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From the desk of the

ISSUE EDITORS



This issue was curated by HON. DEBORAH WESTBROOK and CHARLES FINLAYSON, ESQ.

Judge Westbrook serves on the Nevada Court of Appeals. Prior to taking the bench in January 2023, Judge Westbrook practiced law in Nevada for nearly two decades. She developed a love of appellate practice when she clerked for Chief Judge Eric T. Washington on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals in 2003. After her clerkship, Judge Westbrook moved to Las Vegas, where she practiced labor and employment law from 2004-13. She then transitioned from civil litigation to representing indigent defendants in criminal cases as a chief deputy public defender in the appellate division of the Clark County Public Defender's Office from 2013-22. In 2021 and 2022, Judge Westbrook was named one of Vegas Inc.'s Top Lawyers for appellate work.

Charles Finlayson is a partner on the appellate team at Claggett & Sykes, where he works on some of Nevada's most complex civil cases. He specializes in preserving errors at trial and drafting briefs for the Nevada appellate courts. His tenure as a Senior Deputy Attorney General at the Nevada Attorney General's Office saw him represent the state in criminal proceedings, while also mentoring division deputies and arguing cases in federal and state courts. Finlayson is a member of the bar in Nevada, California, and Illinois. He loves living in Reno with his partner and spends his free time taking care of his small hobby farm.

Nevada Lawyer Mission Statement

Nevada Lawyer Mission Statement – *Nevada Lawyer* is the official publication of the State Bar of Nevada. Our mission is to publish items of interest and importance to the Nevada legal community, and to provide a forum for thoughtful and respectful commentary on current issues affecting our members.

Upcoming Issue Themes and Deadlines:

Submissions from Nevada lawyers on the following topics are welcome as early as possible in advance of the following deadlines:

- **Specialty Courts:** Dec. 15, 2023
- **Cannabis Law:** January 19, 2024
- **Wellness and Mental Health:** February 16, 2024

Submission Requirements:

- Unsolicited submissions should be 1,500 words or less.
- Please keep endnotes to a minimum – 10 or less.
- Articles authored by Nevada attorneys are strongly preferred.

For more information, download our submission guidelines at <https://www.nvbar.org/nevada-lawyer-magazine> > Article Submissions, or contact nvlawyer@nvbar.org with questions.