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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. *Nevada Lawyer* is available on Westlaw®, LEXIS®, and on microfilm through the Wm. S. Hein Co.

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NOTE FROM THE ISSUE EDITOR

BY NANCY R. HARKESS, ESQ.

The official theme of this issue of *Nevada Lawyer* is "criminal law," but perhaps it should be "people with a passion for the law." Throughout these pages, you will find dedicated legal professionals standing up for their principals, and calling for the highest standards and ethics in the practice of law.

In our first feature, long-time attorney Tom Pitaro, known for his high-profile cases and strong opinions, demonstrates that some fires just keep burning. After 41 years as one of Nevada's top lawyers, you might think Pitaro would be somewhat jaded, but his article on the issue of prisons for profit demonstrates that he is still willing to tilt at windmills and fight the good fight.

Assistant Clark County District Attorney Christopher J. Lalli has a passion for protecting victims, especially children. Helpless minors, who have suffered physical assault and then often endure psychological assault at the hands of those charged with protecting them, have a champion in Lalli, who wants all of his readers to be aware of the potential abuse that results when victim's rights are trampled.

Decisions of the Supreme Court may limit a defendant's ability to confront, cross-examine and conduct adversarial testing, according to UNLV Professor Anne R. Traum. Traum has dedicated her career to clarifying and understanding the law and explains the impact of recent Supreme Court decisions on the Sixth Amendment Right to Confrontation. In addition, Federal Public Defender Rene L. Valladares stresses changes in search and seizure law implemented by the Roberts court. His article provides an update critical to the practice of criminal law. It also comes with an accompanying quiz that can earn readers one hour of CLE credit.

Technology is everywhere, and District Chief Judge David Barker suggests that we welcome it into the courtroom. Barker shares his insight on the importance of technology in court, stressing the need to streamline legal processes. Barker passionately urges us to combine technology with human communication in order to end rights-trampling delays in the progress of justice.

Nevada State Public Defender Karen Krisenbach proudly reminds us that, for more than 100 years the state of Nevada has led the way in its commitment to access to justice for indigent criminal defendants.

These authors care deeply, and in writing, they remind us that justice depends in large part on our willingness to become both caring advocates and vigilant guardians of the law. **NL**

NANCY R. HARKESS is a member of the *Nevada Lawyer* Editorial Board. She is the owner of Harkess Law Offices, LLC, in Las Vegas, where she practices primarily in the areas of bankruptcy and estate planning.

