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Nevada Lawyer (ISSN 1068-882X) is published monthly by the State Bar of Nevada. State bar members receive *Nevada Lawyer* as part of their annual dues. *Nevada Lawyer* is available to non-members at the subscription rate of \$60 per year. Back issues, when available, are \$6 each. Periodicals Postage Paid at Las Vegas, NV, and additional mailing offices. *Nevada Lawyer* is available on Westlaw®, LEXIS®, and on microfilm through the Wm. S. Hein Co. Copyright ©2017, State Bar of Nevada. No part of this publication may be reprinted or otherwise reproduced without the publisher's written permission. *Nevada Lawyer* has the authority to edit letters and other materials submitted for publication. Publishing and editorial decisions are based on the quality of writing, the timeliness of the article and the potential interest to readers. Appearance of an article, editorial, feature, column, advertisement or photograph in *Nevada Lawyer* does not constitute an endorsement by *Nevada Lawyer* or the State Bar of Nevada unless specifically identified as the policy of the state bar. The views expressed are those of the authors. Authors are responsible for the accuracy of all citations and quotations.

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NOTE FROM THE ISSUE EDITOR

BY CHAD D. OLSEN, ESQ.

I have a bottle of "Ollie's World's Best Bar-B-Q Sauce" sitting in my office. I'm not sure how it tastes; it's never been opened. In fact, I've never tried anything from Ollie's Barbecue. Nor did I ever visit the notorious restaurant before it closed its doors in 2001. That isn't the point.

In 1964, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously upheld the Civil Rights Act and rejected Ollie McClung's argument that Congress could not regulate his restaurant by requiring desegregation. Based on the Constitution's Commerce Clause, the court held that Congress had the power to enact a statutory scheme necessary to combat race discrimination.

Setting aside an academic debate regarding the Commerce Clause's reach—whether applied to a barbecue joint in Birmingham, a bushel of wheat, gun-free school zones or marijuana production—the court in *Katzenbach v. McClung* reached the good result. My unopened bottle of barbecue sauce is a reminder of that (and of my sad attempts to answer questions about the case during my first year of law school). It reminds me of the good that can be done in our nation of laws, and of the role judges and attorneys play in realizing that good.

Certainly, our profession and the rule of law are things to be grateful for and celebrate this Thanksgiving season. We, at the *Nevada Lawyer*, hope you will enjoy this month's issue focused on Constitutional Law. **NL**

CHAD OLSEN is an attorney at Payne & Fears LLP. He focuses his practice on business and employment litigation, construction defects and insurance coverage.



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