

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## Never Stop Learning

BY JULIE CAVANAUGH-BILL, PRESIDENT,  
STATE BAR OF NEVADA



**The law is constantly evolving – new statutes, regulations, and court decisions routinely reshape the legal landscape. Common sense and life experiences also add to this body of knowledge, but experience alone is not enough to guarantee our clients competent representation. This is why Nevada attorneys must commit themselves to participating in lifelong learning through Continuing Legal Education (CLE).**

For attorneys and judges, CLE is mandatory to ensure that we provide effective representation for our clients, but also so we continue to educate ourselves to stay abreast of recent changes in the law to ensure we have the most current knowledge to provide accurate advice and navigate complex issues. It doesn't hurt to get a refresher from time-to-time on those aspects of practicing law that are important to our practice and wellbeing, such as those provided by ethics and Abuse/Addiction/Mental Health (AAMH) courses.

Thankfully, we have a lot of options to choose from, so we can customize our time spent in CLEs

to meet our own specific needs. We're genuinely fortunate to have so many resources available in Nevada to provide CLE to our community. For example, the only educational institution in the U.S. that provides training to judges is located right in Nevada. The National Judicial College (NJC) is based in Reno, as is the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), which is one of the largest and oldest judicial membership organizations in the nation. It seeks to improve the effectiveness of juvenile courts across the country.

And these organizations don't just provide continuing education to judges – they also support Nevada attorneys. For example, both organizations have contributed articles to this issue of *Nevada Lawyer*, as have faculty members from Nevada's law school – the William S. Boyd School of Law.

The NJC is hosting the first-ever Education Law Association national conference, taking place in Reno later this month. This conference will bring in lawyers, judges, and educators from across the country with a special emphasis on tribal education. State bar sections, local bar associations, and affinity bar associations also routinely provide CLE courses – many of which are offered at reduced fees or free of charge to members, so make sure to check in and stay up to date on what is offered in your area or online. A good place to start is the events calendar on the state bar website, at [nvbar.org/news-and-publications/news/events/](https://nvbar.org/news-and-publications/news/events/).

Our own life experiences and ongoing case work also continue to shape our professional education – pay attention to the knowledge you are able to acquire from each aspect of your practice – and from those pro bono cases you take on. You can benefit by sharing this expertise with others. For example, the state bar's Transitioning into Practice (TIP) program allows you to earn up to six CLE credits per year by volunteering to become a TIP mentor to new attorneys – including one ethics credit and one substance abuse credit.

In addition, Supreme Court Rule 210 was amended in 2022 to provide up to four hours of CLE per year by taking on pro bono work through one of our legal service providers. You can earn these free CLE credits by taking pro bono cases or participating in an Ask-A-Lawyer or Lawyer in the Library program sponsored by a legal aid organization, court, or other governmental or non-profit pro bono program. The programs must be recognized by the Nevada Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission. You can sign up to volunteer and earn CLE credits at [www.nvbar.org/Member-Benefits > Lawyer Volunteer Pro Bono Sign-Up](https://www.nvbar.org/Member-Benefits/Lawyer-Volunteer-Pro-Bono-Sign-Up).

And -if you're looking for CLE options that are convenient as well as timely and interesting, look no further than the state bar's own CLE store, available at <https://nvbar.org/for-lawyers/resources/continuing-legal-education-and-publications/>. In addition to upcoming in-person seminars, you can take streaming courses on demand, or even read eligible articles from *Nevada Lawyer* for credit.

For my own part, I always enjoy the AAMH courses. Not only do I gain a better understanding and perspective on what my clients and their loved ones may be facing, but I also get the opportunity to do some soul-searching and self-reflection on habits and practices that I should either look into or avoid. The upcoming course on lawyering your way out of burn out – offered live or online on November 1 – looks particularly interesting with its theme of "Make time for yourself, prioritize your health and wellbeing." Although I am by no means a health guru – I do believe

we can always improve on our stress management practices and the ability to unwind in a healthy way for our families, friends, colleagues, and clients.

In addition to educational resources for practicing attorneys, the state bar proudly supports students as well. After all, education begins when we are young. The state bar supports pipeline and educational programs for Nevada's youth as we provide forums for young people to learn about and understand the law. Through law-related education (LRE), the state bar helps children in grades K-12 learn about the law, the legal system, and their rights and responsibilities through activities that promote cooperative learning, problem solving, and positive interactions between them and members of the legal community.

The state bar supports two LRE Programs: Mock Trial, which is run by the Mock Trial Committee, and Goldilocks, run by the state bar's Young Lawyer's Section. And, relevant to supporting education in our rural counties, it may interest you to learn that the Nevada Legislature recently passed legislation allowing for long-needed school improvements through Elko County for the Owyhee school located on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation as highlighted in our guest submission by general counsel Rob Salyer. Stacey Montooth, executive director of the Nevada Indian Commission, said "The new Owyhee Combined School will mold scores of future leaders – Tribal, state, community and maybe even the next United States Secretary of the Interior."

May we continue to learn and to grow as members of this honorable profession of law.

And if you have questions regarding this column or other matters involving your state bar, I invite you to write me with your questions and ideas. Please email me at [president@nvbar.org](mailto:president@nvbar.org). Thank you.

# SPOTLIGHT ON THE RURALS:

## Bringing Resources to Rural Education

BY ROBERT M. SALYER, GENERAL COUNSEL FOR THE ELKO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND A PARTNER SPECIALIZING IN EDUCATION LAW WITH WILSON | BARROWS | SALYER | JONES IN ELKO, NEVADA.

Education in rural Nevada is finally getting the attention it deserves as Governor Joe Lombardo signed Assembly Bill 519, which provides capital improvement funding for rural school districts.

One of the biggest beneficiaries of this new bill is Elko County's Duck Valley Indian Reservation, which will receive \$64.5 million for the construction of a school to replace the Owyhee Combined School.

The Elko County School District is not the only beneficiary of increased funding.

Counties with populations of less than 100,000 are now able to levy a new tax on the assessed valuation of taxable property within the county. The money collected from that tax must be deposited in the county treasury for credit to the fund for school district capital projects. The rate imposed by any such new tax is not included in the state ad valorem tax limit of \$3.64 on each \$100 of assessed value.

The state will also be helping by creating the Fund to Assist Rural School Districts in Financing Capital Improvements. Money from that fund will be distributed as grants to school districts in counties that enact the new capital projects tax. The fund will have an initial \$50 million deposit that will be split in half for future rural and tribal school projects.



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