

TOGETHER WE CAN
MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Why I'm Involved

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At 7 a.m., I'm already wondering where has the time gone. I woke up at 5:30 a.m. ... that means 90 minutes have passed and I have yet to take a walk, or a shower, or eat breakfast. That is how many of my mornings start and by extrapolation, many of my weeks and months pass.

Given this, why am I spending some of my very limited time with the State Bar of Nevada? Because I believe in its mission: To serve its members, govern the legal profession, and protect the public. This mission cannot be accomplished through the efforts of one person. One attorney alone cannot protect the rule of law. One attorney alone cannot ensure that the attorneys practicing law are qualified and obey the rules. One attorney alone cannot ensure that everyone who needs a lawyer has access to one. It takes the collective action of the entire association.

I'm not thrilled about paying my taxes, but the collective taxes of Nevada's citizens pay for the courthouse I appear in, the judge I appear in front of, the clerk, the court reporter, the bailiff, and so on. Likewise, my annual bar dues, along with that of my fellow bar members, pay for the admissions department to

administer the bar exam, the Office of Bar Counsel to protect the public, the administrative staff to keep member programs such as Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers, the Lawyer Referral Service, and Access to Justice running.

I asked several members of the Board of Governors why they were involved. All noted the role of the bar association in helping the profession stay true to the oath each of us took when we became a licensed attorney: an oath that is not always top of mind when there are not enough hours in the day to do all the things we are obligated to do. Past President Eric Dobberstein echoed the comments of many of the current governors when he noted, "being a lawyer is a big deal. It is a profession we can be proud of and I want to do my part to make it better."

I had the opportunity to hear President and Director Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund Sherrilyn Ifill. She was selected to be the National Judicial College's 2021 Justice Robert H. Jackson Lecturer. The lecture is named for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Robert H. Jackson, who served as the chief U.S. prosecutor in the Nuremberg trials and was the author of a dissent

in *Korematsu vs. United States*.¹ Ifill ended her remarks by noting that lawyers are engaged in a higher calling. She further stated that being a lawyer is a privilege, and for that reason, we are held to a higher standard. We are leaders even if we don't want to be. Being a lawyer means that we wear that mantle of leadership. However we make our living, we are part of a noble profession.

So, maybe I am doing too much and that is why at 7 a.m., I am already behind and will probably **not** get to take that walk (showers and eating breakfast being somewhat mandatory). But I know that of all the things I could do with my time, it is important that I do my part to ensure that our profession remains a noble profession, that current and future attorneys get the same satisfaction from that profession as I have, and that the rule of law is preserved for future generations. That is why I'm involved.

ENDNOTE:

1. *Korematsu v. United States*, 323 U.S. 214, 248, 65 S. Ct. 193, 208 (1944) (Jackson, R., dissenting).