

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Home Means the State Bar of Nevada

BY KARI STEPHENS, ESQ., PRESIDENT,
STATE BAR OF NEVADA



I was sworn in as the 2025-26 president of the State Bar of Nevada at its annual Bar Conference in Washington, D.C. Thanks to everyone who was able to come to the swearing-in ceremony held in our nation's capital city. Although I am not native to Nevada, I have lived and practiced law in this state long enough to call Nevada home.

Within my first year of moving to Nevada, one of my current favorite bands, The Killers, formed in Las Vegas in 2001. Due to their ties with Nevada, I have had the chance to catch their performances on many occasions. Since early on, they have proudly included the state anthem, "Home Means Nevada," as a recurring song on their set list. During the last 25 years I've lived here, I have noticed that a strong sense of community makes Nevada feel like home to its residents. Similarly, being part of the legal community in Nevada creates the opportunity to feel at home.

I consider myself lucky for the overall experience I have had throughout my involvement in the

Nevada legal community. Having previously practiced in other state jurisdictions, I know first-hand that Nevada is a relatively small and collegial bar with ample pathways for its members to pursue their chosen purposes in the legal field. I have been fortunate to make lasting connections and friendships both leading up to sitting for the Nevada Bar Exam and after embarking on my legal journey. Through my time spent working in a legal career, participating in bar association activities, and volunteering for various committees, I have been able to cultivate a network of friends and advisors I know I can always rely on. To me, "home" embodies the partnerships among colleagues, peers, mentors, judges, and everyone else involved in the Nevada legal community. It means having opposing counsel who can act respectfully and cordially despite having different views on the underlying matter. Home also encompasses the notion of individual members having access to the resources and support systems needed to overcome obstacles and achieve success in their pursuits.

My predecessors in bar service valued civility, well-being, innovation, and fiscal responsibility. As the current steward of this bar organization, I intend to continue upholding these guiding principles

to make advances in the way the bar serves its licensees, gives back to its community, and protects and preserves the legal profession in Nevada. The first goal of the State Bar of Nevada's 2024-26 Strategic Plan is to advance a culture of inclusivity and partnership among Nevada legal professionals. During my tenure on the Board of Governors, service to our licensees, lawyer wellbeing, and professional decorum have been at the forefront of every conversation. These considerations are essential to all aspects of the governance of the legal profession.

The Board of Governors strives to identify and provide the necessary tools and education to assist attorneys in every stage of their practices. The bar facilitates practice management systems and licensee benefit programs to support all lawyers, including solo and small practice attorneys, rural attorneys, new attorneys entering the practice of law, and senior attorneys. The State Bar of Nevada now has 29 sections, which are practice-area-specific groups that give members the chance to connect with other practitioners in the same area of law. In addition, the Board of Governors is committed to fostering a broader sense of partnership and community among the sections, affinity and specialty bars, and local bar associations. The bar also offers an array of services to enhance the health and wellbeing of legal professionals. The Board of Governors will continue to assess the needs of bar membership in order to develop and implement programs that are responsive to these ever-evolving needs.

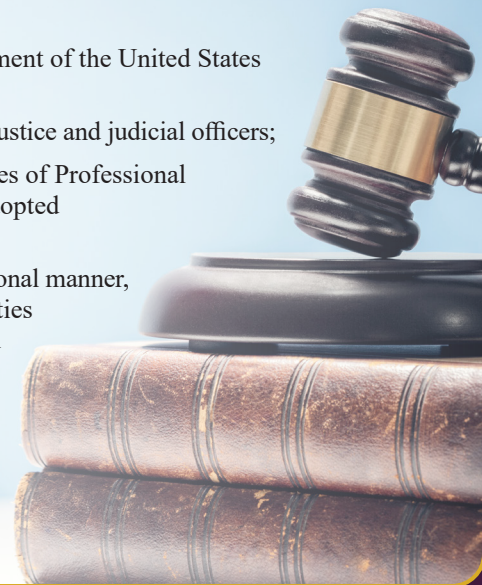
The Board of Governors has also adopted the Creed of Professionalism and Civility and surveyed attorneys in an effort to heighten the standards of civility among legal professionals. The civility of lawyers has a direct impact on lawyer well-being, and the professionalism of lawyers reflects squarely on the integrity of lawyers

and how we are regarded in the greater community. During my presidency, I will be inviting all members to unite and reaffirm the Oath of Attorney to promote the administration of justice by pledging to conduct themselves “in a civil and professional manner, whether dealing with clients, opposing parties and counsel, judicial officers or the general public.” Attorneys are role models, trusted advisors, and the face of the legal profession. I hope that all members will join with me in ensuring that the State Bar of Nevada stands for a place where the legal community can settle in and feel right at home.

Oath of Attorney

I do solemnly swear, or affirm, that:

- I will support the Constitution and government of the United States and of the State of Nevada;
- I will maintain the respect due to courts of justice and judicial officers;
- I will support, abide by and follow the Rules of Professional Conduct as are now or may hereafter be adopted by the Supreme Court;
- I will conduct myself in a civil and professional manner, whether dealing with clients, opposing parties and counsel, judicial officers or the general public, and will promote the administration of justice; and
- I will faithfully and honestly discharge the duties of an attorney at law to the best of my knowledge and ability.



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