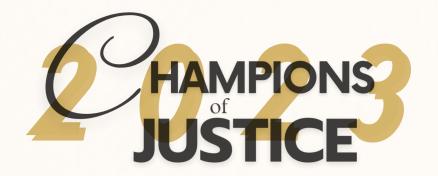
# Nevada Legal Services HAMPIONS of JUSTICE 2023 Luncheon

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH
WHITNEY PEAK HOTEL
RENO, NEVADA





#### **ABOUT NEVADA LEGAL SERVICES**

Since 1981, Nevada Legal Services, Inc. (NLS) has provided free legal services to low-income Nevadans. We are a statewide, nonprofit public interest law firm funded by grants from the Legal Services Corporation, the Nevada Bar Foundation, and other state, federal, and private grants, as well as private donations. We are proud to have provided legal assistance to countless low-income Nevadans with a wide range of legal issues over 40 years through the hard work of our dedicated staff and volunteers.

#### **OUR MISSION**

It is the Mission of Nevada Legal Services to strengthen the community by ensuring fairness and providing equal access to justice for low-income Nevadans.

#### **OUR OFFICES**

<u>Las Vegas Office</u> 701 E. Bridger, Ste. 400 Las Vegas, NV 89101 (702) 386-0404

> Elko Office 285 10th St. Elko, NV 89801 (775) 753-5880

Reno Office 449 S. Virginia St, 3rd Flr Reno, NV 89509 (775) 284-3491

Yerington Office 720 S. Main St., Unit A Yerington, NV 89447 (775) 463-1222 Carson City Office 209 N. Pratt St. Carson City, NV 89701 (775) 883-0404



#### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH

11:30 AM Check-In Begins

> 12:00 PM Welcome

> **12:15 PM** Lunch

**12:30 PM**Presentation of Awards

1:00 PM Reception & Raffle





In 2010, Nevada Legal Services (NLS) created the Champions of Justice Award to recognize volunteers and community members who significantly support the cause of Access to Justice for all Nevadans. The dedication of our awardees today has greatly increased the ability of Nevada Legal Services and our sister organizations to meet the ever-increasing demand for our services.

NLS is fortunate to have many generous volunteers throughout the state who participate in our pro bono programs. The staff of Nevada Legal Services would also like to thank the many individuals and groups that support our organization which allows us to continue to provide legal aid services to our community members.





#### HONOREES

Champion of Justice
Judge Christopher Hazlett-Stevens

Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Mikyla J. Miller, Esq.

Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Homa S. Woodrum, Esq.

Solo Practitioner of the Year Jean M. Parraguirre, Esq.

Pro Bono Partner Organization of the Year
National American Indian Court Judges Association

Muriel Skelly Special Recognition Award Sarah V. Carrasco, Esq.

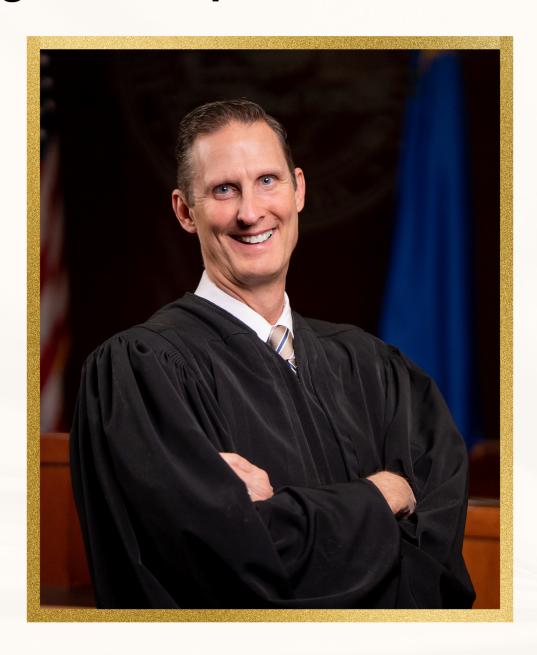
Rodney E. Sumpter Special Recognition Award
Nicholus C. Palmer, Esq.

Andrew J. Puccinelli Special Recognition Award Robert "Bob" Cerceo, Esq.



## Champion of Justice

Judge Christopher Hazlett-Stevens





## Champion of Justice

Judge Chris Hazlett-Stevens was born and raised in Los Angeles, California and began his professional career as a classically trained musician, eventually attending The University of Southern California to study music. While attending USC, Chris met his future wife, Holly, where they began their adventures together. Chris followed Holly to central Pennsylvania where she earned her PhD and Chris completed his undergraduate work in Administration of Justice while minoring in Spanish. They returned to Southern California where Chris worked as a bilingual child abuse treatment coordinator and then worked as an investigator for the State Bar of California in Los Angeles. The two found their way to Reno when Holly was offered an Assistant Professor position at UNR in 2002. Chris took this opportunity to attend law school at McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento, California.

Chris began his legal career working for a small law firm in Reno working in family law, estate planning and general litigation. He soon found his way to the public sector, first as a Deputy Attorney General representing the Department of Taxation and the Office of Child Support Enforcement, then as a Deputy City Attorney with the Reno City Attorney's Office where he prosecuted misdemeanor cases in the Reno Municipal Court over a period of twelve years. Currently, Chris is the Chief Judge of the Reno Municipal Court and is the presiding judge for Department 4. Chris also presides over Reno's Community Court, an innovative effort to connect Reno's most vulnerable to available resources in our community, while maintaining a sense of restorative justice. Under Chris' direction, and with the assistance of the creative and compassionate Community Court team, Reno's Community Court is quickly becoming recognized as a leader among Community Courts.



# Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Mikyla J. Miller, Esq.



Mikyla Miller is a graduate of McGeorge School of Law with over ten years of family law experience. She focuses her practice on divorce, custody, and minor guardianships. She is also an at-large member of the LGBT Section of the Nevada State Bar and regularly works with Nevada Legal Services.

Practicing family law helped Mikyla realize the importance of prioritizing her own family. Mikyla has been married to her wife Katie for 15 years. She and her wife have two children, Mia age 11 and George age 9. After having jist one conversation with Mikyla you will quickly learn her children are the center of her world. Mikyla recently stepped away from working at a firm to start MJ Miller Law. This move has allowed her the opportunity to volunteer in her children's classrooms and focus on being a mom and an advocate.

Mikyla also dedicates a lot of her time giving back to the LGBT community. She and her wife were two of the eight couple in the marriage equality law suit against the state of Nevada. She provides free name changes for our gender diverse community. She coordinated and provided a free legal clinic to educate and assist our gender diverse population in filing their own name changes.

Mikyla struggled with how to conclude this bio. Her daughter suggested she say "Mikyla Miller is the best mommy ever." So in conclusion, Mikyla gets great joy from giving back to her community and according to her 11 year old she's the best mommy ever.



# Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Homa S. Woodrum, Esq.



Homa Sayyar Woodrum moved to Nevada from Alaska in 2000. She is currently General Counsel with the Purchasing Division within the Department of Administration. She first relocated to Northern Nevada in 2017 as the Governor-appointed Elder and Disability Rights Attorney in the Aging and Disability Services Division and served as agency counsel from 2019 to 2023 in the Nevada Office of the Attorney General. In her Las Vegas private practice years she worked in the civil field, focusing on estate, family, and guardianship matters. Homa became licensed to practice law in Nevada in 2007 and Oregon in 2008, earning her J.D. from UNLV's William S. Boyd School of Law in 2007 and her B.S.B.A. in International Business from the University of Nevada Las Vegas in 2004. She immigrated to the United States in 1986 and currently lives in Carson City with her husband Adam and their two children.



# Solo Practitioner of the Year Jean M. Parraguirre, Esq.



As a fourth generation Nevadan and a third generation Nevada lawyer, Jean has a strong connection to the community and a passion for its diverse landscapes and outdoor activities. Following graduation from the University of Nevada (Economics) and the University of San Diego School of Law, she started practicing law in Reno in 1990. Jean has a lengthy history serving as corporate counsel and compliance officer to a national workers compensation insurance company, providing a diverse legal experience that includes: regulatory and administrative law, insurance, employment, marketing, litigation and business matters/operations. In 2020, Jean started a private practice, J. Parraguirre Law, P.C., where she has the freedom and flexibility to represent diverse clients on personal terms.



# Partner Organization of the Year National American Indian Court Judges Association



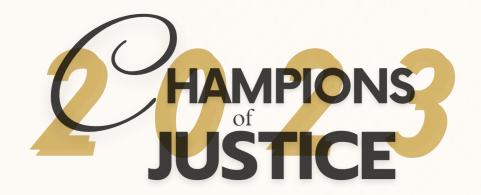
The National American Indian Court Judges Association (NAICJA) is a national association comprised of tribal and state justice system personnel & others - including judges, peacemakers, court administrators, court clerks, Indian law practitioners, and scholars - devoted to supporting and strengthening tribal justice systems through education, information sharing, and advocacy. Established in 1969 after the passage of the Indian Civil Rights Act, NAICJA remains dedicated to empowering tribal justice system and upholding tribal sovereignty.



# Muriel R Skelly Special Recognition Award Sarah V. Carrasco, Esq.



Sarah V. Carrasco's practice focus is in the areas of real estate, estate planning and creditors' rights in bankruptcy. Ms. Carrasco obtained her certificates for Mediation and Conflict Resolution as well as a certificate for Advanced Mediation and Conflict Resolution from the University of Nevada, Reno in August of 2012. Ms. Carrasco is a member of the Washoe County Bar Association and the Northern Nevada Women Lawyer's Association. Ms. Carrasco was admitted to practice in the States of Nevada in 2002. Ms. Carrasco earned her B.S. at the University of Nevada, Reno in 1998 and her J.D. at the William S. Boyd School of Law Las Vegas in December of 2001. Ms. Carrasco has supported Soroptimist International, a global organization that provides women and girls with access to the education needed to achieve economic empowerment for the last 13 years.



# Rodney E Sumpter Special Recognition Award Nicholus C. Palmer, Esq.



Nik has practiced law for the last 19 years in the areas of family law, bankruptcy and personal injury. He enjoys the camaraderie of the legal professionals in the Northern Nevada legal community. When not working he enjoys doing just about anything as long as its with his family.



#### Andrew J Puccinelli Special Recognition Award Robert "Bob" Cerceo, Esq.



Bob's zeal for handling pro bono matters in our rural counties started with his friendship with several NLS peers. So far, the journey has taken him to 10 of the 11 Judicial Districts. Eventually, he will find the eleventh one...

Hailing from the Philadelphia metropolitan area, Bob attended Rutgers University in Camden earning a bachelors degree in accounting and eventually its law school after many varied jobs.

He cannot recall if he chose Family Law or if it chose him. Along the way, Bob has become a frequent voice for Bar sponsored CLEs and articles, Ask a Lawyer for Yerington, and roundtable discussions in Northern Nevada to promote the placement of cases.

Bob has a statewide practice as a Nevada Certified Family Law Specialist and Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and the International Academy of Family Lawyers. He was Chair of the Executive Council of Family Law Section and past president of the AAML Nevada Chapter. For many years, Bob was a Pro Tem Hearing Master for the Juvenile Division (Clark County).

In his spare time, Bob plays guitar with friends and annoys his wife.



# THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR ATTORNEY VOLUNTEERS

Alice Campos-Mercado | Amber Handy | Andrea Pressler Angeline Portel | Benjamin Gaumond | Bob Cerceo | Burke Williamson Cassin Brown | Chandeni Sendall | David O'Mara | Debra Amens Doug Rands | Eric Stovall | Frank Flaherty | Homa Woodrum Jacky Ferris | Jean Parraguirre | Jennifer Richards | Joe Gorman John Keuscher | John Samberg | John White | Judge Kendra Bertschy Julie Cavanaugh-Bill | Kait Flocchini | Kale Brock | Karen Monrreal Kyle Cirac | Lauren Discroll | Liliana Galleli | Madalyn Thomas Marc Picker | Marilyn York | Mary Beth Gardner | Matthew Parkins Melissa Exline | Michale Lehners | Micheal Johnson | Mikyla Miller Molly Rosenblum | Muriel Skelly | Nancy Moss-Ghusn | Nathan Zeltzer Nik Palmer | Norman Allen | Raymond Areshenko | Robert Angres Robert Broili | Rock Rocheleau | Rodney Sumpter | Sarah Bradley Sarah Carrasco | Sean Patterson | Seth Adams | Sherry Bowers Silvia Villanueva | Sonia Taggart | Steve Evenson | Tammy Thiel Tehan Slocum | Trevor Hartzell



# THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Centro De La Familia Migrant Headstart | Chicanos por la Causa | City of Reno Community Court | Community Services Agency | Fallon Paiute & Shoshone Tribe Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe Senior Center | First Judicial Bar Association Fort McDermitt Paiute & Shoshone Tribe | Frontier Community Action Agency **Healthy Communities Coalition** | Immunize Nevada Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada Family Violence Prevention Program **Lovelock Paiute Tribe | Lovelock Paiute Tribe Social Services Lyon County Human Services** | **Lyon County Libraries National American Indian Court Judges Association** Nevada Health Centers | Nevada Human Development Corporation Nevada Immigrant Coalition | Nevada Urban Indians | Northern Nevada Legal Aid Partnership Carson City | Plan Nevada | Pyramid Lake Tribe Human Services Reno Justice Court | Reno-Sparks Indian Colony | Safe Embrace San Manuel Band of Mission Indians | Second Judicial Law Library | Step 2 Supreme Court Law Library | The Children's Cabinet | TMCC Tonopah Human Services | Tu Casa Latina | Tu Red Enlace | UNLV | UNR **Volunteers Attorneys of Rural Nevada** | Washoe County Bar Association Washoe County Library | Wells Fargo | Yerington Paiute Tribe **Yerington Senior Center** 

# In loving memory of



## Gary R. Silverman

NOV 11, 1945 - AUG 28, 2023

Gary R. Silverman died of heart failure on the 27th day of August 2023. Seeing the fully-grown Bengal tiger recently escaped from the circus menacing two children on their way home from their violin lessons, he stopped his vehicle, carefully turned on the blinkers, and subdued the beast, then secured it. He then sat down on a step and collapsed. First on the scene was Animal Control who briefly revived him upon which he earnestly asked the beast not be euthanized, then mumbled a few words in Hebrew, and collapsed again, never to be revived.

There was no brave battle against heart disease. What nonsense. But instead, he was fatalistic about it, accepting and, at times, impatient with its slow process.

Silverman was born November 6, 1945, in Kansas City, MO. His mother died in childbirth and his biological father agreed to allow Louis and Betty Silverman (his mother's brother and his wife) to adopt him. He has no siblings.

Silverman lived in Kansas City until age 12, thereafter moving to Las Vegas, NV in 1958, where he was bar mitzvahed at Temple Beth Shalom. He graduated from Las Vegas High School in 1963 and UNR in 1967, where he won a letter in boxing and was voted President of the UNR Student Senate. He attended the University of Colorado Law School and graduated from that school in 1970. After a thoroughly undistinguished career as a law student, in 1971 he did a short stint at Fort Benning, GA, where he went through the Officer's Basic Course. Thereafter he went to several summer camps and was honorably discharged in 1978 at the rank of Major.

Silverman's legal career entailed the Washoe County District Attorney's Office, Hail and Belford, Assistant District Attorney of Humboldt County, and City Attorney of Winnemucca. In Winnemucca, he met and married Jann Chubb. They returned to Reno in 1978 and formed a law firm together in Sparks. They had 2 children, Noah and Leah, joining Aaron and David, children from a prior marriage. Given custody of Aaron and David, Jann in effect raised all the children to the superb ends they have reached.

During Silverman's career, he was the President of the Washoe County Bar Association; admitted to the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers; admitted to the American College of Family Trial Lawyers; and won various awards for his devotion and time spent with the Lawyer in the Library legal aid program.

Silverman wants to thank the kindness and patience of his law partners; Michael Kattelman, Alexander Morey, John Springgate, Benjamin Albers, and the foundation of his practice, Mary Anne Decaria. He got a lot more from them than he was ever able to give back.

Also deserving thanks: James Fox Miller who taught Silverman about friendship, lawyering and the lesson that we practice facts, not law; Don Schiller and Bernie Rinella of Chicago; Steve Sessums of Tampa, Florida; Don Fullenweider of Houston; Alton Abramowitz of New York City; David Walther of Santa Fe: the inestimable John Hill Parker of Raleigh, North Carolina (God bless him every day of his life) and all the members of the Dirty Thirty.

Silverman is survived by his four children: Aaron and his wife Nadia and their child Marlow, David and his children Zackary and Madeleine; Noah and his partner Jill Wieczorek; and Leah and her children Golda and Teddy. They are a healthy, vigorous, and kind bunch and with their mother, Silverman could not be more proud of them. Without diminishing Jann's role in Silverman's life in any way, Silverman will most miss the warmth, affection, humor, and care Trish has given him these last 7 years. Unspeakably kind and caring, she is the light of his life. Silverman thanks his numerous friends, doctors, and caregivers for their diligence and heartfelt concern.

Judaism is the rock on which Moses stood. Silverman was an active member of Temple Emanu-El in Reno, and counted his Judaism as a blessing every day of his life.

There is much more to say, but brevity is the soul of wit. God bless y'all, but especially Toni Matts.

#### Meet Our Pro Bono Program

Nevada Legal Services offers pro bono opportunities for law firms, lawyers and other professionals who have an interest in helping our low income clients with their legal matters. Our Pro Bono Program activities include Ask A Lawyers, Community Outreaches, Continuing Legal Education Courses (CLEs), Case Involvement, and Special Events.

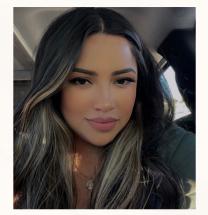
If you are interested in volunteering with us, please contact Edith Medina: (775) 284–3491 x 237 or emedina@nevadalegalservices.org



PARALEGAL

Jessica Melgar

Reno Office



PRO BONO
COORDINATOR
Edith Medina
Reno Office



PRO BONO
PARALEGAL
Donna McDonald

**Yerington Office** 



PRO BONO
PARALEGAL

Amy Gonzalez
Elko Office

#### Pro Bono Week Events

National Pro Bono Celebration October 22-28, 2023

CELEBRATE
PRO BONO
www.celebrateprobono.org

In-person and virtual volunteers needed for Pro Bono Week events across Northern

Nevada for family, probate, estate planning, bankruptcy, record sealing, and tenant law.

Volunteering for Pro Bono Week will earn you Pro Bono CLE credit!

**October** 

Fallon Law Fair

23

Churchill County 11:00am-1:00pm

**October** 

Reno Custody Ed. Class

24

Zoom Meetings 10:00 am - 11:00 am

**October** 

Hawthorne Law Fair

25

Mineral County Courthouse (Zoom Option Available) 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

**October** 

Reno Law Fair

25

Reno/Sparks Convention Center 4590 So. Virginia St, Reno, NV 10:00am-1:00pm

**October** 

Reno Bankruptcy Ed. Class

26

Zoom Meetings 11:00 am - 12:00 pm



To sign up for a slot or for detailed information: Edith Medina at emedina@nevadalegalservices.org or (775)284-3491 Ext. 237



#### Thank You To Our

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Lemons, Grundy & Eisenberg is proud to continue its support of Nevada Legal Services in its ongoing effort to provide access to justice throughout the State of Nevada.

Lemons, Grundy & Eisenberg was established over four decades ago to handle insurance related matters in the casualty, fire, life, accident, and health areas. We have steadily expanded our fields of practice to a variety of different cases and handle litigation, legal, and administrative matters in all state and federal courts throughout Nevada and northern California. Our firm enjoys multiple professional recognitions on a state and national level.

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Bremer Whyte is committed to fostering a firm culture that recognizes and celebrates the unique contributions of our diverse organization and legal community. Our firm strives to provide an inclusive environment where the values and ideas of all are recognized and respected. The high quality of our work and the unparalleled service we offer to our clients is built on a foundation of our unique and diverse experiences.

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NNLA is an enthusiastic partner of NLS in service delivery to Northern Nevada's vulnerable populations.

Lisa Evans, Esq. Executive Director

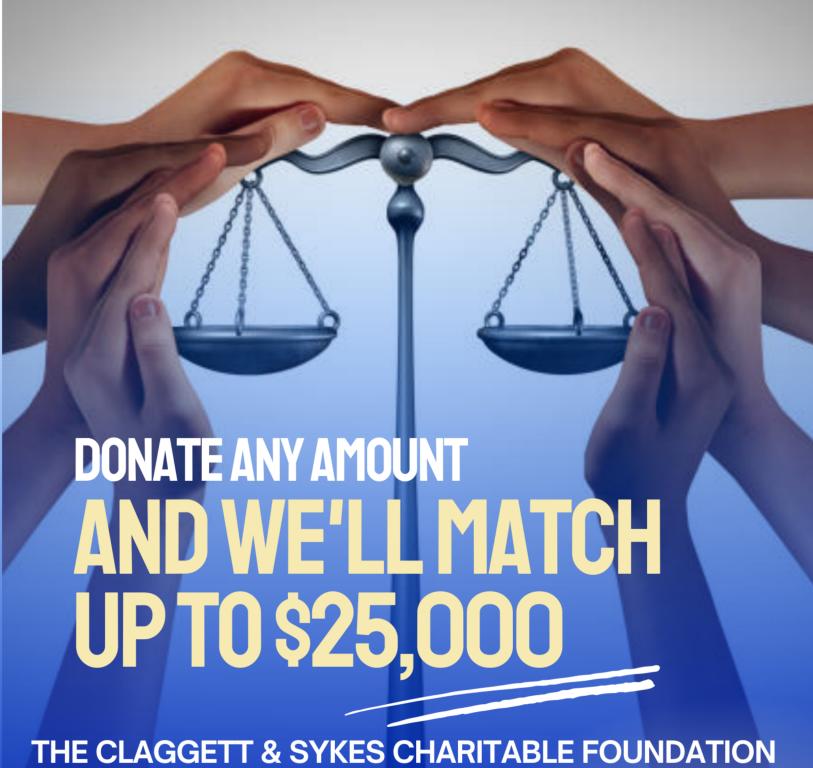


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#### PRO BONO WEEK 2023

FOR ATTORNEYS

10/17

#### FORECLOSURE CLE

2 General CLE Credit 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Presented by David Scheaztle, Esq. Zoom Webinar

10/20

#### IMMIGRATION: VAWA AND U-VISA GLE

2 General CLE Credit 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Presented by Shaina Plaksin, Esq. Zoom Webinar

10/23

#### BANKRUPTOY BASICS CLE

2 General CLE Credit 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Presented by Sean Patterson, Esq. Zoom Webinar



To register or for more information, contact Edith Medina at 775-284-3491 ext. 237 or emedina@nevadalegalservices.org

### WE ARE HIRING



The Washoe County Public Defender's Office is accepting applications for the position of Deputy Public Defender in the Criminal Division. Attorneys in the Criminal Division represent clients at all stages of criminal proceedings with an emphasis on holistic defense. Prior experience and demonstrated interests in criminal defense and/or serving vulnerable populations is preferred but not required. The Public Defender's Office offers a comprehensive training program and supportive team environment.

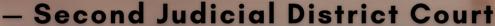
Salary range is \$107,723.20 to \$196,289.60.

The office is located in Reno, NV at the base of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and within one hour of beautiful Lake Tahoe.

To apply, please submit a letter of interest and resume to Carinne Brezine, Law Office Coordinator, at <a href="mailto:cbrezine@washoecounty.gov">cbrezine@washoecounty.gov</a>

Congratulations

NEVADA LEGAL SERVICES
AND ALL THE VOLUNTEER
ATTORNEYS FOR THEIR
OUTSTANDING WORK AND
DEDICATION TO ASSISTING
OUR COMMUNITY.







Relax and unwind!
Have an enjoyable
retirement!
Thank you for your
decades of dedication
to Nevada Legal
Services.





Debe Hays Vaughn 21 Years with NLS



David Olshan, Esq. 33 years with NLS



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#### Mary Beth Gardner

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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!** 



Nevada Legal Services and The Children's Cabinet are partnered with Street Law, Inc. to educate youth about legal rights and concepts. Help NLS and the Children's Cabinet by volunteering to teach a Legal Life Skills Class today!

To sign up for this exciting program, contact Edith Medina:

emedina@nevadalegalservices.org

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# THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR VENDORS & RAFFLE PRIZE DONORS

































# Thank You!

Thank you for taking the time to attend our 2023 Champions of Justice Awards Luncheon!

We look forward to seeing you at next year's event!



