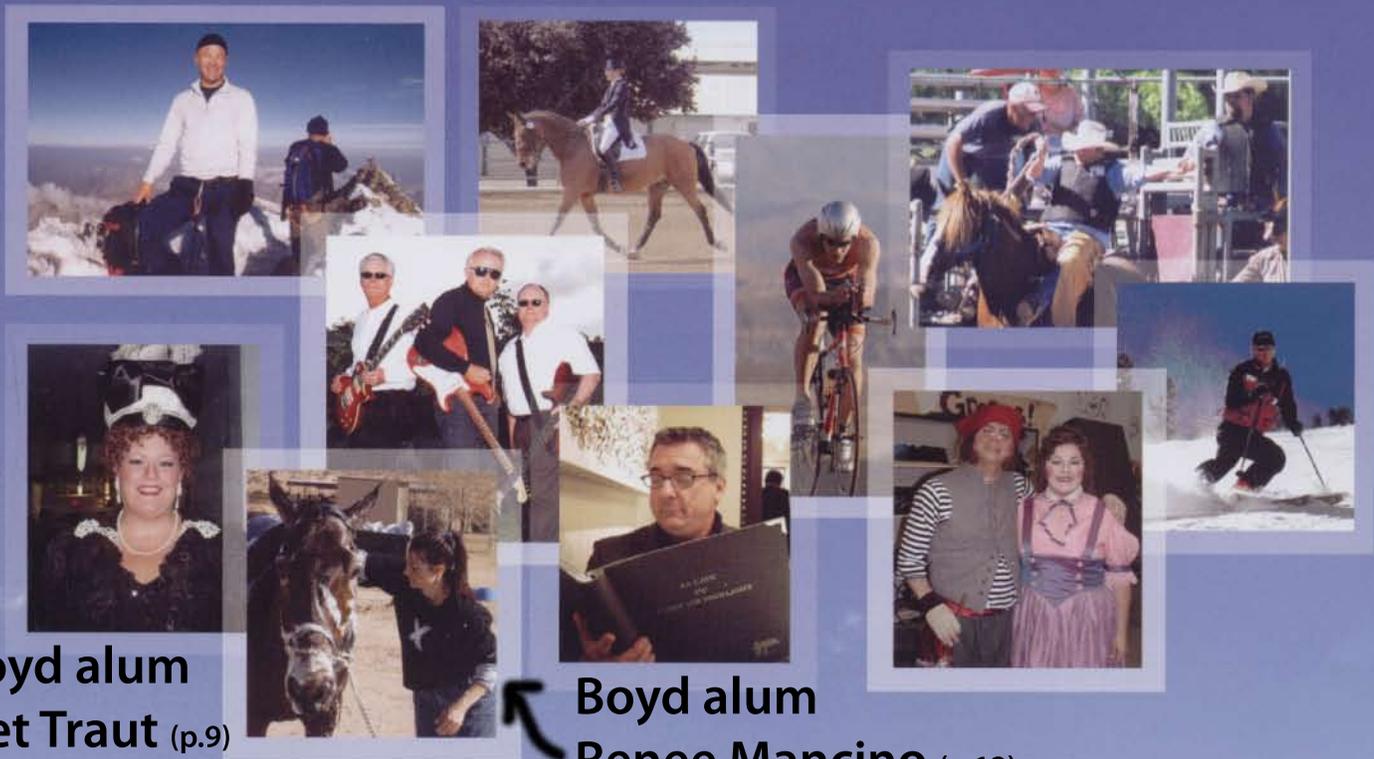


THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE STATE BAR OF NEVADA

# NEVADA LAWYER

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Boyd alum  
Janet Traut (p.9)

Boyd alum  
Renee Mancino (p.12)

## NEVADA LAWYERS— LIVING THE GOOD LIFE OUTSIDE THE OFFICE

**Building Your Practice –  
Why You NEED a Website!**

**STRESS AVOIDANCE & CONTROL:  
A Lawyer's Checklist**

Compiled by Heidi Parry Stern.

**Article contributors:** Kristen Bennett, Patty Cafferata, Melinda Catren, Lisa Lackland, Beau Sterling, Heidi Stern, and Richard Vilkin.

Law is a challenging profession and often leaves the practitioner little time for anything else.

## RICK CORNELL

Rick Cornell has had a long legal career in Nevada, from his position as Harry Claiborne's first law clerk to his current practice focusing on criminal defense, particularly death penalty defenses and appeals. Through it all, he has been singing.



**Rick Cornell as Samuel, with Clemencia Golbov (who has worked in Reno as a legal assistant) in 'The Pirates of Penzance.'**

Rick began singing, as many do, in his high school chorus. During law school he moved on to barbershop quartet, which he participated in for fifteen years. By 1996, he had auditioned for and

# LAWYERS

This month we're spotlighting a few Nevada attorneys who find time to pursue some interesting hobbies or activities, despite their busy schedules.

been selected to join the Nevada Opera Association, where he sings bass in the chorus and has performed comprimario roles including Samuel in "The Pirates of Penzance" and the Baron in "La Traviata."

Balancing his legal practice with his passion for the opera has not always been easy. Rick has been forced to cancel an opera performance more than once because of conflicts with his professional schedule. Nevertheless, he has continued to perform with the Nevada Opera Association for over a decade, somehow managing to make it through what he dubs "opera hell fortnight," the two solid weeks of daily rehearsals leading up to the performances.

Rick's singing has not gone unnoticed by judicial opera fans in northern Nevada. One of the highlights of Rick's opera experiences was the performance of Trial By Jury in the courtroom of Judge Peter Breen in 2003. The judge himself even had a part in the opera as a drunken judge who wanders into the courtroom during the trial.

**Rick Cornell is a solo practitioner in Reno.**

**JANET TRAUT**

Among Nevada lawyers, Janet Traut is known as a senior deputy attorney general and a graduate of the charter class of the Boyd School of Law at UNLV. Among opera fans of northern Nevada, however, Janet is more likely to be recognized as Giovanna from “Rigoletto” or the mother in “Madame Butterfly,” two comprimario roles she has performed with the Nevada Opera Association. The association, based in Reno, is the oldest performing arts organization in Nevada.

Janet received classical voice training from a young age and has a degree in vocal performance, specializing in opera, from UNR. She



Janet Traut in “The Merry Widow,”  
March 2005.

**BRUCE LESLIE**

Las Vegas attorney Bruce Leslie doesn’t have just one hobby; rather, he boasts a long list of experiences over the years he has pursued some very physically-demanding sports and pastimes. He has climbed mountains, been a snowboarder and a competitive cyclist, he has parasailed and scuba-dived. He’s traveled to places few have visited, and he has his career as an attorney to thank for this.

Each sport has its special experiences and moments, Leslie says. He began snowboarding (with pal and fellow Nevada attorney Steve Klearman) in the late 70s when the sport was brand new. They weren’t allowed to board in ski areas, so they had to hike up mountains and board down uncharted trails. He says there is nothing like listening to Jane’s Addiction and sailing down the mountain in fresh, deep, powdered snow. As for mountain-climbing, he’s been up Mt. Fansipan in Vietnam and Mt. Rainier in Washington state, among others, but a special

# are People, Too

eventually settled on the law as a career after a series of “day jobs” led her to a position as a legal secretary and paralegal. When the Boyd School of Law opened, she jumped at the chance to become a practicing lawyer herself.

Even with an active legal career, Janet dedicates a large amount of time to the Nevada Opera Association. Rehearsals last about seven hours per day on weekend days and take place anywhere from three to six evenings per week for approximately six weeks prior to the performance date. In the Nevada Opera Association’s recent performance of “Aida,” she was part of the chorus of Ethiopian slaves. This led to the inevitable joking of her co-workers that she was a public servant by day and a slave by night-- but what’s the difference?

Despite her rigorous schedule, Janet finds that music helps her to “reorder her brain” and rejuvenates her mentally for the work week. Janet counts the opportunity to sing the national anthem at her law school graduation as one of the highlights of her musical and legal careers. Moments like that make the hard work she devotes to both areas of her life worth the effort.

**Janet Traut is deputy attorney general at the Attorney General’s Office in Carson City.**



Leslie on top of the Matterhorn in Switzerland.

memory he saves from a climb up the Eiger in Switzerland—sitting on top the mountain in the pink glow of a setting sun, and watching the lights of villages below coming on, one by one.

Leslie has scuba-dived in some exotic locales, and particularly remembers an experience diving in the Republic

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of Maldives (in the Indian Ocean)—swimming a spectacular coral head and watching giant sting-rays floating overhead. He's cycled since around 1981, and for the last five years he's joined the "Death Ride," a race in northern California which reaches a 16,000-foot elevation and involves biking through five mountain passes in one day. He particularly remembers a biking experience in Jackson Hole, rolling fast under the "big sky" as a storm rolled in—he says it felt like flying.

Leslie says the "point of being a lawyer is to control your calendar, and make money to enjoy life." Over the last few years he has enjoyed life by traveling to Tuscany to learn Italian. Next up, he says, he'd like to embark on the greatest adventure of all—getting married and, God willing, having a family.

**Bruce Leslie practices at Bruce A. Leslie, Chtd., in Las Vegas.**

one show per month during the months of April through October, many of which attract participants from northern Nevada as well as California. One of Joan's most memorable moments was winning the Region 7 (California and Nevada) USDF Reserve Championship in 2005 at the Intermediate I Level, complete with a flag-raising and national anthem.

A typical day for Joan involves both lawyering and horses. She rides and exercises her horses five days a week, riding by 7 a.m. on most days and showering and preparing for work at the barn. On some days, she then goes straight to court. Joan can also be found at her office in her riding clothes, focused on her real estate practice, but ready at a moment's notice to get back in the saddle.

**Joan Wright is a member of Allison, MacKenzie, Russell, Pavlakis, Wright & Fagan in Carson City.**



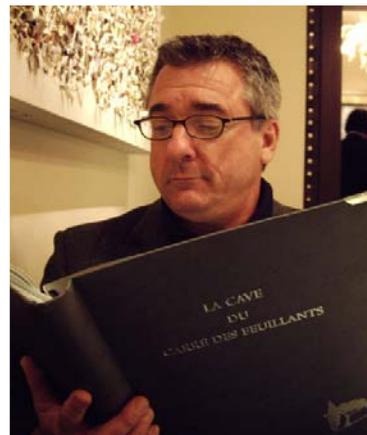
Joan Wright in English riding dress.

## JOAN WRIGHT

Joan Wright has been riding horses since she was one month old. By fourth grade she was showing equitation, and she continued to compete, showing hunters and jumpers through most of high school. A serious car accident in college prevented her from riding for many years, but it did not dampen her enthusiasm for riding and showing horses. So when she learned that there was an indoor arena in Carson City (having moved there after law school), she got right back into the saddle. This time around, however, as a concession to the medical profession, she became involved in dressage instead of jumping.

"Dressage" means training, and is a classical form of riding popular in Europe as well as an Olympic event. In a dressage competition, horses essentially perform the equivalent of a floor routine in a human gymnastics competition. The best known example of dressage is probably the Lipizzaner stallions in Vienna, famous for their performance of intricate, dance-like moves.

The Sierra Nevada Chapter of the California Dressage Society, of which Joan is a member, started in Carson City in 1986 and currently boasts 110 members. The chapter sponsors



Curtas at his "second job."

## JOHN CURTAS

**A full plate:** John Curtas has been a lawyer for over

30 years and has tried more than 100 jury trials. He is also a food commentator and restaurant critic. Writing about food is more than a hobby for John-- to him it's the "greatest second job in the world." His weekly "Food for Thought" segment has been on Nevada Public Radio (News 88.9 FM, KNPR) for over a decade. In addition, he appears on KLAS TV (CBS-Las Vegas) every Friday morning and serves as a correspondent for the James Beard Foundation. He's also written for various guidebooks and Internet sites. In all, John is the consummate ambassador for Las Vegas dining.

**Starter course:** Local foodies and aspiring critics often ask how he got started as a food critic. John has always had an interest in food. He worked his way through law school as a waiter and bartender. When he moved to Las Vegas, he noted a void in food and restaurant coverage in the local media. He thought it would be fun to write about food, so he approached various media outlets and pitched his idea of being a food critic. In 1995, after Wolfgang Puck opened Spago (in what was to be the beginning of the Las Vegas food renaissance), KNPR gave

John a trial run as a guest commentator. Fourteen years later, John is still on the air at KNPR. He's had a "front row seat to the greatest restaurant revolution in the world" and his second career has grown along with the Vegas restaurant scene.

**Balanced diet:** Having two jobs is not always easy. While many people would jump at being a restaurant critic, John emphasizes that he truly has a second job. John eats in a restaurant at least two or three times before publishing a review. He also writes his own radio scripts. It is work. With his typical wit, he comments that "being a restaurant critic is like being a stud horse-- it sounds great until you *have to* do it every day." To make it all work, John takes advantage of certain synergies. For instance, lunch with a client doubles as restaurant research. And more and more these days, the two careers are reaching a confluence. John counts those in the food and beverage industry among his clients.

**Dessert:** And for the question that people always ask John, *i.e.*, how he stays slim, his answer is simple-- he runs three miles a day and has a fast metabolism. As if we weren't already envious enough.

**John Curtas practices at the Law Offices of John Curtas in Las Vegas.**

Las Vegas Little Theatre. He has also performed for other local theater companies in the Las Vegas Valley. He finds that some of the skills required for acting and lawyering do cross over, such as being comfortable in public, being able to improvise when necessary, and recognizing and harnessing the power of a compelling story.

Since becoming a partner at Ballard, Spahr, Andrews & Ingersoll, Josh has had to cut back on his performances, but he has turned his attention to writing screenplays, a much more flexible hobby. Perhaps this means that his next acting role will be in a play of his own creation.

**Josh Reisman is a partner at Ballard, Spahr, Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP in Las Vegas.**



**LARRY DUNN**

## JOSH REISMAN

Josh Reisman long ago chose the security of a career in the law over the "glamour" of an indie rock recording contract, and he hasn't looked back. That doesn't mean that his creative side doesn't resurface from time to time, however. In high school, Josh played guitar and sang as part of a band as well as acted in theatrical productions and garnered theater scholarships to college. He performed in college and community theater productions throughout college, but planned to attend law school after graduation.

While law school proved engrossing enough to warrant a break in his acting schedule, acting provided a much-needed respite from studying for the New York bar exam. Josh combined studying for the exam with a role as Pontius Pilate in "Jesus Christ Superstar" for Super Summer Theatre in Las Vegas. The role was a large one and included preparing for and performing in three major scenes in the play. While taking on such a role did provide a much-needed creative outlet while studying for the bar, it also meant that Josh spent his back-stage time studying, rather than mingling or relaxing. (Fortunately, he passed.)

Josh has since directed "Glengarry Glen Ross" and performed the role of Stanley Kowalski in "A Streetcar Named Desire" for

**Larry Dunn, Governor Jim Gibbons and Bob Martin.**

**HAVE GUITAR, WILL TRAVEL:** Reno criminal defense attorney Larry Dunn became interested in singing and playing the guitar when he was serving in the US Army, stationed in Japan, from 1967 to 1973. It was then that he and his buddies formed the "Catch the Wind" band. The USO was looking for warm-up bands to entertain the troops before the "real" star performers began their shows. Dwayne Eddy, a famous guitar player, was one of the more important stars that Dunn's band backed up.

Incredibly, Dunn has no formal voice or guitar training. Self-taught, he sings old-time rock and roll and country music. When he was a student at the McGeorge School of Law, he parlayed his hobby into professional status. He supported his wife Kathy and children Jennifer, Karena, Jeff and Lindsay by performing. He earned \$50 a night by playing gigs on Friday and Saturday nights in such places as Yerington, Lovelock and Winnemucca.

Dunn's current band is called the "Virginia Rhythm." The other band members are his brother Michael, the drummer, and a fellow veteran named Bob Martin, who sings harmony and plays bass. The band has performed in Reno at the Eldorado Hotel and Casino and in the Peppermill Hotel and Casino.

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They have also appeared at events for former Governor Bob Miller and current Governor Jim Gibbons.

Dunn now limits his performances to charity events. One of the band's most memorable fundraisers was for a terminally-ill veteran that raised \$5,000. The veteran's mother, wife and children shared tears along with the audience. Another memorable event was held to raise money for underprivileged children and their parents. For that event, 200 children were bused to Lovelock from all around northern Nevada to be entertained by Dunn's band.

**Larry Dunn practices at Larry K Dunn, Chtd., in Reno.**

## MARK LENZ

Reno native Mark Lenz practices medical malpractice defense, insurance defense and some business litigation at the law firm of Piscevich & Fenner. However, his first career was in music, an area to which he still dedicates much of his free time. Lenz began playing the trombone at the age of twelve.

his professional life and, he says, it provides more instant gratification than the law. After a performance the rewards are instant, whereas one must often wait months or even years for feedback on a motion or brief. Ultimately, he finds his musical endeavors a refreshing alternative to his professional burdens and deadlines.

**Mark Lenz practices at Piscevich & Fenner in Reno.**

## RENEE MANCINO

Not content with one job, Renee Mancino combines her work as co-owner of Sling and a Stone Stable, LLC with her job as a solo legal practitioner. Her love for horses came first,

however, stemming from her father's work as a trainer of thoroughbred horses on the east coast.



**Renee Mancino gives her horse Claddy a bath.**

In 1973, he received a Bachelor of Arts in Applied Music from the University of Nevada Reno, followed by a Master of Music in trombone performance from the New England Conservatory of Music. He then played professionally for the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and the Chautauqua Symphony, in New York. In 1988 Lenz gave up playing professionally to attend law school.

Neither of his parents were musicians but five out of seven of their children received masters degrees in music and the Lenz family still makes up a large part of the Reno Philharmonic. His wife is a professional viola player and both of his sons are accomplished pianists.

Lenz is also a composer who began writing music in high school, studied composition in college and still composes today. He frequently composes music for Covenant Presbyterian Church in Reno, and has had several pieces performed by the Reno Chamber Orchestra. One of his favorites was a variation on "This Old Man," performed by the Reno Philharmonic and composed in honor of his father's 80th birthday.

Though it isn't always easy finding the time, Lenz says music continues to be a great creative outlet. It allows him to use a different part of his brain than he utilizes in

Renee followed this passion as an undergraduate majoring in physiology, biochemistry, and pre-veterinary studies. After marrying (she met her husband on the harness racing circuit) and moving to Las Vegas in 1994, Renee worked for Coast Resorts. Although she had applied to and been accepted at veterinary schools out of state, she reconsidered when the Boyd School of Law opened in 1998. Encouraged to apply there by her employer, she was accepted, and attended night classes at the school, graduating with the charter night class in 2002.

Renee's horse training work is demanding. She trains "Standardbred" racehorses at her ranch in Logandale, and can have up to 8-10 horses on the ranch at any given time. She spends 2-3 hours per day training and conditioning the horses on 23 miles of sand trails around her ranch, including teaching ground manners and handling to the younger racehorses. The paperwork for the business is also considerable, consuming several hours a week. Non-existent in Nevada, Standardbred racing is found mainly on the east coast, and Renee hires trainers at the racetracks to oversee the horses' care while they are racing. The horses are home in Nevada when they are first broken and conditioned as babies, and then when they need a break or for rehabilitation from an arduous racing schedule.

The only Standardbred track east of the Mississippi River is in Sacramento, and Renee makes an effort to travel and see her horses compete there whenever she gets a chance.

Renee freely acknowledges that technology makes her lifestyle possible. Even when traveling, she can be readily available to her clients and can do all of her work remotely while out of the office. Her high-tech office setup has been profiled by Apple Computers.

A favorite part of her work with horses is the opportunity to see the potential of young horses as they are trained and begin to compete. Standardbreds generally begin racing at two years old and many do not retire until their fourteenth year. She views the training of these young horses as “a bit of an art form” and says that their “potential for success” keeps her inspired and motivated to keep training despite the logistical challenges.

**Renee Mancino is a solo practitioner in Logandale.**

## MARK SHOCKLEY



### Mark “Hoss” Shockley takes his chances on bronc “Barbed Wire.”

At 45, attorney Mark “Hoss” Shockley is no young colt. Yet he regularly risks life and limb by climbing aboard bucking broncs in senior rodeo competitions.

Shockley competes with other riders over 40 in competitions that draw participants, some in their 60s, from many western states. He got back to the sport a few years ago after many years in retirement. He developed a love for “rough stock” riding as a young kid and won several awards riding steers and horses. “At age seven I won \$66 and a belt buckle, and I was hooked,” he recalled. “I was rich, man.”

He competed on bulls and broncs until age 24 but gave it up after getting married. He never lost his love for the sport, however. Several years ago, he heard rumors of a senior circuit and tracked it down online. “In 2003 I went to see a senior competition in Reno,” he related. “I knew then that my riding days weren’t over.”

Shockley now rides broncs only and has taken a couple awards. He plans to compete in Las Vegas at a senior competition next Labor Day and hopes to qualify for the Senior National Finals next November in Winnemucca, Nevada.

When asked whether he would rather win a big motion in court or get aboard a bucking bronc, Shockley did not hesitate. “They call it being ‘tapped off’ – when the rider’s body is in perfect timing with the animal,” he explained. “For me there is no better feeling in the world.”

**Mark Shockley is an associate with Cavanaugh & Associates in Las Vegas.**

## MICHAEL OLSON

Mike Olsen jokes that, by training for triathlons, he is trying to “stave off that stress-induced heart attack for a couple more years.” But it is clear that he has an intense passion for the sport that goes far beyond just staying in shape.



**Mike Olson on his bike.**

In his first Olympic distance triathlon, the Spudman Triathlon in Burley, Idaho in 2004, he finished first in his age division (35-39) and 41st overall in a field of about 1200 athletes. He was amazed at how much he enjoyed the race and came away greatly motivated to improve his training for the following year. In 2005, he cut 10 minutes off his time, finishing first in his age division and eighth overall. In 2006, he finished first in his age division and sixth overall in a field of over 1400.

Last year, he was recognized by USA Triathlon as an honorable mention “All-American.”

The Olympic Distance Triathlon involves, roughly, a one-mile swim, a 25-mile bike ride, and a six-mile run. Olsen would like some day to compete in an Ironman distance triathlon, “but given the number of hours required to train for that race I may have to wait until I am retired from the practice of law.”

He says he tries to put in three workouts of each discipline per week. Most days, that means training between 4:30 am and 7:30 am. Evenings, he says, are reserved for family, and during those hours he usually can be found coaching his four children in little league baseball, football or basketball.

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He appreciates the victories and the honors, but, he says, the most meaningful experiences “come through the relationships forged during training with my friends and family, enjoying the beauty of the outdoors and feeling the gratification of completing a physical challenge.”

According to Olsen, it’s all about balance. We all know the practice of law will take as much time as we are willing to give it, he explains. “Triathlon training helps me keep a balance in my life.”

**Michael A. Olsen is a partner in Goodsell & Olsen, LLP in Las Vegas.**

## MIKE DYER

During the winter, you will often find attorney Mike Dyer, a certified Outdoor Emergency Care Technician, patrolling the alpine slopes of Lake Tahoe’s Heavenly Ski Resort as a volunteer member of the National Ski Patrol.

Patrollers provide first aid and rescue services to skiers and other snow sports participants. They are the first-on-the-scene responders, trained to stabilize and transport injured persons to advanced care—a uniquely difficult task on steep, snow-covered slopes and wooded backcountry.

Dyer says he originally trained for the ski patrol 20 years ago so he could keep skiing at an aggressive level. Now 60



Mike Dyer on the slopes.

years old, he still enjoys the skiing but is “hooked on the camaraderie.”

Patrolling the slopes about twice a week, he works with and gets to meet people from all walks of life. Equally important, out on the slopes as a working member of the ski patrol, he is able to interact with people on a personal level that often is not possible in his role as a lawyer and senior partner of a law firm.

Far and away, though, the most meaningful and satisfying aspect of the ski patrol is helping people when they are most at need and knowing that he is making a difference.

He remembers one incident where he was involved in the rescue of a skier who had struck a tree and suffered very serious head and internal injuries which required transport by helicopter. Later that day, the ski patrol got a radio call on the ski patrol frequency from the helicopter pilot as he was flying over Heavenly, telling them that the skier was out of surgery and was going to be all right, and thanking the ski patrol. Without the ski patrol’s quick response, that skier would not have survived.

Another time, during the patrol’s end-of-the-day “sweep” on a very cold day, they found an injured child who had suffered a serious internal injury lying in the trees. If the ski patrol had not found him, Dyer says, the boy would have been dead in the morning.

Getting paid a lot of money cannot compare to the satisfaction you get from helping someone during a time like that, he says. “It just puts it all in perspective.”

**Michael W. Dyer is a partner in the Dyer Lawrence Law Firm in Carson City. NL**

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**HANEY, WOLOSON & MULLINS**

is pleased to announce that

**Samuel R. Kern**

has successfully passed the Nevada Bar Examination and is now practicing with the Firm as an associate attorney.

Mr. Kern's areas of practice include:

- construction
- business and other civil litigation
- contracts and business transactions