



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY LAURENCE DIGESTI, ESQ., PRESIDENT, STATE BAR OF NEVADA

## WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR THIS LAD BORN IN 1928

The State Bar of Nevada was incorporated in 1928, and by the end of 1929 there were 345 active members of the bar—104 of who were out of state, 121 were in Washoe County and 24 were in Clark County.

During his speech on February 15, 1929, Albert L. Scott, then-president of the State Bar of Nevada, predicted the impending growth of Nevada's bar:

"By incorporating our state bar, we have made an entity out of what was formerly a disintegrated mass," Scott said during that speech. "I believe our child is a healthy one, and that it may become a lad of parts. It is turned over to our successors with the ardent hope that it may rapidly grow stronger and better, so that, when, in the course of time, it reaches maturity it may then fulfill our fondest dreams."

Scott would be pleased to know that, after 86 years, the "child," now a "lad of parts," is doing quite well. The statewide membership of the bar is in excess of 11,700 members and growing. The bar's work, however, is not completed, as its enormous growth has been accompanied by new, challenging issues.

It is the mission of the State Bar of Nevada to govern the legal profession, to serve our members and to protect the public interest. I am proud to say that the "child and lad," envisioned by Scott in 1929 is healthy and strong, and continues to fulfill the fondest dreams of those who came before us. The state bar remains well-positioned to fulfill its mission into the future.

The national landscape for the practice of law continues to change at a rapid-fire pace, resulting in significant challenges to an integrated bar. The State Bar of Nevada and Nevada lawyers are not immune to such changes or challenges. Issues raised by the U.S. Supreme Court in

*North Carolina Dental Board v. Federal Trade Commission*, 135 S.Ct. 1101 (2015), issues surrounding the de-unification of state bars, issues regarding the unauthorized practice of law (UPL), the movement toward a National Bar Examination (NBE) and issues surrounding reciprocity are all alive and will test the very core of the bar's mission. The issues are compelling and complex, with far-reaching implications, and the State Bar of Nevada must be prepared to address these issues, as its very existence may be threatened.

I thank you for allowing me the opportunity, privilege and honor of leading the State Bar of Nevada as your president. I thank the Board of Governors for their hard work, commitment and diligence in fulfilling the mission and core functions of the state bar during this past year. The future is bright, and this "lad," born in 1928, will be in good hands under the leadership of incoming President Bryan Scott and the guidance of our governors.

I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to thank the entire staff of the state bar for their support and hard work which made my job so much easier.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to Kim Farmer, Executive Director of the state bar, and Administration Manager Gale Skala for their endless hard work, support and dedication. As a solo attorney it would have been very difficult, if not impossible, to fulfill my duties as your president without their help and dedication.

Thank you, one and all. **NL**