

# Affinity Bars Offer Other Avenues to Get Involved

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STATE BAR OF NEVADA STAFF

**If you want to network with fellow attorneys that practice in your region or have a similar background, then one of Nevada's 20 affiliate bars might offer what you are seeking.**

Many of the affiliate bars are built around diversity, including the National Bar Association, Las Vegas chapter (LVNBA); the Nevada Latino Bar Association; and others. Others bring together attorneys from regional areas such as the Clark County Bar Association, Washoe County Bar Association, First Judicial District Bar, and more. Some affinity bars do both, such as the Northern Nevada Women Lawyers Association (NNWLA) and the Southern Nevada Association of Women Attorneys (SNAWA).

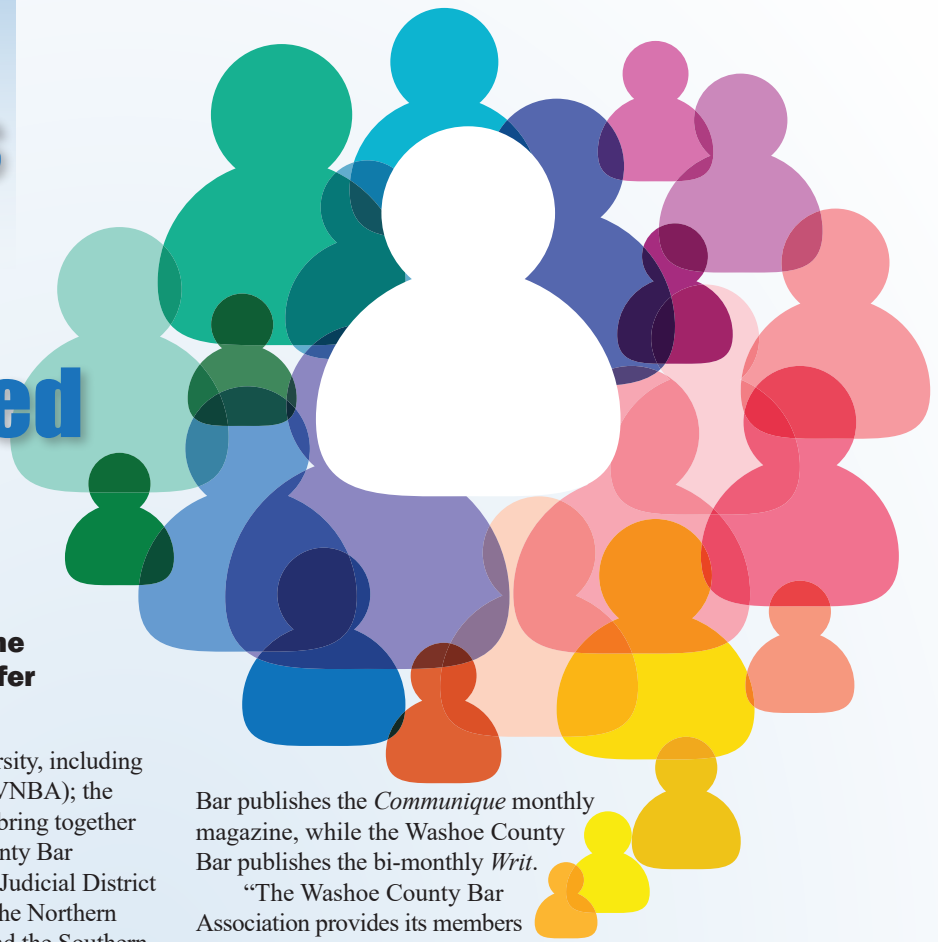
"Having a strong, supportive community is essential to navigating a legal career," said Angela Cook, president of the LVNBA. "Affinity bar associations, like the Las Vegas Chapter of the National Bar Association, help attorneys with aligned interests feel connected, supported, and address the challenges of being an attorney."

The affinity bars provide other opportunities for leadership and networking outside of the state bar. They host CLEs, luncheons, meet-and-greets, and more networking events. SNAWA, for example, is dedicated to helping support women in the legal field, and it holds monthly CLE luncheons.

"The Southern Nevada Association of Women Attorneys encourages and supports the success and influence of women in the legal community," SNAWA President Georlen (Jori) Spangler said. "We work toward these goals by offering networking opportunities, monthly lunches (some with CLE), and holding the annual Justice Miriam Shearing Gala where we raise money for law school scholarships. Our December Gala honored Chief Judge Linda Bell, and we raised more than \$8,000, which will all be applied toward these scholarships. SNAWA has also partnered with other affinity bars to hold joint networking events which help to broaden and strengthen our relationships in the legal community."

Working together with other affinity bars is another benefit of getting involved. The LVNBA and the Latino bar routinely work together on organizing events. For example, the groups coordinated the presence of legal observers during the protests surrounding the death of George Floyd in the summer of 2020.

The regional affinity bars such as the Clark County Bar Association, Douglas County Bar Association, Elko County Bar Association and Washoe County Bar Association also provide many networking opportunities with high-ranking members of the legal community. Some of those bars also provide writing opportunities with their magazines. For example, Clark County



Bar publishes the *Communique* monthly magazine, while the Washoe County Bar publishes the bi-monthly *Writ*.

"The Washoe County Bar Association provides its members the opportunity to meet and converse with local judges and other attorneys within the Northern Nevada community," Washoe County Bar Association President Chandeni K. Sendall said. "The WCBA's monthly luncheons, bi-monthly *Writ* publication, and semi-annual social events not only keep the membership connected, but also serve as opportunities to stay up to date with recent legal developments, pro bono opportunities, and job openings within the region."

Nevada's affinity bars include:

- Asian Bar Association of Las Vegas – [abalasvegas.com](http://abalasvegas.com);
- Clark County Bar Association – [clarkcountybar.org](http://clarkcountybar.org);
- Federal Bar Association, Nevada Chapter – [fedbar.org/Chapters/Nevada-Chapter.aspx](http://fedbar.org/Chapters/Nevada-Chapter.aspx);
- Nevada Latino Bar Association – [nvlba.com](http://nvlba.com);
- National Bar Association, Las Vegas Chapter – [lasvegasnba.org](http://lasvegasnba.org);
- Nevada Attorneys for Criminal Justice – [nacjdefenders.org](http://nacjdefenders.org);
- Nevada Justice Association – [nevadajustice.org](http://nevadajustice.org);
- Southern Nevada Association of Woman Attorneys – [snawa.com](http://snawa.com);
- Northern Nevada Women Lawyers Association – [nnwla.com](http://nnwla.com);
- Southern Nevada Association of Bankruptcy Attorneys;
- Washoe County Bar Association – [wcbar.org](http://wcbar.org);
- Douglas County Bar Association;
- Elko County Bar Association;
- Las Vegas Defense Lawyers – [lasvegasdefenselawyers.org](http://lasvegasdefenselawyers.org);
- Probate Bar Association of Washoe County;
- Association of Corporate Counsel, Nevada Chapter – [acc.com/chapters-networks/chapters/nevada](http://acc.com/chapters-networks/chapters/nevada);
- Northern Nevada Association of Bankruptcy Attorneys;
- First Judicial District Bar;
- American Association of Jewish Lawyers & Jurists – [aajlj.org](http://aajlj.org); and
- South Asian Bar Association – [facebook.com/sabalasvegas](https://facebook.com/sabalasvegas).