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## NOTE FROM THE ISSUE EDITOR

BY STEPHEN F. SMITH, ESQ.

The bar exam is a rite of passage for every fully licensed attorney in Nevada. So, it is fitting that *Nevada Lawyer* dedicate an issue to bar admissions, reflecting on discussions regarding the future of the bar exam process.

A taskforce is currently studying whether Nevada should allow reciprocity. In her article, "The Bar Tackles Reciprocity," attorney Ann Morgan, who is a member of the State Bar of Nevada's Board of Governors serving on the reciprocity taskforce, analyzes this issue, which is still under consideration. In addition to reciprocity, the taskforce is also considering Nevada's limited license certifications.

Changes to the bar exam itself have also been the subject of discussion. Dean Daniel W. Hamilton of the UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law presents his arguments in favor of adopting the Uniform Bar Exam (UBE) in Nevada in a special Dean's Column, "Doing Right by Nevada: Adopting the UBE."

Richard Trachok, who has tirelessly served as chair of the Board of Bar Examiners, offers arguments against adopting the UBE in his article, "Nevada's Bar Exam: A Look Behind the Curtain." He also touches on other issues, such as lower overall exam scores and alterations to passage rates, both in and outside Nevada.

Finally, this month's Back Story offers a look at some statistics regarding pass rates in Nevada.

Should Nevada adopt the Uniform Bar Exam? The UBE has been adopted in about half of the jurisdictions of the United States. It is administered by the National Conference of Bar Examiners and provides "portability" to other participating states. But it has not been adopted in several law markets, including California, Texas, Florida and Nevada to name a few. The UBE divests the states of control over their bar exams. (Interested readers can learn more about the UBE by visiting the NCBE's website at <http://www.ncbex.org/exams/ube/>.)

I hope you enjoy this issue and that it helps you become informed about subject that will affect the future of our profession. **NL**

**STEPHEN F. SMITH** is a member of the Nevada Lawyer Editorial Board. He lives in Las Vegas and serves as an arbitrator and short term trial judge in the Eighth Judicial District Court's ADR program.



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