono Program, to enable our continued growth in this area. Since launching the Senior Advocates program in October 2021, we have recruited over 50 volunteer attorneys to assist with presenting at our Basic Estate Planning and POA Health Care Clinics as well as accept pro bono case referrals. Additionally, we have been able to add two bilingual staff members resulting in 30% of our staff who are fluent in Spanish.**
- ❖ Increase the number of Hispanic seniors served by SLP to align more closely with the percentage of Hispanic population in Southern Nevada.
 - **In April 2023, SLP engaged a Latina owned marketing consulting firm with grant funds from ADSD for a Hispanic Senior Outreach Initiative. Our Development and Outreach Manager, who is also Hispanic, is the project lead for crafting our culturally competent messaging to Spanish speaking seniors, while at the same time recruiting Spanish speaking attorneys to assist us. SLP now has six attorneys participating in focus groups, and committing to providing pro bono services for our clients.**
- ❖ Continue to seek improvements in how SLP collaborates with other legal aid organizations and community organizations.
 - **SLP appreciates Peter Wetherall of NLS for initiating an Executive Directors Roundtable for all five of Nevada's legal aid organizations in January 2023 for an open dialog of challenges and opportunities facing all of us. This open discussion has been helpful to SLP as we navigate evolving business conditions and the priority of recruiting and retaining quality staff. SLP has highly productive channels of communication with Brad Lewis, LACSN, and NLS related to the pro bono efforts each**

of us engages in and anticipates growing our collaborative efforts to maximize our finite resources.

- ❖ Expand the Senior Advocates Pro Bono Program with external attorneys committing to volunteer a minimum of 6 hours annually, including Spanish speaking attorneys, and increasing internal staffing to support the administrative responsibilities related to a robust pro bono program.
 - **The State Bar Sections Pro Bono Challenge launched in February 2023 has been an asset to our efforts in recruiting pro bono attorneys. Marketing done by the SBN along with the coveted recognition prizes has elevated awareness and motivated a greater level of participation than would have been possible without the coordinated promotional efforts put forth. In addition, SLP was able to engage a Strategic Advisor for Pro Bono with funding from the Nevada Bar Foundation for a 12-month period ending December 2023. Kara Kelley has helped increase awareness of SLP in the legal community and recruited 10 volunteer attorneys, along with generating two \$25,000 pledges (payable over 5 years) from Senior Advocate Sustaining Sponsors (Bailey Kennedy and Travis Brady) to help underwrite the pro bono program at SLP. As of June 1, 2023, SLP has 17 pro bono attorneys who have committed to 46 volunteer opportunities.**
- ❖ Launch tri-annual “Will-a-Thon events” that utilize pro bono attorneys who are affiliated for a group activity, for example; CCBA, Young Lawyers’ Section of the State Bar, Public Lawyers, etc., along with senior centers located in areas of high need, to increase the reach of legal services support to vulnerable seniors.
 - **SLP’s first Will a Thon event took place on March 24 at the Boulder City Senior Center with five volunteer attorneys, serving nine seniors. The next one is scheduled for June 15 at the Martin Luther King Jr. Senior Center in partnership with CCBA and has 18 attorneys signed up to serve 45 seniors in a three-hour period.**

Numbers for January – April 2023

✓ Clients Served YTD 2023	855
✓ Assisted Without Litigation	817
✓ Represented in Litigation	38
✓ Participants in Clinics	236
✓ Participants at Seminars	267
✓ Clinics with Pro Bono Attorneys	24
○ Types of Client Matters	
✓ Abuse/Elder Exploitation	31
✓ (DGDN) Estate Planning/Guardianship	447
✓ Housing/Foreclosure	235
✓ (Other) Consumer/Utilities	79
✓ Income/Public Benefits/LTHC	40
✓ Healthcare	23
✓ Civil Litigation	4
✓ Family Law	5

Success Stories

1. Lilian V. is an 84-year-old widow who was born in 1938 during the Nazi regime. She emigrated to the United States after World War II and subsequently married 3 times. She came to SLP because she is having difficulty with Nevada DMV in obtaining a Real ID. She is able to document and prove up every name change in the course of her life, except one—a marriage which took place in Tijuana, Mexico in 1964. Ironically, she is able to document the annulment of that marriage, which was granted in the state of Wisconsin, however, unless she personally travels to Mexico, the Mexican government is refusing to provide any documentation proving that the marriage took place. Due to her advanced age and health issues, traveling to Mexico is impossible for Lilian. Lilian subsequently married again and had a happy marriage until her husband's death in 2011. It is this husband's name she desires on her Real ID.

A judicial name change is required to assist Lilian in obtaining a Real ID and the pertinent information was gathered in an interview with her. SLP is preparing the necessary Petition for Name Change, and this will be filed in Family Court to await a judge's signature. Once this is obtained, the DMV will issue Lilian her Real ID. She and her daughter were tearful and grateful that this could be accomplished because all of their diligent efforts on their own had been unsuccessful and they did not know where to turn.

2. Mr. K. is a 76-year-old senior that was served a "no cause" notice to quit by his landlord – this is a precursor to possible eviction proceeding. Mr. K. successfully prepared and filed a response to the notice to quit with the eviction court prior to contacting the Senior Law Program. Nonetheless, Mr. K. was so distraught by the possibility of eviction that he could barely manage, in fact when he contacted the Senior Law Program one of his friends and neighbors did most of the communicating on Mr. K's behalf because he was pessimistic about his options. After discussing the matter in detail with Mr. K. and his friend, the staff at Senior Law Program informed Mr. K. of his rights as a tenant and how to prepare for his upcoming eviction hearing. In particular, he was advised that he could not be asked to leave his apartment with a "no cause" notice to quit because he had a lease which granted him the right to remain in the property and his lease did not end for months. With this information and newfound understanding of the eviction process, Mr. K. prevailed against his landlord at eviction court. The court denied the landlord's complaint for eviction.

SEAL OF THE
SECOND JUDICIAL
DISTRICT COURT
WASHOE COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

ATJC REPORT

June 2023

Law Day

Every year, the Washoe County Law Library partners with the Northern Nevada Women Lawyers Association for a special Law Day event.

This year, we held our Law Day event on May 1 during the lunchtime hours. It was a special in person Lawyer in the Library program and we made it “walk-in only;” no appointments required. We had 15 volunteer attorneys, and 76 attendees! No one was turned away; it was a fantastic event!

New Lawyer in the Library Pilot Program

The inaugural Landlord/Tenant Law program kicked off on April 26. There was one volunteer attorney and a full roster of 8 participants.

Everyone in attendance was assisted. We will continue to evaluate this new monthly program.

Q1 2023 LAWYER IN THE LIBRARY PARTICIPANTS

338



Q1 2023 Totals

4,930

In person visits

2,031

Phone calls

604

Live website chats

GRANT AWARD

We received a grant award of \$10,431.00 to create a Children's Corner in the library.

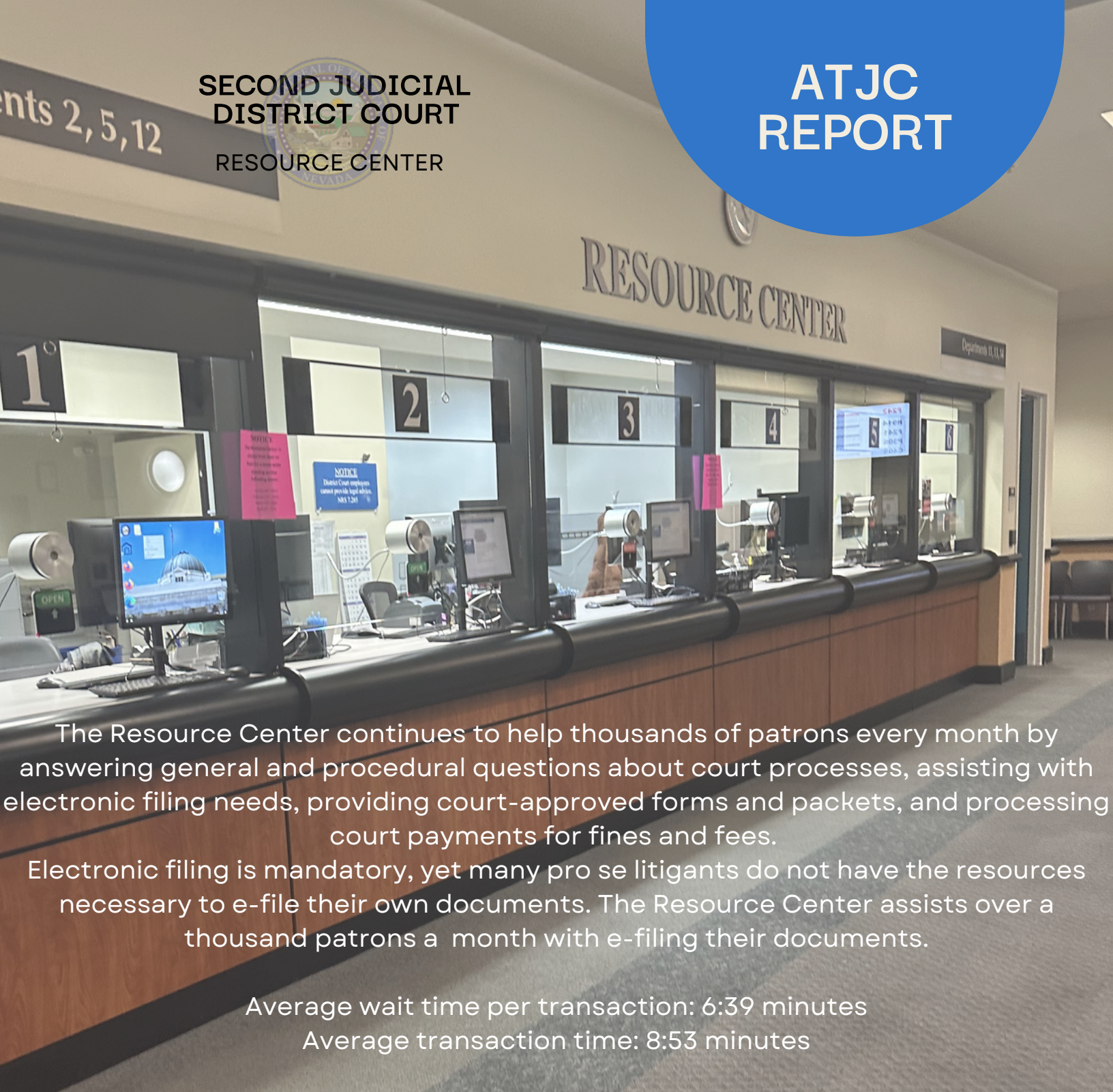
Many of the parents who come in to the Law Library to work on their personal legal issues do not have other childcare options, so they bring young children with them. Our goal is to create a safe, comfortable area in the Law Library where parents that are managing legal paperwork or performing legal research can occupy their children's attention with educational activities.

We will use the grant funds to purchase a computer loaded with educational games to include STREAM topics, as well as a coding package and a bilingual option for Spanish speakers. This grant was awarded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records. The project is expected to be completed in the Fall of 2023.



SECOND JUDICIAL
DISTRICT COURT
RESOURCE CENTER

ATJC REPORT



The Resource Center continues to help thousands of patrons every month by answering general and procedural questions about court processes, assisting with electronic filing needs, providing court-approved forms and packets, and processing court payments for fines and fees.

Electronic filing is mandatory, yet many pro se litigants do not have the resources necessary to e-file their own documents. The Resource Center assists over a thousand patrons a month with e-filing their documents.

Average wait time per transaction: 6:39 minutes

Average transaction time: 8:53 minutes

Q1 2023 Totals

6,731

In person visits

5,438

Phone calls

4,237

Emails



ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

Triannual Nevada Legal Aid Provider/Pre-ATJC Meeting Recap Friday, May 12, 2023

Attendees Present

Barbara Buckley
Diane Fearon
Peter Wetherall
Tara Zimmerman

ATJC Staff Present

Brad Lewis

This was a regularly scheduled triannual provider call. Here was the agenda:

- Status update for June 9 ATJC meeting
 - Section Pro Bono Challenge – EJDC/SJDC receptions – 10/12 and 10/19? (NSC 9/8)
 - Dues check off trending down – new ideas
 - Limited Practice Rule (consent)
 - IOLTA outreach plan – new element, legal aid representatives join
 - Unbundling CLE idea/mtg.
- Open discussion – issues/solutions
- On deck opportunities - retired attorney outreach

Section Pro Bono Challenge advancing, ends June 1. The challenge currently has about 200 volunteers and/or donors and more than 700 challenge points. Nevada Supreme Court Top 10 volunteer lunch is September 8. Space limited due to court atrium location. Currently working to set EJDC and SJDC judicial receptions.

Dues check off has been trending down again, after an earlier downtrend was reversed with a new approach. Seemed to be consensus to be transparent about the low number of donors. Out of approximately 10,000 members, only about 500 donate to pro bono or the Nevada Bar Foundation. Welcome ideas for trying to strengthen donations during dues renewal. One idea is to remind them that they donated last year during the online renewal process. Currently this is done separately through a thank you after donating, and reminder ahead of the next cycle. A new element for 2024 will be an automatic thank you after the donation. The other idea is to include testimonials, which were done previously but dropped. Will work with these ideas and welcome others. One idea is to marketing “taking one case” like the One Campaign.

Limited Practice Rule discussions will continue next week, particularly focusing on consent. The group seems to agree that the preference is for the oversight of this element to be up to the supervising attorney and not the court. This would further the apprenticeship concept under consideration for future attorney admittance.

IOLTA outreach plans for later this year are underway. One idea is to invite a legal aid representative to join the Nevada Bar Foundation president and Access to Justice Commission staff to share how IOLTA dollars are spent



and the good they do in the community. Most agree this could work to freshen our approach. Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) was discussed. We do hope to continue to advance with the next action to be Justice Hardesty attending a Nevada-based board meeting of the Nevada Bankers Association. Bank of Nevada current CEO Bob Cerminaro, and former CEO John Guedry, and a to-be-identified CRA expert from Nevada State Bank will also be engaged. The IOLTA Town Hall CLE is set for Wednesday, May 24.

Unbundling will be discussed on a call next week as no significant feedback has been received. The idea is that we need to educate attorneys on the availability of this rule and encourage its use for, particularly, complex pro bono family law cases, especially in rural areas. Rhea Gertken and Tara Zimmerman will develop a CLE program in concert with ATJC for sharing a draft to proceed with Justices Pickering and Cadish.

Open discussion:

ATJC application - From time to time, the ATJC gets inquiries from legal aid-type organizations to be recognized by the Access to Justice Commission. The Statewide Service Delivery Plan calls for an application to be available, but one does not exist. Oftentimes these are just entities trying to get around SBN Admissions requirements (which we do not endorse), but other times they may want benefits accruing to ATJC recognized legal aid providers, including access to IOLTA funds. One concept is to have two approval options, one for if funds are desired and one that specifically forgoes any claim to funds as it is important to preserve funds for recognized, full service legal service providers. To proceed, the discussion centered around exactly what would be required to apply and that we could have a screening mechanism before any application. It would be beneficial to put into place a proactive, intentional plan that provides an opportunity to apply but also sets up appropriate parameters to be qualified. A first draft of that application was sent under separate cover the afternoon of May 12. No “screening mechanism” has yet been developed. It was determined that while there is no rush to this, we should proceed to review and discuss the draft and determine next steps.

Also sent with the application were the attached links, which could be part of the screening or application process:

[Standards for the Provision of Civil Legal Aid \(americanbar.org\)](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_services/standards-for-the-provision-of-civil-legal-aid/)

[LSC Performance Criteria | LSC - Legal Services Corporation: America's Partner for Equal Justice](https://www.lsc.gov/lsc-performance-criteria/)

Gaps in services – Barbara also raised the idea for providers to discuss gaps in services. How well are we addressing the key legal services being seen? Are we avoiding overlap? What are our blind spots? With potential new grant funds, how will we respond to requests for expanded services? Specific ideas included habitability, and a discussion ensued focused on leveraging staff attorney legal strengths, passions, and expertise as a way to not only attract but retain talent. Also, the delicate balance of paying more to attract and retain talent while preserving morale is an area of emphasis. Another idea was sharing marketing, A/V, and other resources.

Bailey Bortolin – Barbara announced that Bailey will return to Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada with a focus on key projects.

Future Meetings – It was decided that moving forward we’ll retain the format of this meeting focusing on assuring advancement of previously identified issues, with the second part of the call being focused on new challenges and opportunities for advancement with the second segment being led by legal service provider executive directors on a rotating basis. Beginning with the next meeting the order will be Diane, Tara, Victoria, Peter, Barbara.

The IOLTA Report: Justice for All?

Nevada's Innovative Challenge Program Engaging Attorneys Supplements IOLTA Funding

More than 30 Nevada financial institutions that support the IOLTA (Interest on Lawyer Trust Account) program provide needed funds to Nevada's legal aid providers. As a partner in this support, Nevada's legal service providers leverage the talents of the private bar to extend pro bono service. In 2022, attorneys provided 128,817 hours of direct pro bono service. This critical resource supports and extends IOLTA funds.

This year, State Bar of Nevada President Paola Armeni, is championing a Section Pro Bono Challenge. The State Bar of Nevada has 27 sections – interest groups for lawyers in a particular type of law practice – ranging from Appellate Law to Family Law, and Gaming Law to Probate and Trust. The goal of the challenge is to continue supporting Nevada's culture of pro bono service. This challenge has received great support from Nevada's bar and judiciary. We know that attorneys from every section bring unique experience and skills that can greatly benefit Nevadans struggling with a legal issue. Lawyers can help with everything from protecting children from abuse to assisting low-income seniors with advance directives that reduce healthcare spending by avoiding unwanted care.

On another front, to get the most out of limited funding, the Nevada Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission has worked with Nevada legal service providers on a Statewide Service Delivery Plan designed to establish thresholds throughout the state, avoid overlap, increase self-help services, establish service provider standards and, of course, fortify pro bono service, which greatly increases legal help for those in need by leveraging IOLTA and other funding.

Interest on Lawyer Trust Account funds are a critical resource employed by all Nevada legal service providers that gets help to low-income Nevadans with the most pressing legal needs. The Nevada Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission and all Nevada legal service providers extend their thanks to all Nevada financial institutions that support the IOLTA program.

Public Awareness as of 060123 –

Since the March, 2023 report...

Twitter - We increased from 227,727 to 231,950 impressions and from 14,053 to 14,460 profile visits on Twitter. We encourage you to follow us **@NevadaATJ**.

Top Tweets –

- April '23 – Pro Bono Honor Roll – 574 impressions
- May '23 – Section Pro Bono Challenge QR signup code – 370 impressions