



MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: Brad Lewis, Director, Access to Justice Commission | BradL@nvbar.org | 702-317-1409

Celebrate Pro Bono 2017 Offers 90 FREE Legal Help Sessions throughout Nevada in October

Thousands of Legal Questions will be Answered in Las Vegas, Henderson, Reno, Carson City & Pahrump

Las Vegas, Nevada, September 28, 2017 - Chances are if you have a legal need or question – and can't afford a lawyer – you may be able to get free help from a Nevada lawyer in October. As part of *Celebrate Pro Bono 2017*, Nevada lawyers will be offering assistance throughout the state with answers to legal questions during the entire month of October with even more events loaded into the week of October 22-28. Free seminars, clinics and Ask-A-Lawyer sessions will mostly focus on civil legal needs of Nevadans.

Whether you have a legal question about wills and estate planning, divorce, employment, foreclosure, guardianship, family, child support or custody law, landlord/tenant issues, small claims, or many more topics, you'll likely find a Nevada lawyer willing to lend a hand during *Celebrate Pro Bono 2017*.

"Every year in Nevada, thousands try to navigate the court system without a lawyer," said Brad Lewis, Director of the Access to Justice Commission. "And especially for those with limited means, 86% of people get inadequate help or no help at all. Getting free help from a Nevada lawyer during *Celebrate Pro Bono 2017*, for some, could positively impact the outcome of their issue. For others, it's just nice to have free access to experts for advice."

The Nevada Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission has assembled a complete list of these sessions and has made the list available on its homepage at www.onepromisenevada.org. Sessions will be offered by many legal aid providers along with a multitude of pro bono lawyers and supporting partners.

Session sponsors include Nevada Legal Services, Legal Aid of Southern Nevada, Washoe Legal Services, Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevada (VARN), Southern Nevada Senior Law Program, UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law, Civil Law Self-Help Center, and Boyd Public Interest Law Association.

Supporting organizations include Vegas PBS, Clark County Law Library, Small Business Development Center, Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, State Bar of Nevada Young Lawyers Section, Ombudsman of Consumer Affairs for Minorities, and many others.

Many of the programs offered during *Celebrate Pro Bono 2017* are made possible with support from Nevada financial institutions through their participation in the Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA) program which raises approximately \$2.5 million dollars per year to help Nevada citizens living under 200% of the poverty rate with civil legal needs. Several sessions are also offered in Spanish. Sessions are open to all.

Continuing Legal Education (CLEs) for lawyers are also offered.

###

About Us - The Nevada Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission was created in 2006 to help coordinate and deliver access to justice in civil cases for persons of limited means in Nevada.

The Commission is responsible for assessing current and future needs, developing statewide policies designed to support and improve the delivery of legal services, improve self-help services, increase pro bono activities, recommend legislation or rules affecting access to justice, investigate and pursue increased funding and enhance the public awareness of the impact limited access to justice has on the courts, government and society.

In 2017, a coordinated Statewide Service Delivery Plan was produced. In 2018, the first Nevada Legal Needs Assessment to be completed in a decade will be available in summer.

More information is available on the State Bar of Nevada website under “Member Services” at www.nvbar.org, at www.onepromisenevada.org and at www.nevadabarfoundation.org/IOLTA.