

NEED HELP? CALL US!

STATE BAR OFFERS A BROAD SELECTION OF SERVICES TO HELP YOUR LAW PRACTICE

BY JENNIFER SMITH-PULSIPHER, NEVADA LAWYER STAFF

Whether you need help with something as simple as updating your address online, bounce ideas off another attorney about a possible ethics issue, or find ways to get referrals for new clients to grow your practice, **the State Bar of Nevada has staff ready to help attorneys in our state with all these requests, and so much more.**

**Reach Out:
800-254-2797,
www.nvbar.org**

In addition to the toll-free number listed above, the state bar maintains offices in Las Vegas and Reno. Office space is available to bar members to hold meetings with clients, or for participants in the Handle|Bar Incubator Program, cubicle space with access to internet, printers and more can also be reserved.

If you prefer to call a local number, our offices can be reached at:

- Las Vegas: 702-382-2200
- Reno: 775-329-4100

We can help you with any of the following questions.

How Do I Update My Information on the Bar Website?

Many attorneys only log into their state bar member portal account when it is time to renew their license. (Save the date: renewal is due by January 1 every year!) However, there are several reasons to revisit your account more frequently; the address is members.nvbar.org.

One of the most frequently used tools on the bar's website is the "Find a Colleague" online directory. By logging into your state bar account, you can update your email and mailing addresses, phone numbers, and more.

By default, your username is your email address; however, you have the option to change it at any time. Once logged in, click "Update My Username/Password." If you've changed firms, you can still use your previous email address as your username. Once logged in, you may update it using the same link listed above.

How Do I Change My Member Status?

If you've recently experienced a career shift, and want to change your license status from active to inactive, or vice versa; change your name; submit resignation forms; or want to record other important changes with the state bar, there's a comprehensive library of forms available at: https://nvbar.org/for-



In 2015, the State Bar of Nevada relocated its headquarters, shown above, to 3100 W. Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89102.

lawyers/resources/library-of-forms/. For staff assistance with the forms, or any other member account questions, email memberservices@nvbar.org.

How Do I Show Others That I'm a Bar Member?

Some entities require formal confirmation of bar membership – no problem! Nevada bar members can order a Certificate of Good Standing through the online portal (members.nvbar.org). Statements of Disciplinary History are also available.

Did you know the bar also offers digital bar cards? You can access it from your state bar account within the "My Account" section, under "Attorney eCard." Attorneys can use the card to get into the Clark County Detention Center and some courts. It can be used in lieu of a physical bar card. **TIP:** Download a copy of the image onto your mobile device for fast access!



Known as the Northern Nevada Bar Center, the state bar's Reno office, shown below, is located at 9456 Double R Blvd, Suite B, Reno, NV 89521.



How Do I Find and Earn More CLE?

The state bar provides several options for members to obtain all their required CLE throughout the year – check <https://nvbar.org/for-lawyers/resources/continuing-legal-education-and-publications/> for a list of handy links. You can get answers to questions about state bar CLE at cle@nvbar.org.

How Do I Get Access to CLE Seminars?

Live events, including the Annual Bar Conference, also provide the ability to network with other attorneys and attend fun social events as part of a package. Virtual seminars allow you to take CLE courses from the convenience of your desk on the hottest topics, while the library of pre-recorded CLE seminars offers you the ability to find educational programs specific to your individual needs – some of them are free! Another easy way to

earn CLE credit is to look for articles for CLE credit published right here in *Nevada Lawyer* several times a year.

What Are Other Ways to Earn CLE?

Become a TIP mentor! Mentors who participate in the Transitioning Into Practice program are eligible to receive six CLE credits in Nevada for each cycle they participate; the credits earned for each cycle include four general, one ethics and one substance abuse.

Volunteer to Take a Pro Bono Case! Nevada attorneys can earn one CLE credit for every three hours of uncompensated pro bono service. You can earn up to four CLE credits each year by taking pro bono cases or participating in an Ask-A-Lawyer or Lawyer in the Library program sponsored by a legal aid organization, court, or other governmental or non-profit pro bono program.

How Do I Find More Clients?

How Can I Get Client Referrals?

The state bar's Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) refers clients in need of legal services to qualified attorneys statewide. Last year, the service screened more than 41,000 calls from clients seeking paid legal assistance and made approximately 13,000 referrals for those clients to participating attorneys.

Here's how it works: potential clients may obtain a referral by calling the LRS toll-free number, 800-789-LRIS (5747), and talking to one of our dedicated staff. We save you time by screening the callers to elicit pertinent information about the nature of their legal problem. Clients can also request a referral through the LRS online marketplace, where they can self-identify their legal issue and request a referral without needing to call.

Once the legal issue is identified, attorneys receive referrals on a rotational basis based on the practice area for which the referral is sought, as well as the geographical location of the attorney and client. The client receives the attorney's name, and both parties get a notification about the referral. The referred attorney may contact the client directly with the client's consent (which we obtain for you during the referral process).

Lawyers who are members of LRS pay a \$50 annual fee and, if retained by the client, remit 20 percent of all net fees earned and collected beyond the initial consultation fee. Learn more or apply to join at <https://nvbar.org/for-lawyers/lawyer-referral-service/>.

How Do I Become a Certified Specialist?

It's not uncommon for potential clients to find attorneys by reviewing the state bar's list of certified specialists or by looking specifically for attorneys who belong to a certifying organization. In Nevada, an attorney may communicate up to three specialty areas of practice, provided the certifying organization is approved and certain conditions precedent are met.

The list of approved specializations currently includes:

- Business Bankruptcy
- Child Welfare

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- Civil Trial Advocacy
- Criminal Trial Advocacy
- Elder Law
- Estate Planning Law
- Family Law
- Family Trial Law
- Personal Injury
- Workers' Compensation

And a Tax Law specialization is currently pending. The certification requirements differ for each type of specialization. For more information, download the Specialist FAQ at: <https://nvbar.org/for-lawyers/membership/attorney-specialization/>.

How Do I Get Advice About Tricky Ethical Issues in my Practice?

The State Bar of Nevada has an Ethics Hotline set up to answer ethics-related questions from our membership. Call 702-382-2200 or toll free 800-254-2797 to speak to an attorney in the state bar's Office of Bar Counsel. Attorneys staff the line daily during business hours, providing direction regarding the Rules of Professional Conduct and Supreme Court Rules.

The Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility also makes available advisory opinions on the ethical considerations of the practice of law. Requests for an ethics opinion may be made through the Committee Chair; contact information is available at: <https://nvbar.org/for-lawyers/bar-service-opportunities/volunteer-for-a-committee/professional-responsibility-ethics/>. The library of more than 50 published opinions is also available on the state bar's website at For Lawyers > Ethics & Discipline > Ethics Opinions.

How Do I Save My Law Practice Some Money?

From free CLE to discounts on legal software and services, to free publications on topics like trust account management, and much more, the state bar can also help you cut down on the cost of practicing law.

For more information, be sure to see the articles on self-help resources on page 12 and the Handle|Bar program on page 22 in this issue. We encourage you to keep this issue on hand in the months to come to serve as your directory for all the resources the bar has to offer.

How Do I Deal with All the Work Stress?

Call 866-828-0022 –
All Calls Confidential

Being a lawyer is one of the most stressful professions in the U.S. – and there's no shame in seeking support when it gets overwhelming.

The State Bar of Nevada is committed to supporting the health and well-being of its attorneys. Programs and services range from talking to a fellow lawyer experiencing the same issues as you, to seeking clinical assistance for issues related to addiction or mental health. Most services are available statewide and provided confidentially at no cost. Learn more about the following services by calling the number above or visiting www.nvbar.org > For Lawyers > Resources > Lawyer Wellbeing.

Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers: Confidential peer support for Nevada attorneys in need of support to get in – or stay – in recovery. Weekly closed-door meetings are held statewide.

Nevada Lawyer Assistance Program: Clinical services for attorneys suffering from abuse, addiction and/or mental health issues which may impair professional competence.

Therapy Benefit: If an attorney wants assistance in dealing with a difficult life situation, such as divorce, depression, stress, the death of a loved one, a traumatic case, or any other stressful incident/situation, they can request the name of a therapist by calling 1-866-828-0022. The first three sessions are provided at no charge. The inquiry and subsequent three sessions are completely confidential.

Weekly Virtual Meetings for Stress & Anxiety: Looking to speak with another attorney going through the same issues as you? At this closed-door meeting, attorneys discuss stressors in their practice, personal life, or whatever may be worth discussing with others for insights and/or suggestions on how to maneuver through difficult times.

