

Rock On!

The History of Nevada's Attorney Musicians

BY JOHN C. COURTNEY, ESQ.

The history of Nevada lawyers in music goes back at least a few decades. Attorney Ken Woloson has performed on keyboards and vocals in a band that has played before Nevada audiences since the 1990s. When I first reached out to Woloson, he was eager to talk about music, saying, “Always more fun talking about music than law.”

Woloson and his band recently performed at The Smith Center in Las Vegas for the 26th Annual “Serenades of Life – Doctors in Concert” event benefiting Nathan Adelson Hospice; Woloson shared

the stage with Frankie Moreno. He has also shared the stage with Kenny Loggins, Don Felder, and Peter Cetera, among others.

In 2001, attorney Dean Gronomeier graduated from the William S. Boyd School of Law, Nevada’s first and only law school, while serving as a professor in the Division of Percussion Studies in the Fine Arts Department at UNLV. Gronomeier has practiced law since graduating,



but if you ask him, he will tell you that music is his job and law is his hobby. Gronomeier has performed extensively throughout the U.S. and Mexico, and he has also performed in Chile, Australia, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, England, and France.

If you were to ask attorney Dayvid Figler about music, he might tell you that he is not a musician, but he is no stranger to the stage.

From poetry reading to live music performances, Figler has been in the spotlight before cheering audiences.

I first started playing in a rock band in the early 1980s when I lived in Germany attending an American school. I continued to play in rock bands, and also a country band and a folk band, until the late 1990s. I decided to move to Las Vegas to pursue a law degree at Boyd. With no time for music, I kept my chops warm through karaoke.

Sometime around 2011, I met attorneys Nakul Green-Patel and Chris Connell. I casually mentioned that I used to be a lead singer in a band. Years later, Connell asked me to come to a rehearsal studio to play with Black Acre, a band with three other attorneys. I performed in two shows with Black Acre, and something inside of me reignited.

As an attorney, I needed music in my life more than ever. Two days after my last performance with Black Acre, the pandemic happened, and live music was put on ice. Timing.

Once life began to return to normal, I received a call from attorney Thomas Beckom, who asked me, "Wanna join a new band I'm forming?" We met at a rehearsal studio, and Beckom brought



with him a drummer, Shane Snell, married to Nevada attorney Vanessa Goulet. He also brought attorney Bradley Myers with him. We "clicked" immediately, but something was missing until attorney Ryan Hamilton joined the band. We named our new band Lost Vagrants to stir up conversations about homelessness. To date, Lost Vagrants have never made a profit as a band, donating all would-be profits to charities that help the homeless. I have never had more fun performing live music than I have with Lost Vagrants. We are like rebels with a cause.

Once I started playing regularly and talking to people about music and our band, I discovered that there were several Nevada attorneys regularly performing in rock bands. While speaking to co-counsel in a case, I learned that one of her law partners, Donald T. Polendnak, was in a rock band called Classic Chaos. I also learned that Adam Segal was in a band called Suburban Resistance – Lost Vagrants recently shared the stage with Segal and his band. Lost Vagrants and Divided by Stereo (featuring attorney Brian Boyer) have recently teamed up to perform a few shows in Las Vegas, too.

It does not come as a surprise to discover so many attorneys in Nevada who perform live music. The work of an attorney can be stressful and exhausting, and for many attorneys there is no better

way to forget about being an attorney for a while than playing music. Playing live music requires the sort of concentration and focus to make everything else in life disappear for a while. It is like a form of therapy.

I'm sure the history of Nevada lawyers performing live music runs deeper than I have uncovered, but suffice to say, Nevada has some history of attorneys playing in live bands. Rock on!

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Lost Vagrants

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