

NOTE FROM THE ISSUE EDITOR

BY NANCY HARKESS, ESQ.

Here's hoping that this issue of *Nevada Lawyer* serves to help you to feel good about being a lawyer — not because of your money-making potential or any respect your title may engender, but because you are a member of a powerful group of generous and big-hearted people.

In the first feature, Melanie Kushnir takes on the mythology we often hide behind in excusing our hesitation to take pro bono cases. She points out how studies show that “the busiest and most profitable attorneys in an office are the attorneys performing the most pro bono work!”

Now that we have no excuse not to do pro bono, a follow-up discussion about how to handle that first pro bono case provides the information we need to wade right in. The idea of “thinking strategically” and the other tips offered by the author are good advice when representing any client.

District Court Judge Nathan “Tod” Young shares with us the challenge created by the large pool of people who frequently stand before the court, unrepresented, uninformed, and “flat-out scared.” In commenting on the important difference pro bono attorneys make in the lives of those who simply cannot afford representation, Judge Young reminds us that “Service to others is a joy within itself.”

Executor Directors Anna Marie Johnson of Nevada Legal Services, Benjamin Albers of Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevadans, Paul Elcano of Washoe Legal Services, Sugar Vogel of Southern Nevada Senior Law Program and Barbara Buckley of the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada explain the impact these organizations and their cadre of volunteers have had on our communities.

Attorney Jim Hales shares valid and often humorous reasons why he selfishly accepts pro bono cases, while admitting that he is not Gregory Peck and has never killed a mockingbird. Throughout this issue, you will find the faces of pro bono — volunteers who joyfully share their experiences and encourage us all to share the bliss. ■



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Questions? Comments?

Nevada Lawyer welcomes feedback from our readers! Contact us at nvlawyer@nvbar.org.