

PRO BONO HONOR ROLL



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BOLD honors multiple cases accepted and/or sessions conducted within the month.

PRO BONO SPOTLIGHT



RODNEY SUMPTER

BY CHRISTINA ALBERTS,
NEVADA LAWYER STAFF

A religious verse, “To whom much is given, much is expected,” is a guiding light for Reno attorney Rodney Sumpter. Sumpter said he was raised to believe in giving back and follows the sentiment behind the verse.

In his solo practice, Sumpter works on many bankruptcy cases and he regularly takes pro bono bankruptcy cases from Washoe Legal Services and Nevada Legal Services. Sumpter said when he sees e-mails from legal aid providers asking for help with bankruptcy cases, he usually takes one or two, as he feels it is only right for him to do as much as he can, whenever he can.

“It is difficult for lots of people to afford an attorney and it’s so important that they be represented [in bankruptcy cases]. Even in the simplest of cases difficulties can occur, and they are already under a lot of stress,” Sumpter explained.

Nevadans going through bankruptcy need a fresh start, Sumpter said. By helping them to navigate the confusing, emotional and difficult process, he said he can provide a new beginning and help them move on.

Sumpter said the overall impression he has regarding pro bono is one of gratitude; those he helps are extremely grateful to have someone to assist them and their sincere thanks make his efforts more worthwhile.

“If you want to do something in the law that will make you feel better about everything you do – do pro bono,” Sumpter said.

Sumpter is a graduate of the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law and the University of Nevada, Reno. He was admitted to the state bar in 1980, and has been practicing in Reno ever since. ■