

NEVADA LEGAL SERVICES
PRESENTS

2024

*Champions
of
Justice*

AWARDS LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2ND
ATLANTIS CASINO RESORT SPA
RENO, NEVADA

We Give Where We Live.

A faint, light blue line drawing in the background shows a hand cupping a mountain range, symbolizing care and support for the community.

We're proud to support our local communities.

No one knows a community better than the people who live and work there. That's why we empower employees at our local offices to determine the best ways to use resources and funds to meet the unique needs of their communities. It's all about making a difference where it counts most.

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2ND

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



2024 CHAMPIONS of JUSTICE

Welcome from the Executive Team

Since 2010, Nevada Legal Services has held the Champions of Justice awards as part of our pro bono month celebrations to recognize attorney volunteers, nonprofit partners, and community leaders for their significant contributions in support of our mission to provide access to justice for all Nevadans. We are fortunate to have many generous volunteers throughout the state who participate in our pro bono programs, and today we take a moment to shine a light on those who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to serving our communities.

The dedication of these outstanding individuals greatly increases the ability of Nevada Legal Services to provide pro bono legal assistance to Nevada's low-income families, seniors, veterans, farm workers, and Native Americans in civil matters affecting their lives. We extend our deepest thanks to each of them, and we hope you are as inspired as we are.



Alex Cherup
Interim Executive Director



Sherrie Royster
Deputy Executive Director



H O N O R E E S

Champion of Justice Reno Justice Court

Pro Bono Attorney of the Year

Sean Patterson

Pro Bono Attorney of the Year

Homa Woodrum

Law Firm of the Year

The O'Mara Law Firm

Solo Practitioner of the Year

MaryBeth Gardner

Rising Star Award

Lauren Driscoll

Partner Organization of the Year

Washoe County Housing and Homeless Services

BWB&O supports Nevada Legal Services, Inc. and are proud Gold Sponsors of the 2024 Champions of Justice event. We congratulate all the extraordinary volunteers and community leaders who are recognized for their pro bono work and significant contributions to Nevada Legal Services whose mission is to provide access to justice for those in need.

PRACTICE AREAS

- **GENERAL LIABILITY LAW**
- **BUSINESS LAW**
- **EMPLOYMENT LAW**
- **FAMILY LAW**
- **REAL ESTATE & CONSTRUCTION LAW**
- **ENVIRONMENTAL & HABITATIONAL LAW**
- **ESTATE PLANNING LAW**

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SOLUTIONS



LGE LEMONS, GRUNDY & EISENBERG

Congratulations to this year's Champions of Justice.

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, appellate, legal, and administrative matters in all state and federal courts throughout Nevada. Our firm enjoys multiple professional recognitions on a state and national level.

OUR LAWYERS



Edward J. Lemons



David R. Grundy
(1949 – 2020)



Robert L. Eisenberg



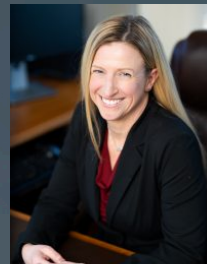
Christian L. Moore



Alice Campos Mercado



Douglas R. Brown



Caryn Tijsseling



Dane A. Littlefield



Rebecca Bruch

6005 PLUMAS STREET, THIRD FLOOR, RENO, NEVADA 89519
(775) 786-6868 | WWW.LGE.NET



Champion of Justice

Reno Justice Court



It is the mission of the Reno Justice Court to promote and preserve the rule of law and protection of property rights by providing a fair, independent, and impartial forum for the peaceful resolution of legal conflicts according to the law.

Reno Justice Court is a court of limited jurisdiction and is divided into three main areas: the Citation Division, the Civil Division, and the Criminal Division.

The Citation Division deals with all citations issued in Reno Township including, but not limited to those issued by the Nevada

Highway Patrol, the Washoe County Sheriff's Office, the University of Nevada Police Department, the Division of Wild Life, the Gaming Control Board, the State Contractor's Board and Washoe County Animal Control.

The Civil Division is divided into four areas: Small Claims, Civil Actions, Evictions and Stalking and Harassment. Small Claims actions have a monetary limit of \$10,000.00 and are conducted more informally, generally, without attorneys present. Civil actions have a monetary limit of \$15,000.00. Evictions deal with landlord-tenant disputes. Stalking and harassment orders are available for cases that do not involve domestic or intimate relationships.

The Criminal Division deals with cases which are being prosecuted by the Washoe County District Attorney's Office (or the State of Nevada Attorney General's Office in certain cases). All criminal proceedings in Reno Township, whether misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor, or felony cases originate in Reno Justice Court. A preliminary examination is held in gross misdemeanor and felony cases and, upon a finding of probable cause by the judge, the case is forwarded to the Second Judicial District Court for adjudication. Reno Justice Court is the trial court in misdemeanor cases.



Pro Bono Attorney of the Year

Sean Patterson, Esq.



Sean P. Patterson graduated from University of Nevada in 1991 with his Bachelor of Arts degree with high distinction. He then attended McGeorge School of Law at University of the Pacific where he graduated with J.D. in 1995. He was admitted to the Nevada bar in 1995. He was the 2024 Section Pro Bono Challenge Top 10 winner as the Top Section Volunteer for Bankruptcy.

The Law Office of Sean P. Patterson, out of Reno, Nevada, has served all of Northern Nevada for the past 20 years helping Nevadans facing financial distress in Reno, Sparks, Carson City, Incline Village, Minden, Gardnerville, Yerington, Fernley, Dayton, Silver Springs, Lovelock, Winnemucca, Elko, Spring Creek, Austin, and Ely.

Sean understands the unique legal landscape of Reno and strives to provide tailored solutions to meet his clients specific needs. His commitment to his clients extends beyond legal representation; he offers compassionate support and clear guidance throughout the entire process. Sean also specializes in foreclosure law and has a proven track record of successfully representing clients facing foreclosure.

In his free time Sean enjoys playing golf, basketball, working out, and reading non-fiction.



Pro Bono Attorney of the Year

Homa S. Woodrum, Esq.



Homa Sayyar Woodrum is a 2007 graduate of the University of Nevada Las Vegas William S. Boyd School of Law and is currently General Counsel for the Nevada State Purchasing Division in the Department of Administration. Previously Homa has been a Senior Deputy Attorney General representing state agencies in the Health & Human Services and Boards & Open Government Divisions. She has also served as an Elder & Disability Rights Attorney within the Aging and Disability Services Division. Throughout her government career, she has had the privilege of advocating for legislative change through the work of executive branch agencies and interim legislative committees. Some highlights include co-presenting Senate Bill 61 in the 2023 session

which addressed the rights of older adults being exploited through jointly titled accounts and Assembly Bill 480 in the 2019 session which codified Supported Decision Making in Nevada under NRS 162C. Before relocating to Northern Nevada in 2017 as a state employee, Homa was the founder of Woodrum Law in Las Vegas where she practiced in a variety of areas including guardianship, family law, immigration, bankruptcy, estate planning, civil litigation, and probate. As an immigrant to the United States, Homa is grateful for the work of access to justice organizations like Nevada Legal Services to demystify court proceedings and help litigants feel a little less alone. Homa lives in Carson City with her husband Adam (a 2006 Boyd Law graduate) and their two children.



Law Firm of the Year

The O'Mara Law Firm



For over a decade, David C. O'Mara has built and maintained an outstanding reputation by providing superior legal services to his many clients.

David C. O'Mara is a graduate of the University of Nevada Reno, and the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. David started his law career as a law clerk with the 2nd Judicial District Court for Judge Steven Kosach and then next with the United State Federal Court of Claims in Washington D.C. David then became a member of the O'Mara Law Firm, P.C. with his father, the late William "Bill" O'Mara, and brother Brian O'Mara, who now practices in San Diego.

As a small law firm, David and the O'Mara Law Firm have been fortunate to be able to practice in variety of legal areas. Today, David's legal practice primarily involves issues related to (1) Family Law (Divorce, Custody, Termination of Parental Rights, Guardianship); (2) Wills, Trusts, Probate and Trust Administration and related disputes; and (3) class action litigation for shareholder disputes and wage and hour claims. David enjoys giving back to the legal community through pro bono work and is grateful for the staff at Nevada Legal Services for all their assistance.

David is married to Courtney O'Mara and they have five children: Lucy, James, John, Peter, and Andrew. Outside the office David enjoys supporting his children's many athletic pursuits, cheering for Wolfpack athletics, and giving back to the community, having served over the years on the board of the Down Syndrome Network of Northern Nevada, as a member of the executive committee of the University of Nevada Young Alumni Counsel, and on the fundraising committee for the Roy Gomm Parent Faculty Association.



Solo Practitioner of the Year

MaryBeth Gardner, Esq.



MaryBeth Gardner began her legal career in the mid-70s as an investigator for a multi-county Public Defender's Office in the State of Missouri. She received Bachelors of Science degrees in Criminal Justice and Corrections from Missouri Western State University, and earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law.

MaryBeth was awarded a federal clerkship with the United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri, where she served to triage all pro se civil rights complaints, habeas corpus petitions, and post-conviction petitions lodged with the Court. In the private sector, she continued to work in the federal courts on behalf of those

accused and those convicted, ultimately becoming qualified to represent death-row inmates.

In 2011, MaryBeth began refocusing her career from criminal to civil matters, and is now in private practice in Reno. Her passion is, as it always has been, helping those in need, who try to, but cannot, help themselves.



Rising Star Award

Lauren Driscoll, Esq.



Lauren began living in Reno in 2017 and is a proud graduate of both the University of Nevada, Reno and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas William S. Boyd School of Law. After being admitted to the Nevada Bar, Lauren worked in private practice as a family law attorney where she gained valuable experience representing families and working closely with colleagues in the Northern Nevada legal community. In 2024, Lauren transitioned to a Deputy Attorney General role representing the Nevada Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (Nevada Medicaid).

Lauren's legal education and practice experience have emphasized the importance of access to justice for all litigants. She takes pride in being part of a legal community that shares these same values by offering resources like electronic filing, accessible pleading templates, and remote court proceedings. Lauren is very fortunate to work with a number of outstanding attorneys who have exhibited incredible professionalism and mentorship, many of whom have become dear friends.

When she's not working, Lauren enjoys viewing exhibits and taking classes at the Nevada Art Museum. She also loves skiing at Mt. Rose and exploring all that the Reno community has to offer.



Partner Organization of the Year

Washoe County Housing and Homeless Services



HOUSING & HOMELESS SERVICES

Washoe County Housing and Homeless Services Division leads the community in building a system that is capable of housing people so that homelessness becomes rare, brief, and non-recurring.

The Division was established in 2021, and since then has shifted the Northern Nevada Continuum of Care (CoC) and Nevada Cares Campus from the City of Reno to Washoe County. The Division has overseen the expansion of homeless services through the Nevada Cares Campus \$80 million construction project and a merger with the Washoe County Human Services Agency, bringing all homeless services, including the Our Place campus, under one umbrella.

Services and support include regional governance and coordination through the CoC and Built for Zero; shelter and services including outreach, case management, and behavioral health; and housing through tenancy support, the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, and permanent supportive housing.



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR ATTORNEY VOLUNTEERS

Andrea Pressler | Andrew Craner | Angeline Portel

Brandee Mooneyhan | Caren Jenkins | Cassin Brown

Chris Hilen | Courtney Miller O'Mara | David O'Mara

Debra Amens | Edmund "Joe" Gorman | Eric Stovall

Frank Flaherty | Homa Woodrum | Jacky Ferris

Jason Kuller | John White | Karen Monrreal

Lauren Driscoll | Lauren Gorman | Laury McCauley

Maria Avilez | Marybeth Gardner | Michael Lehnors

Miguel Heras | Mikye Miller | Muriel Skelly

Nancy Moss Ghushn | Natalia Vander Laan | Nik Palmer

Norman Allen | Paul Matteoni | Robert Angres

Robert Cerceo | Rodney Sumpter | Sarah Carrasco

Sean Patterson | Seth Adams | Stephanie Funk

Steve Evenson | Theo FitzGerald | Trevor Hartzell

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

9
OCTOBER

12:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Family Law Ask A Lawyer

Attorneys will assist low income individuals with brief legal advice on family law matters such as divorce and custody.

16
OCTOBER

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Tonopah Pro Bono Week Law Fair

Attorneys will assist with Family, Adoption, Minor Guardianship, Estate Planning, Consumer, Bankruptcy, Tenant Law, Employment & Criminal Record Sealing.

24
OCTOBER

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Carson City Pro Bono Week Law Fair

Attorneys will assist with Family, Adoption, Minor Guardianship, Estate Planning, Consumer, Bankruptcy, Tenant Law, Employment & Criminal Record Sealing.

5
NOVEMBER

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Consumer Law Ask A Lawyer

Attorneys will provide low income individuals brief legal advice on consumer law matters.

Volunteer attorneys can participate in-person, telephonically, or via Zoom.
All volunteered time is considered pro bono and eligible for CLE credit.
To register please contact Edith at emedina@nevadalegalservices.org or 775-284-3491 Ext. 237.



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

Carlin Senior Center | Carson City Senior Center | Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada
Centro De La Familia Migrant Headstart | Chicanos por la Causa | Children's Cabinet
City of Reno | Community Services Agency | Dayton Senior Center | Elko Senior Center
Eureka Senior Center | Fallon Paiute & Shoshone Tribe | Fernley Senior Center
First Judicial Bar Association | Fort McDermitt Paiute & Shoshone Tribe
Frontier Community Action Agency | Hawthorn Senior Center
Healthy Communities Coalition | Immunize Nevada
Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada Family Violence Prevention Program
Las Vegas Paiute Tribe | Lovelock Paiute Tribe | Lyon County Human Services
Lyon County Libraries | National American Indian Court Judges Association
Nation's Finest | Nevada Attorney General's Office | Nevada Health Centers
Nevada Housing Coalition | Nevada Housing Justice Alliance
Nevada Human Development Corporation | Nevada Immigrant Coalition
Nevada Urban Indians | Northern Nevada Legal Aid | OUR Place | Pace Coalition
Partnership Carson City | Plan Nevada | Pyramid Lake Tribe Human Services
Reno Community Court | Reno Housing Authority | Reno Justice Court
Reno-Sparks Indian Colony | Safe Embrace | San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
Second Judicial District Law Library | Senior Service Network
Silver Springs Senior Center | Silver State Fair Housing Council | Step 2
Supreme Court Law Library | The Family Support Center | TMCC
Tonopah Human Services | Tu Casa Latina | Tu Red Enlace | UNLV | UNR
West Wendover Senior Center | Walker River Paiute Tribe
Washoe County Bar Association | Washoe County District Attorney's Office
Washoe County Housing & Homeless Services | Washoe County Senior Services
Washoe County Library System | Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California | Wells Fargo
Wells Senior Center | White Pine Senior Center | Winnemucca Senior Center
Yerington Paiute Tribe | Yerington Senior Center

Bridging Justice & Community

In partnership with Nevada Legal Services, we celebrate our ongoing collaboration in making justice accessible for all. Thank you for your continued dedication in empowering our community and ensuring they have the legal support they need.



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MEMBER BENEFITS



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- Discount
- LawyerLine, Special Pricing

THE WASHOE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

2025 MEMBERSHIP



- **General \$195:**
 - 6-39 years in practice
- **Junior \$135:**
 - 0-5 years in practice
- **Honorary \$80:**
 - 40+ years in practice Legal
 - Service Aid Employee
 - Government Employee (NEW!)
- **Non-Attorney \$50:**
 - Social Members, LOAs, Paralegals, Support Staff...
- **Gratuitous \$0/Free:**
 - Current Law Students 2025
 - Affiliate Bar President (NEW!)

2025 LRS



- First practice area listing
- \$60 Each additional listing
- \$45

2025 Membership

Join Nov 1 - Dec 31

Scan the QR code or visit
www.wcbar.org/membership




CONTACT



📍 P.O. Box 1548, Reno, NV 89505
🌐 www.wcbar.org
✉ ashley@wcbar.org





**The Nevada Supreme Court
Access to Justice Commission
and the State Bar of Nevada
salute Nevada Legal Services'
2024 Champions of Justice.**

**Thank you for your service
and congratulations on
your recognition.**



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



**PRO BONO
COORDINATOR**

Edith Medina
Reno Office



**PRO BONO
PARALEGAL**

Jessica Melgar
Reno Office



**PRO BONO
PARALEGAL**

Lesly Huerta
Carson City Office



**PRO BONO
PARALEGAL**

Donna McDonald
Yerington Office



**PRO BONO
PARALEGAL**

Amy Gonzalez
Elko Office

The Pro Bono Program would like to welcome back Krissta Kirschenheiter as our statewide Director of Pro Bono Services.



After graduating from Boyd Law and passing the Nevada Bar in 2009, Krissta worked from the Las Vegas Office of NLS for 7 years, including 2 years as NLS's first Directing Attorney of Pro Bono in 2016 and 2017. In fact, Krissta has worked for various legal aid organizations for her entire 14 years of legal practice. As an attorney, Krissta has devoted her career to representing low-income and indigent people in a variety of civil legal matters, including immigration, family law, housing, consumer, public benefits and disaster relief and recovery.

Prior to moving back to Nevada last year with her teenaged son, Krissta was a Rotary Peace Fellow at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia, where she earned her master's degree in peace and conflict, while also working on various peace and legal engagements throughout Australia and in the Fiji Islands. Before becoming a Rotary Peace Fellow, Krissta was the Managing Attorney for the St. Thomas Office of Legal Services of the Virgin Islands for nearly three years, as well as having worked for two years before that in the dual role of Staff Attorney and office-wide Pro Bono Coordinator for Micronesian Legal Services Corporation (MLSC) on the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. While working at MLSC, Krissta co-produced and taught a legal education bar review course on the islands of Kosrae, Chuuk, and Pohnpei of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Krissta received her J.D. in Law from the William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada Las Vegas in 2009 and her B.A. in History from the University of Hawaii, Manoa in 2002. During law school, Krissta spent her 1L summer working for MLSC in their Palau Office and her 2L summer interning for the late Senate Majority Leader Harry S. Reid in Washington, D.C. She holds an inactive bar license from the District of Columbia and is pending admission to the U.S. Virgin Islands Bar. In her free time, Krissta is involved in various peace projects, alumni association activities, and daily supporting her son's passion for playing basketball.



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2024 CHAMPIONS of JUSTICE

THANK YOU TO OUR RAFFLE DONORS



Johnny's Ristorante Italiano



less
CREATIONS

THE COMPOUND



2024 CHAMPIONS of JUSTICE

Thank You!

**Thank you for taking the time
to attend our 2024 Champions
of Justice Awards Luncheon!**

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



