



Bar Leaders — *Left to Right // Seated:* Donna Wiessner, Tami D. Cowden, Jennifer Roberts *Standing:* Mariteresa Rivera-Rogers, Brandon P. Kemble, John P. Aldrich, Paul Ray, James Harper, Stephanie Abbott // *Not Pictured:* Judge Nancy Alif, Nedda Ghandi, Macaire Moran, Catherine M. Mazzeo, Jason Stoffel and Brenda Weksler

THEN & NOW

SPECIAL **Nevada Business** REPORT
THE DECISION MAKER'S MAGAZINE



Dear Nevada Business Magazine Readers,

I am pleased and proud to introduce this Special Report published by *Nevada Business Magazine* about the Clark County Bar Association. The Clark County Bar Association (CCBA for short) has a long history in both the Las Vegas legal community, and all of Southern Nevada. Our membership is active and diverse with over 1,700 members who benefit from our services, participate in our organization's activities, and represent a variety of business and industries. Members include attorneys, local, state and federal judges, members of the legislature and other government leaders, paralegals, legal assistants and law students – including several who live and work outside of Clark County. These same members are also business owners, partners in law firms, legal professionals who counsel Nevada business owners, and the next generation of Nevada attorneys, so we truly value the steadfast relationships we have built within the Nevada business community - and we are always eager to make new connections. That is why we also offer membership opportunities to merchants who provide products and services to the legal community.

CCBA membership includes a number of benefits, including a listing in our member directory, a subscription to our award-winning *Communiqué* publication, advertising discounts, professional portrait services and opportunities for continuing legal education (CLE). We also offer a full slate of networking opportunities. With the help of its generous sponsors, the CCBA hosts several luncheons throughout the year, which allow members the opportunity to catch up with their long-time colleagues and meet their new ones. Our next luncheon, scheduled for Thursday, March 16, 2017, honors the newest members of our 40 Year Club. This is one of our more popular luncheon events. This year, we recognize attorney members of the CCBA who were admitted to practice law in Nevada in 1977 as well as honor those who were admitted in 1972, 1967, and 1962. Members also enjoy our annual "Meet Your Judges Mixer," which provides an opportunity to meet members of the local, state, and federal judiciaries in a casual, social setting. Our 27th Annual Meet Your Judges Mixer is scheduled for Thursday, May 18, 2017.

In keeping with our long-standing commitment to giving back to the communities in which we live and work, the CCBA's Community Service Committee invites all members to participate in its events and activities. Our New Lawyers Committee, intended for lawyers who are either new to the practice or new to Nevada, is always happy to have volunteers for its activities, many of which occur at the Boyd School of Law. Our newly formed Social Events Committee is eager to welcome members who want to help plan events and activities to allow our members to get to know each other outside the confines of the profession. And, as ever, our CLE Committee and Publications Committee are also very hard at work.

Please read the following Special Report to learn more about the Clark County Bar Association, and to hear directly from some of our members. I also encourage you to visit our website at www.clarkcountybar.org for additional information, including a complete list of member benefits and a calendar of upcoming events.

To those of you who are already CCBA members, thank you for your continued, and very generous, support. For those of you who are not yet members, or who may be learning about our organization for the first time, I sincerely hope you will accept my invitation to join us!

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tami D. Cowden'.

Tami D. Cowden
Clark County Bar Association 2017 President



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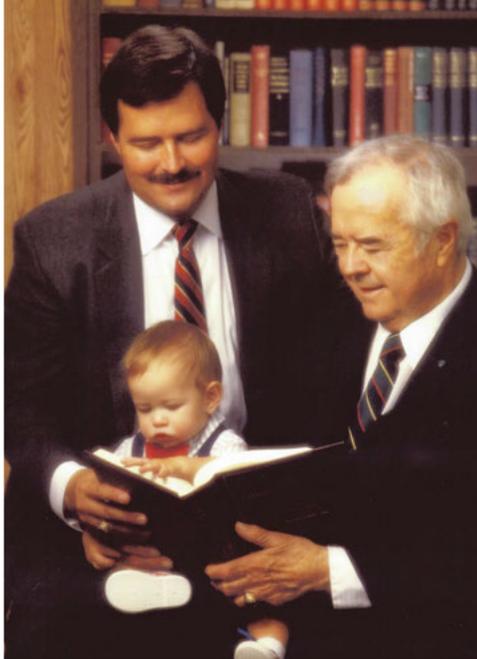
THEN & NOW



Clark County Bar Association

By Jennifer Rachel Baumer

ASK a member of Clark County Bar Association (CCBA) why Southern Nevada attorneys should become members of the organization and the answers will span most of the benefits of membership. The one answer included every time: People.



A Rich Legacy

“When I first joined the CCBA in 1976 as a second generation Nevada lawyer, the CCBA was the social portal for all those who aspired to be integrated in the Southern Nevada legal community, much as it was in 1955 when my father, Justice John C. Mowbray was a member.”

—**John H. Mowbray**, Director, Fennemore Craig

That answer comes in variations. But when networking, meeting colleagues, meeting judges, doing community service, volunteering on the Board of Directors and chairing one of the organization’s five committees are pared down, it comes down to people.

“Clark County Bar gives members a lot of opportunities to serve in the community and to rub shoulders with judges and more seasoned attorneys, which is more important for young attorneys,” said John Aldrich, Aldrich Law Firm, Ltd., president-elect CCBA.

Networking allows attorneys to get together outside the courtroom and take the emotion out of litigation, according to Jason Stoffel, Roberts Stoffel Family Law Group, secretary/treasurer CCBA.

The organization presents opportunities for lawyers to contribute to the profession as a whole. Rather than remaining isolated, working only on their own cases, lawyers have a chance to volunteer in the



John Aldrich
John Aldrich
Law Firm, Ltd.



Tami Cowden
Greenberg Traurig



Jason Stoffel
Roberts Stoffel
Family Law Group

community beyond doing pro bono legal work.

“It’s a great opportunity to work with fellow attorneys to achieve some good things,” said Tami Cowden, Greenberg Traurig LLP, CCBA president.

Membership in the Clark County Bar Association is voluntary. Which is one of the best reasons for attorneys to join: everyone is there by choice. In addition, it’s made up of local members practicing in Southern Nevada .

“It’s our bar association,” said James T. Leavitt, Leavitt Legal Services, PC.

Clark County Bar Association is a relatively small voluntary member organization, at least in terms of staffing, compared to that of the State Bar of Nevada — a mandatory, regulatory organization for all attorneys admitted to practice in the state. While the majority of the CCBA’s members are based in Clark County, the organization has members throughout the state and nation. CCBA’s publication and CLE seminars focus broadly on topics regarding state and federal laws.

“The State Bar is a huge entity with a staff of 60 or 70 employees. CCBA is a two-person team,” said Stoffel. “It’s fun. And we do more volunteering than the State Bar. The State Bar is the whole state, Reno and rural counties too. CCBA is what’s happening here now, and there are a lot of ways to get involved.”

CCBA’s two person staff is comprised of Donna Wiessner, who serves as the executive director, and Steph Abbott, the bar’s communications manager. The two work efficiently

and effectively to provide CCBA members with the most bang for their membership, organizing everything from member events to board meetings and beyond.

“They’re the ones who are the core of the organization, the nuts and bolts of what happens,” said Aldrich. “They do a great job and are well connected in the community and it’s a great service they provide, not just to the CCBA, but to the community at large.”

The community aspect of CCBA is important; it keeps everything local, so attorneys can keep up with changes that affect their cases and their clients. The law isn’t immutable. The legal field itself changes.

Then and Now

“I think the most important aspect of the organization is probably that it connects us with our past legal history and it helps us prepare for the future by maintaining ties between those in the legal community,” said Leavitt. “That can help combat some of the things we see in other cities where bar associations are so large if you encounter an attorney on one case, you’re not likely to encounter them again. I think [CCBA] helps promote civility within the profession, and that’s always laudable.”

CCBA formed more than 90 years ago, and has always been part of both the legal community and the community in general. The roll call of past presidents reads like a “Who’s Who” of Las Vegas lawyers.

“There are lots of judges, a district attorney, and people who really have gone on to do great things,” said Aldrich. “We have this history that spans literally from the beginning of any lawyer that’s still practicing up until the present. The CCBA has been pretty consistent throughout that time. The legal community’s changed a little bit, just because of the hard times we went through in 2007, ‘08, ‘09 and 2010.” Even then the organization remained consistent, working for members, helping them network, learn and give back to the community.

The legal field was less consistent and events in the community can have a significant impact on which areas of law are heating up

About the Clark County Bar Association

The Clark County Bar Association is a 501(c)(6), non-profit, voluntary member organization with annual membership opportunities for attorneys, judges, legal assistants, legal secretaries, law students and merchants. While membership is concentrated in Southern Nevada, CCBA also has members scattered throughout the state and nation.



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Through the Years

Clockwise (from top left): CCBA Members and Staff collect donations; Special edition of the *Communique* highlighting the organization’s past; 1980 Past President’s Luncheon; 2017 New Lawyer’s Committee; An October 1948 CCBA Cocktail and Dinner Meeting at the Green Shack

or cooling down. In Nevada, foreclosure mediation and construction defect have cooled since the recession ended. Now other areas are heating up, including intellectual property, gaming and family law, according to Stoffel.

But the legal field itself doesn’t change fast. Change is difficult because attorneys can continue to practice into their 90s, or start in their 20s.

“[We] see that generational difference and how the court reacts to new attorneys and how new attorneys are treated and gender disparity,” said Heather Anderson-Fintak, Southern Nevada Health District and CCBA Publications Committee chair. “The good old boys system has been slowly, slowly going away, but I think those are all things that we’ve seen change in the legal community. But it takes a long time for the culture to make that shift.”

It’s happening, though. Anderson-Fintak grew up in Las Vegas. Since returning to the

state in 2005, she’s seen changes in the legal community.

“There’s been a development of a more collegial community, and the older attorneys are helping younger attorneys – that’s been a change, especially with a mentoring program in place through the state bar,” said Anderson-Fintak.

“One thing I can say has changed significantly, having come to Las Vegas from having practiced elsewhere, Vegas is different,” said Cowden. “Or Nevada is different. And one of the really nice differences is the interaction between bench and bar. There’s far more involvement of the judges in the bar activities here than where I practiced in Colorado. I think in general there’s a greater opportunity to get to know judges’ personalities and just to get to know them as people here than in other parts of the country. Part of that is that even though there has been a significant increase in the

What events does the Clark County Bar Association host that are most beneficial or enjoyable to you?



Joel Jarvis
Kaercher Insurance
Producer

The Annual Meet your Judges Mixer has over 600 attorneys attend, and the comradere with judges, attorneys and friends is just amazing, and to all be in the same room, very hard to do! Bravo!

Executive Board 2017

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President

Tami D. Cowden, Greenberg Traurig, LLP

President Elect

John P. Aldrich, Aldrich Law Firm, Ltd.

Secretary/Treasurer

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Jennifer Roberts, UNLV International Center for Gaming Regulation

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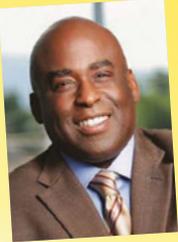
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Why are you a member of the Clark County Bar Association?



Bryan K. Scott
City of Las Vegas
Senior Assistant
City Attorney

I've been a member of the CCBA since 1992. As a new Lawyer, the first committee I joined was the Community Service Committee. I enjoyed that committee because it engages in public outreach projects for the needy in our community and organized fun socials for networking with other Lawyers and Judges.

number of attorneys [in Nevada], it remains a relatively small bar.”

When Paul Ray joined CCBA in the 90s, the Strip, the population and residential housing were all growing fast. There was no Court of Appeals in Nevada, and no law school. Boyd School of Law at UNLV is one of the biggest changes to the Southern Nevada legal field. “Today, most of our board is made up of Boyd alumni,” said Paul Ray, Paul C. Ray, Chtd. and co-chair of the CCBA Community Services committee.

Interactions

Cowden chairs the Social Events Committee. The newly created committee will be seeking opportunities for members to interact in social and family activities.

Another event that brings together members is the annual Meet Your Judges Mixer.

“It’s the most important event we hold every year,” said Aldrich. Between 500 and 600 people are invited, giving attorneys the opportunity to talk with judges and get to know them outside the courtroom. It’s also a chance

The Purpose of the Clark County Bar Association is to:

- Provide Meaningful Services to Members
- Provide Opportunities for Collegiality and Social Interaction
- Perform Outreach Services to the Community at Large
- Promote Professionalism

The Clark County Bar has adopted “The Lawyer’s Pledge of Professionalism.”



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CCBA's Community Service Committee

Committee Chairs

(both also serve as CCBA Executive Board Liaisons)

Paul Ray, Paul C. Ray, Chtd.

Jennifer Roberts, UNLV International Center for Gaming Regulation

Shahzad Ali, TIMC Wealth Advisors

Mark Blackman, Alpert, Barr & Grant APLC

Annette Bradley, Southern Nevada Health District

Damon Dias, Dias Law Group

James Harper, Harper Law Group

Joel Jarvis, Kaercher Insurance

Debra "Sam" King, Nevada Center on Foreign Relations

Paul J. Lal, Boies Schiller & Flexner LLP

Macaire Moran, Vegas Sands Corp.

Julie Olejnik, Expert Strategy Group

Lin Soriano, Student at UNLV Boyd Law School

Mariteresa Rivera-Rogers, Wright Stanish & Winckler

Jason P. Stoffel, Roberts Stoffel Family Law Group

Brenda Weksler, Federal Public Defender's Office

Seleste Hamilton, Student Representative at UNLV Boyd Law School

CCBA's Continuing Legal Education Committee

Committee Chair

Robert Telles, Accolade Law

Wayne Carter, Hand Page Sullivan Martin

Anthony Ciulla, Deaner Malan Larsen & Ciulla

Lara Miller, Atkin Winner & Sherrod

Gayle Nathan, Gayle Nathan Law

Paul Ray, Paul C. Ray, Chtd.

Carli Sansone, Pecos Law Group

Evan Schwab, Anthony A. Zmaila Limited PLLC

Stephen Smith, Sole Practitioner

CCBA Executive Board Liaisons: Mariteresa Rivera-Rogers, Wright Stanish & Winckler and **Brenda Weksler**, Office of the Federal Public Defender

CCBA's New Lawyers Committee

Committee Chair

James Leavitt, Leavitt Legal Services, P.C.

Jonathan Chung, Student Representative at UNLV Boyd Law School

Jason Close, Close Law Group

Cheryl Godfrey, Las Vegas Legal Video, Sponsor Liaison

Frank Leavitt, Leavitt Law Firm

Noah Malgeri, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada

Erica Smit, Holland & Hart LLP

Amanda Stevens, Bailey Kennedy, LLP

Brittnie Watkins, Pisanelli Bice

CCBA Executive Board Liaisons: Brandon Kemble, City of Henderson; **Jason Stoffel**, Roberts Stoffel Family Law Group and **Judge Nancy Allf**, Eighth Judicial District Court

CCBA's Publications Committee

Committee Chair and Editor-In-Chief

Heather Anderson-Fintak, Southern Nevada Health District

Associate Editors

Tami Cowden, Greenberg Traurig, LLP

Gerard Dondero, Paul C. Ray, Chtd.

Jacquelyn Franco, Stephenson & Dickinson, P.C.

Alia Najjar, MD, Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker LLP

Jennifer Roberts, UNLV International Center for Gaming Regulation

Lindsay Demaree, Ballard Spahr

Jennifer Hostetler, Office of the Nevada Attorney General

Erin Houston, Goldsmith & Guymon

Paul Ray, Paul C. Ray, Chtd.

CCBA Executive Board Liaisons: Jennifer Roberts, UNLV International Center for Gaming Regulation; **Tami Cowden**, Greenberg Traurig and **James Harper**, Harper Law Group

CCBA's Social Events Committee

Committee Chair

Tami Cowden, Greenberg Traurig, LLP

Kimberly Abbott, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada

to meet other attorneys in informal settings and outside of litigation.

Not every event is about meeting existing attorneys. Some are aimed at attorneys in the making. Every year members of CCBA reach out to Boyd School of Law students by working on the Moot Court and Client Counseling Competitions at the school. “It’s an opportunity to meet some of the law students who are going to be future members of our profession here in Vegas,” said Leavitt.

Leavitt joined CCBA shortly after becoming a licensed attorney in 2012, and now chairs the New Lawyers Committee, which holds mixers throughout the year so new lawyers can network with more seasoned lawyers and meet local judges.

CLE’s – continuing legal education courses – also give attorneys a chance to meet each other and network in less formal settings than the courtroom.

“CCBA does a lot of good work in providing CLE’s to the local bar, giving us a chance to meet each other in informal settings and network,” said Leavitt.

“All the CLE courses CCBA puts on are produced by our CLE committee,” added Cowden. “Basically they recruit experts in different areas of law to share their knowledge.”

That’s a win for everyone, Cowden pointed out. The presenter focuses on an area of expertise, and attorneys taking the course benefit by learning from local experts. Creating CLE’s in-house is cost effective; CCBA’s CLE courses are affordable and the organization has its own facility where courses are held, she said.

CCBA continuing legal education courses focus on the cutting edge of the law. The CLE Committee is made up of members who have their fingers on the pulse of the legal community, according to incoming committee chair Rob Telles, Accolade Law.

Once a legal topic is identified, the committee looks for the best speaker for the CLE course to be built around the topic.



Paul Ray
Paul C. Ray



Jennifer Roberts
UNLV International
Center for Gaming
Regulations



James Leavitt
Leavitt Legal
Services

may be different. “We pay attention to those sorts of things to make certain we have a program that really brings value to the members of the legal community,” said Telles.

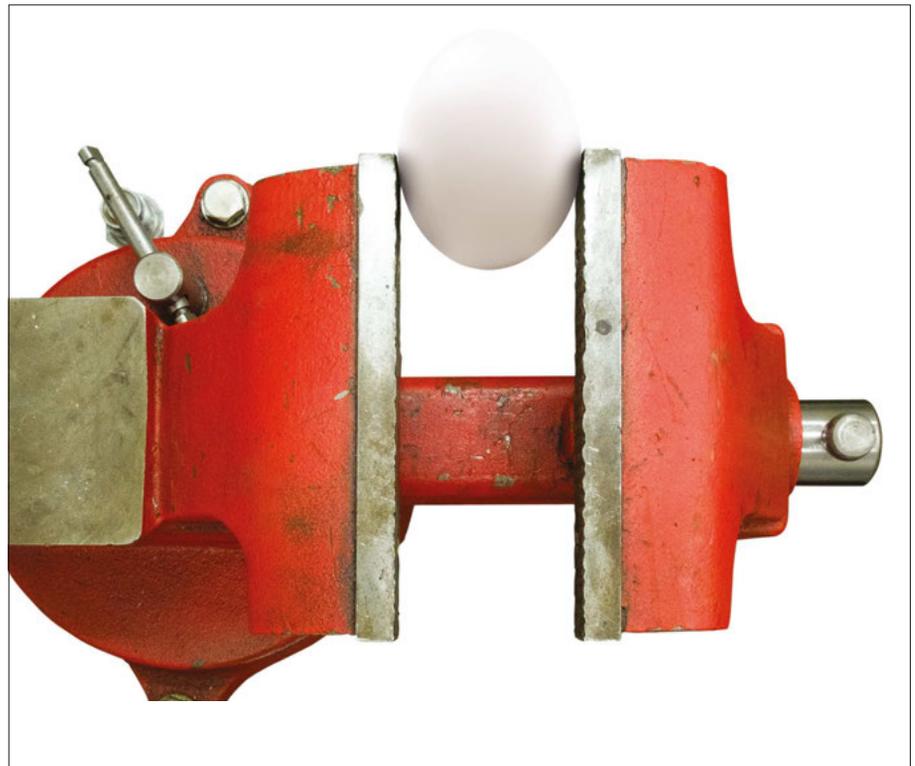
Social and Media

One purpose professional organizations share is educating their members. In addition to Continuing Legal Education courses, the Publications Committee produces the award-winning *Communiqué* magazine, published 11 times a year and free to members.

“I’m editor-in-chief of the magazine,” said Anderson-Fintak. “Our job is to connect attorneys out there with information that could be valuable to their practice.” In the process, attorneys on the Publications Committee end up learning pretty much everything when it comes to Southern Nevada law topics.

“We find those who are best suited to discuss the topic,” said Telles. “It might be somebody local because, as people who practice in Las Vegas, we want to know the ins and outs of the way laws are interpreted here. Oftentimes judges [work in] nuances. That’s why often it is ideal to have somebody experienced and local.”

There are other, non-local sources for CLE courses, but most of the national courses don’t cover Las Vegas law, so details



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FEBRUARY

- 3 CCBA Community Service Committee Meeting**
12-1 p.m., CCBA
Open to all bar members who want to produce opportunities for community outreach by bar members.
- 3 Cyber Fraud & Attacks: What You Need to Do & Know! – a CLE seminar**
Lunch included: 11:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
Program: 12-1:30 p.m., Depo International
- 7 CCBA Publications Committee Meeting**
12-1 p.m., CCBA
- 8 CCBA Social Committee Meeting**
12:30-1:30 p.m., CCBA
Open to members who want to facilitate opportunities for members to meet and socialize.
- 9 CCBA New Lawyers Committee Meeting**
12:30-1:30 p.m., CCBA
Open to attorneys members admitted to practice in Nevada within the last five years.
- 10 CCBA CLE Committee Meeting**
12-1 p.m., CCBA
Open to all bar members who want to produce seminars for continuing legal education.
- 17 Finding Your Way Through The Weeds – Medical Marijuana & Recreational Use” – a CLE seminar**
Lunch included: 11:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
Program: 12-1:30 p.m., Depo International

MARCH

- 3 CCBA Community Service Committee Meeting**
12-1 p.m., CCBA
Open to all bar members who want to produce opportunities for community outreach by bar members.
- 7 CCBA Publications Committee Meeting**
12-1 p.m., CCBA
- 8 CCBA Social Committee Meeting**
12:30-1:30 p.m., CCBA
Open to members who want to facilitate opportunities for members to meet and socialize.
- 9 CCBA New Lawyers Committee Meeting**
12:30-1:30 p.m., CCBA
Open to attorneys members admitted to practice in Nevada within the last five years.
- 10 CCBA CLE Committee Meeting**
12-1 p.m., CCBA
Open to all bar members who want to produce seminars for continuing legal education.
- 16 40 Year Club Luncheon**
12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., Location TBA (call 702.387.6011)
Sponsor opportunities available.

APRIL

- 4 CCBA Publications Committee Meeting**
12-1 p.m., CCBA
- 5 CCBA Social Committee Meeting**
12:30-1:30 p.m., CCBA
Open to members who want to facilitate opportunities for members to meet and socialize.
- 6 CCBA New Lawyers Committee Meeting**
12:30-1:30 p.m., CCBA
Open to attorneys members admitted to practice in Nevada within the last five years.

- 7 CCBA Community Service Committee Meeting**
12-1 p.m., CCBA
Open to all bar members who want to produce opportunities for community outreach by bar members.
- 14 CCBA CLE Committee Meeting**
12-1 p.m., CCBA
Open to all bar members who want to produce seminars for continuing legal education.

MAY

- 2 CCBA Publications Committee Meeting**
12-1 p.m., CCBA)
- 5 CCBA Community Service Committee Meeting**
12-1 p.m., CCBA
Open to all bar members who want to produce opportunities for community outreach by bar members.
- 10 CCBA Social Committee Meeting**
12:30-1:30 p.m., CCBA
Open to members who want to facilitate opportunities for members to meet and socialize.
- 11 CCBA New Lawyers Committee Meeting**
12:30-1:30 p.m., CCBA
Open to attorneys members admitted to practice in Nevada within the last five years.
- 12 CCBA CLE Committee Meeting**
12-1 p.m., CCBA
Open to all bar members who want to produce seminars for continuing legal education.
- 18 27th Annual Meet Your Judges Mixer**
5:30 pm to 8:30 pm, Cili at Bali Hai Golf Club
Sponsor opportunities available.

JUNE

- 2 CCBA Community Service Committee Meeting**
12-1 p.m., CCBA
Open to all bar members who want to produce opportunities for community outreach by bar members.
- 6 CCBA Publications Committee Meeting**
12-1 p.m., CCBA
- 8 CCBA New Lawyers Committee Meeting**
12:30-1:30 p.m., CCBA
Open to attorneys members admitted to practice in Nevada within the last five years.
- 9 CCBA CLE Committee Meeting**
12-1 p.m., CCBA
Open to all bar members who want to produce seminars for continuing legal education.
- 14 CCBA Social Committee Meeting**
12:30-1:30 p.m., CCBA
Open to members who want to facilitate opportunities for members to meet and socialize.

To receive e-mail notices about upcoming events, court news, and bar services, please subscribe to “CCBA Event Calendar & News” and add stephabbott@clarkcountybar.org to your safe senders list.

To add CCBA's events to your own calendar, please visit our Google calendar at <https://www.clarkcountybar.org/events/event-calendar/> and click the icon at the bottom to add it to your calendar.

“There are things I learn all the time I would never normally know because we put out publications and when we edit, I’m reading at a level of detail I would not ordinarily read an article in a magazine,” said Anderson-Fintak.

Content for the magazine *Communiqué* is developed by bar members for the benefit of bar members with time-sensitive content often posted to the bar’s website or sent out in regular emails. CCBA’s publications are designed to update members on changes in practice and procedure in Southern Nevada courts, highlight opportunities for community service and provide updates to bar services and activities.

Reaching Out to the Community

Along with reaching out to members of the legal community, CCBA members reach out to the community in general. The Community Service Committee, which is fairly new, is co-chaired by Jennifer Roberts, UNLV International Center for Gaming Regulation, and Paul Ray.

In 2016, the committee worked on a new project, Blanket the Homeless, designed to donate rescue blankets to organizations that serve homeless people locally. Partnering with the Clark County Law Foundation, the CCBA encouraged members of the legal community to donate money for this community service project. Their first effort was successful. Hundreds of blankets were purchased at cost and distributed to Caridad, Catholic Charities, Las Vegas Rescue Mission and The Shade Tree. The committee plans to continue the work for the next chilly season.

What was the CCBA like when you first joined?



The committee has also put together events with Three Square food bank and participated in the Light the Night Walk, a fundraiser for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, and Making Strides for Las Vegas, a walk for American Cancer Society.

“There’s always a stigma out there that lawyers are all just greedy or self-absorbed but, not only do we have a strong legal community that offers legal work on a pro bono basis to members of our community, but it finds a way to include charitable donations in different ways,” said Roberts.

“The community service committee provides opportunities for serving a variety of different activities,” said Ray. “Pro bono is super important, but we do other things through our organization and participate with other non profits in the community.”

Moving into the Future

In 2018, John Aldrich will move into the role of CCBA president.

“It’s an opportunity to give back to the community,” said Aldrich. “I feel like it’s very worthwhile to participate in an organization that teaches lawyers through continuing legal education courses and the *Communiqué*, and it’s important that we give back so that the community knows that lawyers are good people working hard and trying to make this a better place. I always enjoy the opportunity to mentor younger lawyers and I think the CCBA gives that opportunity as well.”

“For me, for the dues we pay to join CCBA, I find a significant amount of value in the camaraderie that it offers and the CLE program. I’m pretty sure I’m a CCBA member for life,” said Telles. “There’s no reason not to be.” ■

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opportunities for collegiality and social interaction, outreach services to the community at large, and promoting professionalism. Get involved with the local legal community.

Attend CCBA events. Sponsor a CCBA service, program, or event.

To join the CCBA, register online at clarkcountybar.org/members/signup

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