

# DAY IN THE LIFE

BY PATRICIA D. CAFFERATA, ESQ.

**PATRICIA D. CAFFERATA,** a member of the *Nevada Lawyer* Editorial Board, was elected to the Nevada Assembly (1980-1981), as State Treasurer (1983-1987), and District Attorney of Lander County (1995-1996).



**The Nevada Lawyer Editorial Board voted to make its special feature column in 2020 on attorneys' law practices.** The board invited State Bar of Nevada members to submit a column on how they spend their day in their legal practice.

In each issue of *Nevada Lawyer* in 2020, a different attorney's description of their law practice will be highlighted. The lawyers represent a broad cross-section of practitioners in a variety of areas of law in large and small firms from Clark, Washoe and the rural counties. These authors work in private practice, as advisors and as executives in non-profit organizations in government, including on the bench and in elected office. The first column appears below, and is written by Philip Mannelly, who passed the Nevada bar in 2016. He works at McDonald Carano with more than 50 attorneys in Reno and Las Vegas. McDonald Carano offers legal services in civil matters, and on government affairs and advocacy.

I hope readers will read and enjoy Mannelly's description of his work and the future special feature column in each issue of 2020.

## Firm Associate Starts Early to Support Construction Clients

BY PHILIP M. MANNELLY, ESQ.

The start of a typical day for me depends on if a client has had an issue arise. Many of my clients are contractors who start their days early, so there are often early-morning calls or emails that need to be addressed before I make it into the office. I'm always open to adjusting my original schedule to make my clients' needs a priority because I love my clients and I am passionate about helping them achieve their business goals, from a legal perspective. I take great pride in knowing that I have helped my clients avoid certain pitfalls and that they trust my advice. I also enjoy spending part of my day visiting clients' places of work, which may mean their offices or construction sites.

Most of my normal day involves collaborating with key executives, contract administrators and project managers, primarily from the construction industry, to navigate the complex challenges presented by the ever-changing legal and political landscape in Nevada and beyond. In addition, throughout my day, I regularly attend in-house meetings and address

the needs of my cases that are in active litigation.

I like to make the most of the little free time that I have by spending it with family and friends. I also strive to separate work and personal life, which can be challenging with always having my cell phone nearby. However, I feel that having an active and fulfilling personal life translates into a more productive and successful professional life. I also enjoy giving back to the community, through pro bono legal services, and I believe that it is part of my calling as a lawyer to provide these services to the underprivileged and those who otherwise may not have access to professional legal services.

I am an associate in the Commercial & Complex Litigation and Construction Law Groups at McDonald Carano. I represent clients in a range of business litigation matters, with a primary focus on the construction industry, including prime contractors, subcontractors, design professionals, fabricators, suppliers, and



owners in Nevada and California. I regularly assist clients as they navigate the unique construction laws in Nevada, advising them on complex contracts, licensing issues, mechanics' liens and payment claims. I also help clients with landlord-tenant issues, lease negotiations, and obtaining state, local and privileged licenses.

Every day, my overall focus is the efficient and successful resolution of my client's dispute. I will defend client positions at every turn. Whether a claim is large or small, straight-forward or complicated, I work with clients to develop the right strategy to ensure the best possible chance of efficiently producing the right outcome.

**Philip M. Mannelly** is an associate in the Commercial & Complex Litigation and Construction Law Groups at McDonald Carano. He represents clients in a wide range of business litigation matters, with a focus on the construction industry, including prime contractors, subcontractors, design professionals, fabricators, suppliers and owners in Nevada and California. He earned his juris doctorate from Notre Dame Law School.