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Message from the President

Frank Flaherty, Esq., State Bar of Nevada President



YOUR BAR: BY THE NUMBERS AND BY THE WAY

"I invite you to take a look at where we were in 2012, and to join the Board of Governors and me in moving forward through 2013, and beyond, to strengthen and continually improve Your Bar."

In this issue of *Nevada Lawyer*, the Board of Governors is pleased to present the State Bar of Nevada's Annual Report for 2012. I invite you to read through it in detail. Indeed, I am proud of the numerous accomplishments we have been able to achieve, and I look forward to working with our incredible volunteer attorneys, the Board of Governors, and your hard working and dedicated state bar staff, to build on these successes and make Your Bar even stronger in 2013.

Hundreds of new, or at least new to Nevada, attorneys have been admitted in the past year. We have 164 more active members and 106 more inactive members than we did in 2011. Demographically, and similarly to previous years, the average bar member is 47 years old, male and practices in Clark County, which is actually where 59 percent of us practice. Another 16 percent practices in Washoe County, three percent in Carson City, four percent in all other counties combined, and 18 percent practices out of state.

It is remarkable and gratifying to see how many hours were spent by Your Bar's volunteer attorneys, contributing to the work of our programs, committees and sections. Even more remarkably, Nevada's lawyers donated thousands of hours in 2012, above and beyond the hours generously donated in 2011. This past year, 860 members spent more than 33,000 hours improving the legal community in Nevada; that's 2,700 more hours than in 2011.

The last page of the Annual Report offers a detailed overview of the State Bar of Nevada's finances. I am happy to confirm what those pages demonstrate: Your Bar is fiscally robust; my thanks to bar staff and the Board of Governors for their relentless cost-cutting efforts and vigilance, which have kept us fiscally strong. From a macro perspective, income and expenses are comparable to 2011, but note that expenses have decreased by more than \$233,000 in the past year.

Unfortunately, contributions to pro bono service dropped off sharply in 2012, as compared to 2011. Let there be no mistake, we are immensely grateful to the nearly 2,350 of you who reported almost 95,000 hours of pro bono service in 2012; thank you, and thank you again. However, this is at least 8,500 fewer hours than were reported in 2011. Further compounding this bad news, monetary donations to pro bono service providers also decreased significantly in 2012, as compared to 2011. I strongly encourage every attorney to boost Our Bar's pro bono service and support in 2013.

One of Your Bar's noteworthy accomplishments in 2012 was the formation of the Transitioning Into Practice (TIP) pilot program, a new mentoring program designed to provide incoming attorneys with useful information and personal support as they enter into their Nevada law practices. As discussed in my January

2013 President's column, TIP replaces the previous "Bridge the Gap" introductory seminars and, to date, 248 newly admitted attorneys have completed the TIP program. Thanks to your efforts, the TIP program has started strongly, but we still need a larger pool of volunteer mentors to continue the program's growth and ensure its future; so please consider offering your time as a mentor. As discussed in January, in addition to earning CLE credit, mentors report that this service is a particularly meaningful way to have a direct, hands-on role in preserving and enhancing professionalism and civility in Our Bar, thus making the administration of justice more efficient for the public and a little less stressful for those of us in the trenches.

In a future column, I will spend some time discussing substance abuse, addictive disorders, mental health issues, and the serious, adverse effect they have on Our Bar and, by extension, the public. My thanks go out to the Board of Governors, especially Larry Digesti, for taking a leadership role and concrete steps toward addressing this serious issue. Your dues dollars continue to support your stricken colleagues through our Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers program and, in 2012, this program expanded its online presence in order to make information more readily available to those seeking assistance. In addition, at the direction of Your Board of Governors, I was privileged to sign and file a petition with the Nevada Supreme Court, to modify CLE requirements for Nevada attorneys; on January 10, 2013, the court amended Supreme Court Rule 210 via ADKT 478, making it mandatory for Nevada attorneys to take a minimum of one CLE hour, per three-year period, on the subject of substance abuse, addictive disorders and/or mental health issues. Please rest assured that the Board of Governors and I (and I think I can speak for the court as well), know how precious your time is; but we need your help in coming to grips with this serious problem and the first step, respectfully, is to educate our members.

If you have not already done so, I encourage all smartphone users to download the State Bar of Nevada's Find-A-Lawyer app, available through both iTunes for iPhone users and through Google Play for Android owners. The Find-A-Lawyer member directory is by far the most-visited section of the state bar's website, and the app condenses that directory into an easy-to-use mobile resource.

In addition, social media subscribers are invited to visit the State Bar of Nevada's Facebook page, also launched in 2012. The page is one of the fastest and most convenient ways to get up-to-date news alerts, of interest to Nevada attorneys.

Read More on Page 23

Again, I strongly encourage you to read the entire Annual Report, available in this issue; it includes much more information, including highlights on attorney discipline, expanded CLE offerings, state bar grants and scholarships, and more updates from state bar programs and services. I invite you to take a look at where we were in 2012, and to join the Board of Governors and me in moving forward through 2013, and beyond, to strengthen and continually improve Your Bar. ■

Letter to the Editor

The articles on the legislature are beautifully done and the list of bill drafts is a valuable asset for any Nevadan interested in our state's future! I applaud your publishing it!

Sincerely,
Carol Chesnut

