

NEVADA LEGAL SERVICES
PRESENTS

2024

*Champions
of
Justice*

AWARDS LUNCHEON

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17TH
PALMS CASINO RESORT
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

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



LUNCHEON PROGRAM

Thursday, October 17th

11:30 AM

Check-In Begins

12:15 PM

Welcome

12:30 PM

Presentation of Awards

1:30 PM

Closing Remarks





H O N O R E E S

Champion of Justice

Judge Nancy L. Allf (Ret.)

Pro Bono Attorney of the Year

Maria Perez Avilez

Keith D. Routsong

Michelle L. Abrams

Law Firm of the Year

Right Divorce Lawyers

Albright, Stoddard, Warnick, & Albright

Pro Bono Impact Award

Joel G. Selik

Partner in Pro Bono Innovations

Willick Law Group

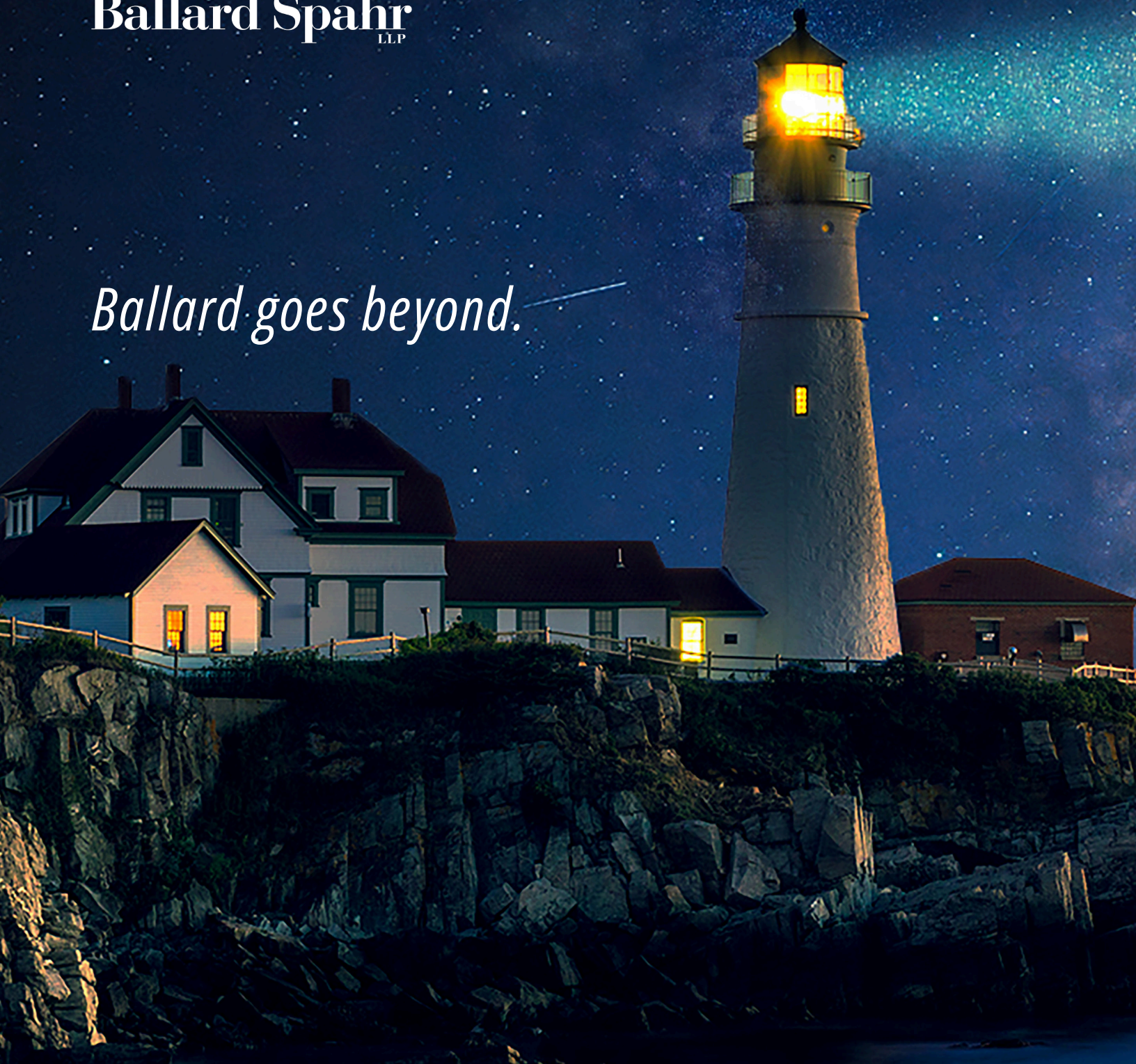
Partner Organization of the Year

Access to Justice Commission

INSIGHT THAT LIGHTS THE WAY.

Ballard Spahr
LLP

Ballard goes beyond.





Champion of Justice

Judge Nancy L. Alf (Ret.)



Hon. Nancy L. Alf (Ret.) served as a district court judge for the Nevada Eighth Judicial District Court for 13 years from 2011 to 2024. Judge Alf served as a Business Court judge for most of her time as jurist, where she handled a wide range of cases involving business tort, business divorce, breach of fiduciary duty and relationships, business judgment rule, derivative causes of actions, and the purchase or sale of a business's stocks, assets and commercial real estate. As one of four judges on the Business Court for 10 years, she handled one quarter of all Business Court cases in Clark County. She has been involved with the Business Court since before its inception, with the Nevada Supreme Court appointing her in 2000 to the Business Court Task Force, which proposed the program's creation. She is a member of the American College of Business Court Judges and an active member of the American Bar Association's Business Law Section.

The Nevada Supreme Court appointed Judge Alf as a settlement judge from 1998 to 2007. She was also appointed to the Pro Bono Compliance Committee in 2002. In 2005, she was appointed to be a judge in the Short Trial Program of the Eighth Judicial District. She served as the presiding judge of the Civil Division of the Eighth Judicial Court from 2021 to 2022.

As a neutral, Judge Alf is known for her intelligence, decisiveness and tireless effort to accomplish what needs to be done. She is adept at resolving complex and high-conflict cases. She works with attorneys to find creative paths to resolution and is always prepared to put in the extra effort to push through impasse. A known problem-solver, Judge Alf works with attorneys to help their clients understand their position in a case.

Judge Alf's judicial and legal service has been recognized by the Las Vegas legal community throughout her career. In 2023, she received the Liberty Bell Award from the Clark County Law Foundation. She also received the Miram Shearing Award (2022) from the Southern Nevada Association of Women Attorneys (SNAWA) for her contributions to the advancement of women in the law. In 2005, she was named as one of the 300 women who shaped the history of Las Vegas by Women of Diversity.

Prior to the bench, Judge Alf had a private practice where she focused primarily on commercial litigation, bankruptcy law and Chapter 11.

2024 CHAMPIONS of JUSTICE

Pro Bono Attorney of the Year

Maria Perez Avilez, Esq.



Attorney Maria Perez Avilez is a solo law practitioner and small business owner of Avilez Law for 17 years, member of Taos Pueblo, mom of three, wife of one, raised in Las Vegas, Nevada, by Frank Perez and Margaret Lujan Perez, both of whom have now walked on. Maria has been admitted to practice in Nevada courts and federal courts since 2000. She is a 1991 Valley High School graduate who went on to earn her undergraduate dual degree in Psychology and Spanish from Claremont McKenna College in 1995. After college, Maria interned multiple summers then was hired on as staff for the Council of Energy Resources Tribes where she was a part of the Education and Facilitation delivery programs where she saw attorneys who were making a positive difference with

Native Tribes throughout the United States. She is an Alumni of the 1997 Pre-Law Summer Institute at the University of New Mexico. And she obtained her law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law as a Law Opportunity Fellow.



Pro Bono Attorney of the Year

Keith D. Routsong, Esq.



Keith and his wife have moved between many states throughout the course of their education, including Utah, Colorado, and Nebraska. After spending years transitioning between so many different homes, they were pleasantly surprised to find Las Vegas an ideal place to finally put down roots.

Keith has two young daughters with whom he enjoys spending as much time as possible. Outside of work he unwinds by reading, expanding and enjoying an already extensive movie collection, and finding new ways to enjoy the outdoors with his family.

As an attorney with experience and specialized education in real estate matters, his goal is to help his clients protect their perfect place in the Las Vegas Valley and to provide them

with the top notch legal services they deserve.

Fortress Law & Realty is a company founded by Keith D. Routsong, a licensed attorney and former real estate salesperson. Fortress provides exceptional service whether it be in reviewing and negotiating real estate contracts, conducting probate sales and administration, or in providing proper estate planning to safeguard real property for the benefit of their loved ones. Keith has extensive experience with real estate transactions, estate planning, probate administration, powers of attorney, trust law, and changes to legal names and gender markers.

As an Attorney, Keith has been involved in contested probate, trust, and guardianship matters. He has also participated extensively in preparing and litigating contested issues before the Nevada 8th Judicial District Probate Court and Family Court. He has previous experience in business litigation, creditor negotiations, probate sales, and settlement proceedings. Additionally, Keith completed a special emphasis in real estate transactions during his legal education and is fluent in Portuguese.



Pro Bono Attorney of the Year

Michelle L. Abrams, Esq.



Michelle earned her Juris Doctorate from the University of San Diego School of Law in 1995. While in law school, she participated in the Civil Clinic and the Child Advocacy Clinic. Upon graduating from law school, she clerked for the Family Court in Las Vegas, Nevada, and thereafter clerked in the District Court in Reno, Nevada.

She holds a B.A. degree from University of California at San Diego where she majored in Political Science with a minor in Economics and a second minor in Chinese Studies. She is a member of the State Bar of Nevada and is admitted to the United States District Court for the District of Nevada.

Since graduating from law school, she has focused her practice on family law, collection work, and finally in 2007, finding her passion in estate planning, probate and trust administration.

Michelle's practice is primarily focused on estate planning and matters arising in Probate Court. She is recognized by her peers as an experienced and reputable probate and trust attorney. She regularly appears in probate and trust matters in Probate Court, and she currently spends approximately 60% of her working hours on probate and trust matters, with 40% of her work hours on Estate Planning issues. She managed her own law firm for years, practiced with some highly-experienced practitioners which have raised her skill set, but then found that the practice in a larger firm is more satisfying.

Congratulations!

To the 2024 Champions of Justice

Thank you for your dedication to our community!

UNLV | WILLIAM S. BOYD
SCHOOL OF LAW

INTRODUCTION TO DV AND TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE ORDERS CLE

Presented by:
Washoe County Courts & Legal Aid Center of
Southern Nevada


Join Nevada Legal Services, Washoe County Courts &
Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada for basics of TPO
filing for 2 general CLE credits.



FRIDAY OCTOBER 18 | 10 AM

RSVP NOW

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 (702) 386-0404 ext. 117

 croa@nevadalegalservices.org



NLS
NEVADA LEGAL SERVICES

Lawyer in the **School**
Program



This CLE is FREE for current NLS volunteer attorneys.

2024 CHAMPIONS of JUSTICE

Law Firm of the Year **Right Divorce Lawyers**



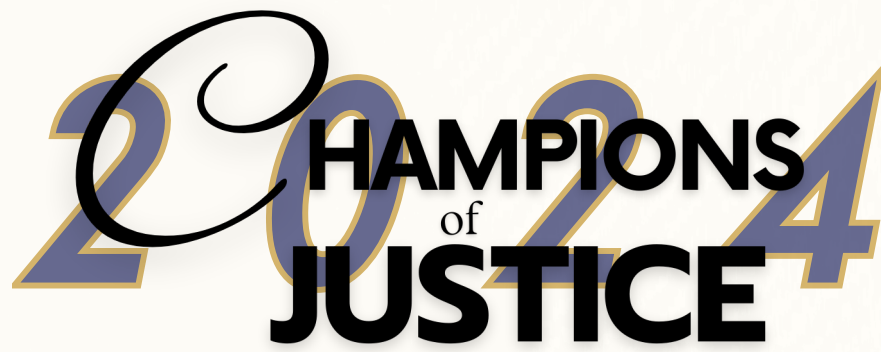
Rock Rocheleau, Esq.
Right Divorce Lawyers

Since 2004 Right Divorce Lawyers has helped thousands of clients with their divorce or custody issues. Founded by now Judge Stacy Rocheleau and managed since 2020 by attorney Rock Rocheleau.

Right Lawyers have been voted the Best Divorce Lawyer seven years running. They only handle divorce and custody cases. They offer a free phone consult. And most importantly, They only charge fixed fees. No hourly billing at Right Divorce Lawyers.

Rock served in the United States Air Force. Rock graduated UNLV's Boyd School of Law in 2019.

RIGHT
LAWYERS



Law Firm of the Year

Albright, Stoddard, Warnick & Albright

AS

**Albright Stoddard
Warnick & Albright**

For more than 50 years, the attorneys of Albright, Stoddard, Warnick & Albright have been serving the Southern Nevada community through litigation, negotiation, mediation, and arbitration for a wide range of legal matters, including business and commercial, construction law, real estate, professional liabilities, personal injury, estate planning and family law.

The Albright, Stoddard, Warnick & Albright attorneys bring with them deep local roots in Southern Nevada, many having grown up, attended prominent regional law schools and having clerked or practiced for several state and federal Southern Nevadan lawyers. Their many decades of experience practicing law in Nevada gives Albright, Stoddard, Warnick & Albright the experience of major local law firms, while allowing the firm to offer great better rates and service, proudly providing Big Firm Experience with Small Firm Value.

2024 CHAMPIONS of JUSTICE

Pro Bono Impact Award

Joel G. Selik, Esq.



At the Selik Law Offices, we are passionate about providing our valued clients with prompt, attentive, and reliable legal service. Our high-quality representation has resulted in numerous courtroom victories, along with a stellar reputation throughout California and Nevada since 1985. Prior to opening Selik Law Offices, Joel Selik worked at Beckley Singleton, Chtd. from 1984 – 1986 as an attorney. If you require excellent service from a lawyer who truly cares, there is no better resource to turn to than the Selik Law Offices.

Education

University of San Diego, Taxation USD, LL.M., 1993

Golden Gate University School of Law, Juris Doctor, 1984

Associations

State Bar of California, 1985 – Present

State Bar of California, Member

Nevada Justice Association, Member

San Diego County Bar Association, Member

San Diego North County Bar Association, Member

Nevada Trial Lawyers Association, Member

Consumer Attorneys of San Diego, Member



Partner in Pro Bono Innovations

Willick Law Group



WILLICK LAW GROUP is a Family Law firm in Las Vegas, NV. Founded in 1985, the firm has dedicated itself exclusively to the field of Family Law for nearly three decades, and is located across the street from the Family Court building, at Pecos and Bonanza. The firm practices at the trial court level in State and Federal Courts, and in appeals to the Nevada Supreme Court and the Federal Appellate Courts.

The Willick Law Group has well earned a reputation for meticulous and comprehensive legal writing, as well as diligent and zealous advocacy in both trial and appellate courts, and is committed to remaining the premier Family Law firm in Nevada.

Family Law, or Domestic Relations Law, includes the law of divorce, annulments, child custody, visitation, and child support, property and debt division, and alimony (spousal support), as well as paternity, guardianship, adoption, and grandparent visitation rights cases, and negotiating and drafting premarital and postnuptial agreements. Our work frequently involves pension or retirement division (including the drafting of QDROs under ERISA, and military retirement, Civil Service retirement, and State of Nevada PERS issues). Many of our cases involve interstate or international claims, including many contested jurisdiction matters, establishing or enforcing custody or support orders under the UCCJEA and UIFSA, and a number of child kidnapping cases under the Hague Convention for the recovery of internationally abducted children. As necessary, we also litigate matters related to core family law disputes, including some domestic torts, spyware and invasion of privacy claims, and collection of judgment arrears, penalties, and statutory interest.

2024 CHAMPIONS of JUSTICE

Partner Organization of the Year **Access to Justice Commission**

NEVADA SUPREME COURT



ACCESS TO JUSTICE
COMMISSION

The Nevada Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission's main goal is to improve access to civil services for low-income Nevadans.

The Purpose of the Nevada Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission is to develop statewide policies to improve legal services delivery. Assess current and future civil legal needs and investigate and pursue increased funding. To recommend legislation or rules affecting access to Justice, As well as Improving self-help and Pro Bono services and public awareness of the impact of limited access to justice.

We encourage Nevada's legal communities to act as advocates, supporting pro bono and legal help for those in need. As well as helping to educate the public on the importance of assuring fairness and justice for all, regardless of any ability to pay.

Through this, attorneys can earn CLE for Pro Bono work. Every 3 hours of Pro Bono work earns them 1 CLE credit. Join our mission to provide Justice For All, join the 2025 Section Pro Bono Challenge, running from February through May of 2025.



ASYLUM LAW CLE

Join Nevada Legal Services and Attorney Caroline Townsend for an Asylum Law CLE. Learn the ins and outs of asylum law and the adjudication process of I-589s.

Caroline is a native of Las Vegas and a 2015 William S. Boyd School of Law graduate. She clerked for the Honorable Judge Fairman in Ely, NV before joining Nevada Legal Services as their Pro Bono Coordinator until 2018. After relocating to the DC area, she joined USCIS as an Asylum Officer in 2022.

- ✓ Tuesday, October 22, 2024
- ✓ 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- ✓ Via Zoom
- ✓ 2 CLE Credits



BOOK NOW



For more information contact:



Yrene Chavez



702-386-0404, ext. 145



ychavez@nevadalegalservices.org



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS

Adriana Pereyra | Alissa Cooley | Alyssa Aklestad | Amanda Stevens

Amber Robinson | Andrea L Vieira | Andrew Craner | Angela J Lizada

Arlette P Newvine | Arun Gupta | Ashley Burkett | Bridgette Reyna-Meadows

Charlie H Luh | Christopher Cannon | Christopher Storke | Crislove A Igeleke

David Stephens | Denisse Ramos | Gary Burnett | Gary Burnett

Gemma Nazareno | Hai Ling Chu | Hanh P Nguyen | Jackson J Tann

James Jimmerson | James T. Leavitt | Jamie Cogburn | Jason Marc Sadow

Jeffery Gronich | Jennifer A Fornetti | Joel Selik | John R Gordon

Jon R Turner | Justin Alper | Karl Armstrong | KC Caraballo | Keith Routsong

Kelley K Blatnik | Kendal Weisenmiller | Kristina Weller | Kristine Bernhardt

Lin Gan | Lynn Conant | Mace J Yampolsky | Malik Ahmad | Maria Avilez

Mark Patterson | Matthew R Parkins | Meghan H Shigemitsu | Michael Bohn

Michelle Abrams | Nancy Jackson | Nikki L Dupree-O'Brien | Randon D Hansen

Raven Yim | Rebecca Blair | Rebecca Miller | Richard V Foster | Robert Cerceo

Robert Charles | Rory Robinson | Ryan McPhee | Sarah A. Morris

Sarah Ocampo | Scott Holper | Steven L Yarmy | Susan Myer

Szu-Lung Chang | Timothy Trefinger | Tracy Gallegos | Travis Chance

Valerie S Gray | Whiteny Warnick | Whitney Short

Whitney Warnick | William M Noall | Yolanda Carapia



TELEPHONIC ASK-A-LAWYER CLINICS

We are in need of volunteer attorneys to assist with upcoming Ask-A-Lawyer Clinics. These Clinics are conducted telephonically and can be built around your schedule. Attorneys who volunteer are not obligated to accept the case.

Did you know Nevada attorneys can now earn 1 CLE credit for every 3 hours of volunteered time? Earn up to 4 credits a year!

BANKRUPTCY

Tuesday, November 12, 2024
Tuesday, December 10, 2024
Tuesday, January 14, 2025
Tuesday, February 11, 2025
Tuesday, March 11, 2025

ESTATE PLANNING

Monday, October 21, 2024
Monday, November 18, 2024
Monday, December 16, 2024
Monday, January 27, 2025
Monday, February 24, 2025
Monday, March 24, 2025

CONTACT US

To volunteer or for more information:
Yrene Chavez
(702) 386-0404, ext. 145
ychavez@nevadalegalservices.org


FAMILY

Wednesday, November 13, 2024
Wednesday, November 20, 2024
Wednesday, December 11, 2024
Wednesday, December 18, 2024
Wednesday, January 8, 2025
Wednesday, January 15, 2025
Wednesday, January 22, 2025
Wednesday, February 12, 2025
Wednesday, February 19, 2025
Wednesday, February 26, 2025
Wednesday, March 12, 2025
Wednesday, March 19, 2025
Wednesday, March 26, 2025
Wednesday, April 9, 2025
Wednesday, April 16, 2025
Wednesday, April 23, 2025



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

AARP Nevada | Access to Justice Commission | Anthem Medicaid
Association of Corporate Counsel - Nevada | Cathay Bank Foundation
Chicanos por la Causa | City of Henderson
City of North Las Vegas | Clark County | Clark County Law Library
Clark County Social Services | Cora Coleman Senior Center
Foundation for an Independent Tomorrow | Foundation for Recovery
Gender Justice Nevada | Henderson Equality Center | Heritage Park Senior Center
Hope for Prisoners | Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Las Vegas-Clark County Library District | Laughlin Justice Court | Laughlin Library
Myrtle Tate Elementary School | NAACP | National Action Network - Nevada
Nation's Finest | Nevada Courts
Nevada Department of Health & Human Services: Aging & Disability Services Division
Nevada Department of Health & Human Services: Division of Welfare & Supportive Services
Nevada Energy Foundation | Nevada Homeless Alliance | Nevada Housing Coalition
Nevada State Bank | Nevada State Bar | Nevada Urban Indians
North Las Vegas Justice Court | Nye Communities Coalition
Nye County Health & Human Services
Pahrump Justice Court | Pahrump Library District
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians | Southern Nevada Health Consortium
Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority, Family Self-Sufficiency Program
The Center | The Salvation Army of Southern Nevada | UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law
US VETS - Las Vegas | VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System | Wells Fargo Foundation



**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.**



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.

Meet Our Pro Bono Team

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 (CLE), and special events.

If you are interested in volunteering with us, please contact Yrene Chavez:
(702) 386-0404 Ext. 145 or ychavez@nevadalegalservices.org



**PRO BONO
COORDINATOR**

Yrene Chavez



**PRO BONO
ASSISTANT**

Yancy Meza



**PRO BONO
ASSISTANT**

Candy Rivera



Volunteer Attorneys Needed

Nevada Legal Services' Lawyer in the School program needs your help! We need volunteer attorneys to assist with upcoming Ask-A-Lawyer events at Clark County School District Family Engagement Center and at Myrtle Tate Elementary School, a Title 1 school in Las Vegas, where we provide direct access for families to the free legal assistance they need.

We need volunteer attorneys to help with:

- Family Law
- Guardianship
- Housing
- Immigration
- Estate Planning
- Small Claims
- Bankruptcy
- Employment Law
- And more.

Tuesdays & Wednesdays (Virtual or Telephonic)

To learn more or volunteer, please contact:

Tina Rentzios, Esq.
(702) 386-0404 ext. 141
trentzios@nevadalegalservices.org

Cecy Roa
(702) 386-0404 ext. 117
croa@nevadalegalservices.org



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2024 CHAMPIONS of JUSTICE

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SCHOOL OF LAW

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!**

NLS
NEVADA LEGAL SERVICES

