

# State Bar Sections Offer Plenty of Opportunities to get Involved

BY ROBERT HORNE, STATE BAR OF NEVADA STAFF

**Attorneys who want to get more involved with the State Bar of Nevada need look no further than joining one of the state bar's 24 practice area sections. The practice area sections cover a large variety of legal fields, including family law, appellate litigation, solo and small practice, and much more. The state bar's Paralegal Division also keeps those important legal professionals up to date in their field.**

The sections offer many different opportunities for state bar members. Section members have access to section listserves, have the opportunity to participate in publishing practice manuals, can get involved with the Nevada Legislature, write amicus curiae briefs, participate in section leadership, receive discounts on section CLEs, and have the chance to interact with their fellow attorneys, and these are just some of the opportunities that section membership presents.

One major benefit is the ability to attend annual conferences held by many sections. At those conferences, attendees can usually gain a year's worth of CLEs, and many sections, like the Public Lawyers Section, offer members a deep discount on registration costs.

"As a young lawyer, public lawyer colleagues encouraged me to join the Public Lawyers Section in order to meet other lawyers and to take advantage of CLE opportunities available through the section," said Sarah Bradley, chair of the section. "I am so glad that I took their advice. Being a member of the Public Lawyers Section has been invaluable to me in my career and I look forward to networking with other public lawyers at our annual conference each year."

Despite dealing with the issues presented by COVID-19, the sections have remained active in 2020 and 2021, holding their annual conferences via Zoom over several days to continue to provide that benefit to members. Many sections also held town

hall events online to discuss the pandemic's effect on legal issues. And the LGBT Section hosted a series of Zoom meet-and-greet events featuring Nevada Supreme Court Justice Lidia Stiglich and Eighth Judicial District Court Judge Tara Clark Newberry. Both discussed their careers and gave advice to LGBT Section members.

"Even during COVID we were honored to welcome Justice Lidia Stiglich and Judge Tara Clark Newberry over Zoom events to discuss their unique backgrounds and paths to the bench," said Kevin Kampschorr, chair-elect of the LGBT Section.

The Appellate Litigation and Real Property sections each published practice area manuals this year. Section members played a key role in writing and editing the manuals, giving many a chance to be published.



“Participating in the writing and editing of the *Real Property Practice and Procedure Manual* has been a highlight of my career,” said Michael Buckley, chair of the Real Property Section. “To be able to work with numerous lawyers throughout the state to bring together in one place a succinct, yet comprehensive summary of Nevada statutes, cases and practices will benefit practitioners, judges, legislators, and government officials, as well as to provide a forum to continue the conversation in a meaningful way for years to come.”

Other writing opportunities include authoring articles in *Nevada Lawyer* magazine. Sections are regularly asked to participate when an issue theme focuses on a section’s area of expertise.

Listserve are another valuable benefit of joining a section; 10 sections offer listserve to their members.

For example, the Family Law Section’s listserve is very active, allowing participants to ask questions of their peers practicing the same type of law. The section also holds an annual conference in Bishop, California, and section members get a discount on pricing. “If you practice family law in Nevada, being a member of the Family Law Section is a no-brainer,” said James Barnes, chair of the Family Law Section. “One benefit of being a member of the Family Law Section is having access to the section’s listserve, which connects you to hundreds of other family law practitioners

across Nevada. Discussions routinely involve new family law opinions that have issued, changes to relevant statutes or rules, or general questions regarding tricky issues. Joining the Family Law Section helps all family law practitioners to be as informed as possible with respect to family law in Nevada.”

The Gaming Law Section (GLS) also offers a yearly conference – usually held at the Red Rock Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas. In addition, the section also offers plenty of opportunities to write articles in its yearly magazine – *Nevada Gaming Lawyer* – and the quarterly GLS e-Newsletter. In recent years, the section has published the *Nevada Gaming Law Practice and Procedure Manual* and the *Nevada Gaming Law Index*.

The section has also donated more than \$500,000 to support philanthropic efforts – scholarships and sponsorships – that support the section’s mission.

“The Gaming Law Section seeks to support the bar and the judiciary with educational opportunities in the unique area of gaming law and regulation, including a yearly conference, philanthropic endeavors that support its mission

and publications,” said Jeff Rodefer, chair of the Gaming Law Section. “In 2021, the GLS celebrated the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Nevada Gaming Lawyer* that provides informative articles on trending topics in the gaming industry from regulators and leading gaming lawyers.

“In addition to complimentary copies of the *Nevada Gaming Lawyer*, *GLS e-Newsletters* and *Nevada Gaming Law Index*, membership in the GLS also includes discounts to events and (for the purchase of) the *Nevada Gaming Law Practice and Procedure Manual*, and a chance to network with colleagues and regulators.”

Other sections are more involved in the legislative process. For the 2021 session, the Business Law, Family Law, Probate and Trust, and Real Property sections each submitted proposed legislation. Those sections normally have legislative committees that help in reviewing the current laws, making any proposed changes to the current laws, or drafting new laws.

“The most important benefit to me of belonging to the Real Property Section has been and remains the opportunity to meet and interact with Nevada lawyers, some of whom I know and many I don’t, other than by name, all of whom practice in my area,” Buckley said. “Many times, I’ve also learned of a new development, perhaps a case or a position taken by someone we all deal with – the recorder or a title insurer – that otherwise I would not have known about.

“Belonging to the section is an opportunity to collaborate with fellow practitioners on ways to improve the statutes we all work with. Being able to participate in a study committee or the legislative process is also a great opportunity to both educate stakeholders and legislators, as well as to be educated on different points of view.”

Section membership also offers lawyers a chance to get involved in leadership opportunities at the state bar.

“Being a part of the leadership of the Public Lawyers Section has been helpful to me both personally and professionally,” Bradley said. “I treasure the connections that I have made with other public lawyers in the state, and I feel good about providing relevant and low-cost continuing legal education opportunities for members of the section. I plan to be affiliated with the Public Lawyers Section for the rest of my legal career.”

**To join a section,  
visit your member profile page at  
[members.nvbar.org](https://members.nvbar.org).  
After you log into your profile, look  
under the “Online Store” heading, click  
on “Join Sections,” and then choose the  
section you wish to join. Members can  
also join when paying annual license  
fees by selecting the section  
they wish to join.**