

A note From the Issue Editor

Hon. Robert J. Johnston

If you have ever read the children's book "Charlotte's Web" by E.B. White, you will remember the gluttonous rat, Templeton. His consistent refrain when asked to help was "what's in it for me?" We often look at our bar association and say the same thing: what's in it for me? Well. . .

Resources; this magazine is just one of many resources that the State Bar of Nevada provides to support its membership. *Nevada Lawyer* magazine is devoted to bringing you information that will be useful in your practice. This issue focuses specifically on the services and benefits provided by the state bar to its membership.

First, you'll find an overview of the bar's leadership, your Board of Governors, including a look at the board's strategic initiatives for 2010, plus profiles of the board members. An overview of the bar's current finances is also included. Later in the issue, you get a first glimpse at the priorities of Chief Justice Ronald Parraguirre, the newly appointed Chief Justice of the Nevada Supreme Court.

Next, an attorney participating in the Lawyer Referral and Information Service speaks of his experiences using the service to help grow his practice and build a referral base. This is a must-read article for any attorney seeking to grow a law practice.

Then, the Office of Bar Counsel offers an in-depth look at the bar's Ethics Hotline, a critical resource permitting attorneys to get ethics advice designed to help them navigate tricky ethical questions before they become disciplinary issues.

The bar's resources aren't limited to members – other features discuss the Law-Related Education programs designed to support Nevada's K-12 students. And, in "Recovering from Disaster," one client shares her gratitude for the help she received from the Clients' Security Fund.

The Back Story features a look at the interesting life of Senior Circuit Judge Melvin T. Brunetti, who passed away October 30, 2009. It's a story of inspiration and dedication to the bar and the law.

Be sure to keep this issue on hand, because it also includes a comprehensive overview of other benefits the bar has to offer, from Fastcase – a legal research service provided free to active members – to the multiple networking, educational and volunteer opportunities offered by the bar's many sections and committees.

And as you've already likely noticed, we're sporting a new look for the new year, making the magazine even more engaging and easy to read. As you navigate the articles in this issue, the editorial board hopes you enjoy the new look of *Nevada Lawyer* magazine as much as you enjoy the great content. We enjoyed putting it together for you, and as always, welcome your feedback. ■

JUDGE ROBERT J. JOHNSTON has served as a United States magistrate judge since 1987. He served on the Ninth Circuit Conference Executive Committee from 1996 to 1999, and participated in organizing three circuit conferences. Additionally, he served on the 9th Circuit Magistrate Judge Executive Board from 2003-06. Judge Johnston currently sits on the Court Administration and Case Management Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States Courts. He is also a board member of the Nevada Judicial Historical Society and the Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society.