

SNAP SHOT



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SNAP Calendar 2011

SNAP General Meetings Every Third Tuesday at Noon (see flyer)

ZoZo's Restaurant @ 3446 Lakeside Drive

March 15:

Speaker: Lars Tollefson, Administrative Law Judge for DMV (Bio page 15)

April 19:

Speaker:
Topic:

Save The Date

April 8: SNAP Annual Seminar

Officers and Chairpersons

President: Anna Buchner

1st VP/Education: Jeannie Dieffenbach

2nd Vice President/Membership/Job Bank:
Amy Hodgson, ACP

Treasurer: Susan Sunday, ACP

Parliamentarian: Susan Davis, CLA, PLS

Student Liaison: April Solomon

Secretary: Linda Palmer

NALA Liaison: Kate Cline, ACP

Newsletter & Web Site Editor: Lynda Traves

President's Note

April 8, 2011, is the annual SNAP seminar. The seminar this year will once again be informative and educational.

Elliott Sattler from the Washoe County District Attorney's Office said during his presentation in August to educate yourself in other areas of the law that you normally don't work in. He is right. He said that when he took office as the President of the Washoe County Bar Association he asked individuals what is needed. Their response was to do more for the public sector. He of course, is a deputy district attorney. So I challenge you to attend this years seminar and learn about the criminal aspect of law.

Elliott Sattler, Deputy DA, Maize Pusich, Chief Deputy Public Defender, John Petty, Appellate writer for the Public Defender's Office will present in the morning session. Peters, CP from State of Bar of Nevada will present our ethics section. Laura is an investigator who investigates complaints against attorneys. The final speaker will be Deputy Dennis Carry of the Washoe County Sheriff's Department who is a detective that investigates cyber crimes.

The seminar will be all day and includes lunch. The cost is \$89.00 for members and \$110.00 for non members. This seminar is open to all

who want to attend including attorneys. Continuing education credits for paralegals and attorneys will be announced soon. We have applied for them and have not heard back yet.

Vendors will once again be present. Vendors have been a very important part of our legal lives who make things easier for us. I would ask that you please support the vendors whenever possible.

Financial assistance is available for members. The qualifications for applying for a scholarship are available on our website at SNAPRENO.COM. The main qualification is that you must be a member in good standing for SIX MONTHS. Scholarships are available for assistance at the annual seminar, sitting for the CP/ACP exams, NALA convention, and classes. I would encourage you to visit the website and read the entire qualifications.

I hope to see you on April 8, 2011, at State Bar of Nevada for the annual seminar. This seminar will be very valuable to you and your employer.

Anna Buchner
SNAP President 2009-2011

EDITORIAL

This is a jammed packed newsletter with the luncheon notice, seminar registration, and the election information.

As this is my first year with SNAP, I am looking forward to attending the seminar. I work with a defense appellate attorney and I am fascinated with hearing how the DA and Public Defender handles cases. I've only seen the cases once they go to appeal or post-conviction. I am also interested to hear more about cyber crimes. I spend so much time on the computer (Macintosh) I am curious as to hearing about what crimes people commit from hacking into systems to those horrible spam letters. The ethics portion will be geared towards paralegals helping the attorneys not to get into trouble.

I do hope that there are some of you out there willing to take on the one of the elected officer roles. Volunteering is a great way to give back to the community. I could get on my soapbox about this. Well, I guess I will. My philosophy is that if you complain and gripe about an organization you are in, then make changes by volunteering with on the executive board or a committee. When you get that call from Amy or Susan, seriously considering giving some time to SNAP.

EDITOR NOTES

My sincere apologies for putting the wrong article on social networks last month. This is not the article that Melissa Paschal had asked me to include in last month's newsletter. I inadvertently clicked on the wrong link. See pages 9-11 for the corrected article.

Thank you Melissa Paschal for sharing this informative article from Atkinson-Baker Court Reporters.

NEWSLETTER

Lynda Traves

Lynda@brync.com

WEBSITE

Lynda Traves

Kate Cline

Webmaster@snapreno.com

Contributors

Melissa Paschal

Social Media Risks:

Four Areas You Must Examine at Your Company



PERSPECTIVES:



JEFF SIZEMORE
Security
Practice Director



STEVE LOVING
eDiscovery
Practice Manager



ODLIN OLSON
Data Protection
Practice Manager



STEVE POWROZNYK
Perimeter Protection
Practice Manager



ROBERT WAGNER
Compliance
Practice Manager

WRITTEN WITH **MATTHEW ROYSE**, Managing Editor

Social media is now as common as a cup of coffee. Millions of people visit social networks such as LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter every day.



According to Nielsen, social networking is becoming one of the predominant ways that people interact and communicate with one another, both privately and professionally. In February 2009, social networking sites eclipsed personal email in terms of global reach.

While social media can be a great communication tool, there are concerns for organizations that use social media.

"It is essential to clearly recognize the risks of social media and have a robust monitoring and remediation program in place at your company," says **Jeff Sizemore**, security practice director at Forsythe.

Siphoning precious bandwidth is one concern, which can happen when a large number of employees are sharing the latest YouTube video, for example. However, there are even higher risks such as cyber security data breaches and costly downtime. The two most common threats originate from Web 2.0 technologies: botnet and malware. These threats are known to cause costly outages and data breaches.

Technology leaders should understand the latest communication techniques and take appropriate action.

There are four main areas that chief information officers should examine when managing the risks associated with social media: eDiscovery, data protection, perimeter and compliance.

eDiscovery

eDiscovery refers to any process in which electronic data is sought, located, secured, and searched, with

the intent of using the information as evidence in a civil or criminal legal case.

Social networking is creating new headaches from a corporate and legal point of view for organizations, who are oftentimes already struggling to comply with current legal eDiscovery requests.

According to **Steve Loving**, eDiscovery practice manager at Forsythe, "social networking may enhance employee productivity, but we are seeing that most companies are not prepared to deal with eDiscovery."

Social networking systems contain information that resides outside of a company's firewall. During eDiscovery, organizations may end up subpoenaing a third party to obtain necessary information. Even then, there is no guarantee that a company will obtain the necessary records. To further complicate the issue of using social media, people communicate in abbreviations, and the sender assumes the receiver understands them in the context of the message.

Given these challenges, the best way to approach social media within an eDiscovery process is to take an inventory of what technologies are in use. Also, make sure that if individuals do communicate using any of these different social networking outlets, they follow appropriate policies.

Data Protection

When organizational data is the asset that needs protecting, there are two key components to the effort: technical controls and human factors.

Technical controls can mitigate many of the intentional or unintentional

data losses attributed to social media risks. Enterprise-wide encryption is expanding all the time. Encryption is a great tool for protecting access to data by the wrong user. Data loss prevention (DLP) suites are also very capable tools for monitoring policies and protecting data. DLP used on endpoint systems can prevent attachment of various file types and content. It can even prevent an instant message containing sensitive keywords from being sent. DLP will also integrate closely with standard perimeter technologies like email security and web proxies. Other endpoint security software can mitigate rogue applications and malicious software to improve on the shortcomings of antiquated anti-virus software.

Controlling for human factors with social media is a far more complex task than implementing encryption or application whitelisting. There is no amount of technology that can be thrown at the problem to provide a comprehensive fix. Oftentimes the quickest and least expensive way to decrease exposures of various data is through an effective security awareness program. This approach to risk mitigation is rarely, if ever, fully explored.

"The single biggest area for improvement we see in social media-related data protection is in effective security awareness," says **Odin Olson**, data protection practice manager at Forsythe. "If organizations focus on throwing just money or technology at the problem, they will come up short. Success comes from alignment of both technology and people to security policies."

An effective security awareness and training program has three main attributes.

1. **Educates users in a meaningful and absorbable way.** Try live demonstrations or relating scenarios to actions and results that could happen in their home computing environment.
2. **Is iterative.** Education doesn't happen in the three seconds it takes to sign the acceptable use policy on the first day of employment. Repetition is important; consider testing employees over time.
3. **Creates accountability.** Make sure users know they are being monitored. Let them know exactly what the consequences are of inappropriate actions, and deal with infractions accordingly.

Perimeter Security

A company's perimeter is facing increased cyber threats. It is the front door to an organization's network—where information comes in and out—and a gateway to customer information.

"Most organizations have outdated security infrastructures," says **Steve Powroznyk**, Forsythe's perimeter protection practice manager. "The old systems have not been updated to protect against next-generation threats like Web 2.0."

To help mitigate risk, many organizations have turned to web application firewalls (WAFs). These application-specific firewalls provide an additional layer of protection to a company's current perimeter infrastructure. Other technologies that are commonly deployed to protect corporate assets are network access control (NAC), intrusion detection and prevention systems (IDPS), and secure remote access.

To ensure the protection of confidential information, many organizations block access to social media sites via proxy servers. Management can set different levels of proxy access allowing specific employee populations access to different social media sites. For

example, management may allow 20 percent of its employees the ability to access social media, while 80 percent do not have access.

Compliance

Organizations need to start developing compliance and risk policies regarding social media now, even if there's not a current business need. The language of these policies needs to focus on how to mitigate the risks and compliance issues introduced by these technologies, more than how to restrict them.

"Businesses with mature compliance and risk programs should be able to securely integrate new technologies that enhance business capabilities and opportunities, as long as the business is willing to accept or mitigate the risks involved," says **Robert Wagner**, compliance practice manager at Forsythe. "Perform a realistic assessment of your risk and security frameworks, not just a self-assessment questionnaire, but an audit and validation of your program's effectiveness."

Start by reviewing how social media can impact the organization's compliance posture, as well as researching all the regulations that the business might fall under. Financial institutions that are required to keep records of any communications or commercial messages regarding loans, lending and deposits (regulation B, regulation DD and regulation Z) will need to either restrict such communications or modify business processes and technologies in order to accommodate them while remaining compliant. Trading firms will need to address insider trading exposures, while healthcare industries are already struggling with privacy issues in the media.

All industries will need to evaluate the legal and brand exposures that social media introduces. For instance, what happens if the organization's intellectual property gets posted? What about customers'

data? Most industries will need to modify their enterprise logging strategy to include these new forms of communication and should look into using a brand protection firm to look for misuse that occurs outside of the workplace.

Once the decision is made to make social media part of the business strategy, make sure to develop a strategy that involves all of the enterprise's risk and compliance stakeholders—business units, legal, human resources, IT, change management, audit, risk, security, and executive steering committees. The strategy will need to address technology, process and people. Out of these three, the strategies around handling people will be the most sensitive. Create strategies that are fair, consistent and accommodate any appropriate exceptions.

Since it is difficult to control behavior outside of the workplace, designing awareness programs that create personal interest for employees is important. Programs should help employees understand their own risk when using social media, in addition to addressing business concerns. Also, remember that using social media responsibly requires a cultural shift, and upper management will need to lead by example. Their actions should set the standard, and reflect the behavior they expect to see in their employees, especially when it comes to keeping one's professional and social presences separate.

Social Media Is Here to Stay

Social media is not a fad. It is forever changing the way we communicate with others. As we become more familiar with social media, we will be able to better manage it.

By examining these four essential areas, implementing a comprehensive security program and clearly communicating a company's internal social media policy, the risk factors will start to decrease. ■

Hello SNAP Members!

I have been appointed as the Chairman of the Nominations and Elections Committee. Everyone give a cheer! (Okay, so maybe it's not that exciting.)

As you may know, SNAP elections are held every year in June, and wouldn't you know it but every position on the SNAP board is up for grabs. I know it's a little early, but I would like everyone to start thinking about holding a SNAP board position. Volunteering, especially for a non-profit organization, is extremely rewarding, and it takes less time than you think.

As SNAP has given so much to its members over the years, wouldn't it be nice to give something back? As you know, SNAP has provided quality speakers each month at its general meetings, as well as the Annual Seminar. As you also know, SNAP provides its members with hours and hours of CLE at a very lost cost. Ask not what your SNAP organization can do for you; ask what you can do for SNAP!

Our bylaws state that, "The President shall appoint a Nominations and Elections Committee chairperson at least sixty (60) days prior to the annual Meeting of the Association to present a slate of officers to the membership at least thirty (30) days prior to election." In order to hold a position on the SNAP board, you must have certain qualifications. If you would like to review those qualifications, please review the bylaws located at www.snapreno.com. If you would like more information regarding the Executive Committee positions, they are also attached herewith as well.

So what are you waiting for? Come on! Give it a go! You've got nothing to lose and everything to gain, plus you'll be a valuable team player, and you'll learn some great leadership skills.

If you're still not sure if holding a board position is right for you (which I can't imagine after reading the foregoing fabulous and hard to resist narrative), feel free to contact any one of our current board members. Their contact information is also listed on SNAP's website.

Amy Hodgson and I will be contacting shortly to inquire about your interest in holding a board position. So you can look forward to hearing from us personally!

Susan Davis, CLA, PLS
(775) 786-6868

SNAP BOARD POSITION DESCRIPTIONS**President**

The President is responsible for SNAP. The president puts in on average about six to eight hours a month. The president sets up the agendas for the monthly executive committee meetings and the general membership meetings. The president oversees all committee work but is a nonvoting member of the committees.

First Vice President

The By-Laws State:

Article 10.1.A EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS COMMITTEE (First Vice President is chairperson): This committee shall coordinate and organize educational events for the benefit of the membership, such as CLA preparatory courses for SNAP, panel discussions, legal education seminars, and any other educational-related activities. The chairperson shall appoint the members of this standing committee.

This position requires attendance at two monthly meetings, the Executive Committee Meeting and the SNAP Luncheon. Arranging for monthly speakers at the luncheons requires calling and e-mailing people of interest, coordinating their availability with the monthly luncheons, and obtaining their personal information and background for the newsletter. The months where there are no luncheon meetings, there are other activities, such as the annual seminar, elections, and the Christmas party.

This position is also responsible for arranging the SNAP Annual Seminar. This involves working with the President to secure a location for the seminar, arranging for qualified speakers, submitting the paperwork to obtain the CLE credits, and catering.

The amount of time spent each month can vary from 3-6 hours.

Second Vice President

The position in a nutshell: MEMBERSHIP. The second vice president has created a spreadsheet which has all of our current membership information, including if the member wishes to be in our job bank. As applications come in, the second vice president reviews them to see if they meet the qualifications as specified in our bylaws. If they qualify for membership, the second vice president prepares and mails their membership card with a letter welcoming them to SNAP. The second vice president then adds their information to our member database, and e-mail the updated database to our newsletter editor and website manager, so they receive all notifications of upcoming meetings and events.

Additionally, the second vice president is in charge of the job bank. As the second vice president is notified of positions available, the second vice president, in turn, notifies the members who are in the job bank. The second vice president also e-mails our newsletter editor with the opening, so it can be added to our newsletter.

The average time spent doing the duties for the Second Vice President position is approximately 2 hours per month, except at the beginning of the fiscal year, when the second vice president creates the member database, and is responsible for creating and mailing the new membership cards to our renewing members.*

Treasurer

The treasurer's duties entail the following:

1. Attend the general meeting and pay the restaurant bill
2. Attend the executive committee meeting
3. Pay bills and mail payments (usually average one or less per month)

4. Balance the checkbooks (general account and scholarship account)
5. Prepare the monthly treasurer's report and e-mail to newsletter editor
6. Make deposits at the bank (once to twice a month)
7. Review and respond to e-mails from board members

Not including attending meetings and going to the bank, on the average, the treasurer spends about 1 hour to 1.5 hours doing the treasurer's duties.

Recording Secretary

The recording secretary is responsible for attending the monthly Executive Committee meeting and the monthly General Membership meeting. Both meetings generally last about an hour and the secretary is responsible for recording what is discussed at the meetings. Any motions that are made will be recorded, as well as the vote on the motion. The minutes will be typed and presented to the Executive Committee members for approval and recommended corrections will be made. The Executive Committee will approve the minutes from the Executive Committee meetings. Minutes from the General Membership meetings are presented to the General Membership at the monthly meeting for approval. (It takes about 45-60 minutes altogether for each set of meeting minutes to be prepared, emails to be sent to Executive Committee members, corrections to be made, and the final set of minutes to be prepared for approval.)

The recording secretary is also responsible for responding to e-mail confirmations for the General Membership meeting and preparing a sign-in sheet for the General Membership meeting from either these confirmations or mail confirmations that have been received in the mail. The checks and/or money that have been received as payment need to be copied with each payment annotated with whom the payment is for. Checks, cash, and a copy of the sign-in sheet will be given to the Treasurer. The sign-in sheet is given to the NALA Liaison. (This takes about 45 minutes all together.)

NALS Liaison

In conjunction with the duties outlined in the Bylaws, estimated time spent each month on those duties is as follows:


- Reporting on a quarterly basis SNAP's activities – This entails attending Executive Committee and General Meetings so the liaison is familiar with what our Association is doing. Time spent at meetings and preparing the report equals about 2.5 hours monthly.
- Represent SNAP at the NALA Annual Convention – This is a once a year event and typically entails five days (including travel but not including networking and socializing).
- The NALA liaison is the recipient of NALA news for SNAP, and that information is typically assembled in the liaison's report for the *SNAPShot*. The time for preparing a monthly report is typically less than 30 minutes.
- The duties as listed in the Bylaws are a fair description of the requirements of the position. One can devote more or less time to the position as desired.

Overall, the time devoted to the position is approximately three hours per month, including responding to emails and messages.

Parliamentarian (Appointed by President)

Advise the president and board of parliamentary procedures. The parliamentarian does not vote. Spends about two hours a month.

* **Note from Amy Hodgson:** As I have only served in this position for one year, I can be re-elected to the position of Second Vice President. I hope to retain my current position for the 2011-2012 fiscal year.



SNAP General Meeting Luncheon Tuesday, March 15 at Noon

SPEAKER: Lars Tollefson, Administrative Law Judge for DMV

TOPIC: DMV Administrative Laws

PLACE: ZoZo's Restaurant
3446 Lakeside Drive
775.829.9449

COST: \$18.00 – Members & Guests \$15.00 – Student Members

Name: _____

Office: _____

Phone/Email: _____

Member

Student

Guest

Menu - Italian Buffet

Chicken Parmesan over Rigatoni with Marinara Sauce
Mushroom ravioli
Caesar Salad



Please mail your reservation form and payment to:

SNAP, P.O. Box 2832, Reno, NV 89505-2832

**ALL RESERVATIONS WITH PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED
BY FRIDAY, March 11, 2011**

Email reservations accepted at: l.palmer1@live.com

Bio**graphy**®

March Speaker

Lars Tollefson

Lars has been an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) with the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles for 12 years. As an ALJ, he conducts administrative hearings pertaining to appeals filed by individuals and businesses who disagree with Department actions taken against them. Examples include: Driver's license withdrawals (DUIs, etc.), Vehicle registration suspensions, and Compliance Enforcement Division sanctions.

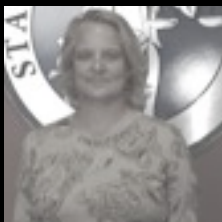
He grew up in Rochester, New York, graduated from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island and then moved to Southern California and started his first career in insurance claims management. He and his wife, Holly, have three sons.

Fun facts about Lars: He loves playing tennis, hiking, singing in choir, working on projects around the house, collecting records and books, going out for sushi and activities with his wife and kids.



Weird fact about Lars: He was a Jeopardy contestant in 1992. He came in first, then second, winning cash and a trip to Hawaii. The down side is that former contestants can't appear on the show again so he will never make it to the Jeopardy Tournament of Champions.

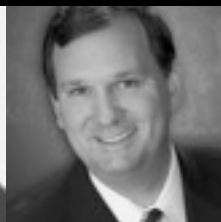
**Nevada State Bar
Association
9456 Double R
Blvd. Suite B,
Reno**



Laura Peters, Paralegal
Nevada State Bar
Association



Detective Dennis Carry
Washoe County Sheriff's
Office.



Elliott Sattler, Esq.
Washoe County iDeputy
strict Attorney



Maizie Pusich, Esq.
Washoe County Chief
Deputy strict Attorney



John Petty, Esq.
Chief Appellate Deputy,
Washoe County Public
Defender's Office

April 8, 2011

2011 Sierra Nevada Association of Paralegals

Annual Seminar

- **Capital & Criminal Crimes**
- Appellate Procedure after the "slug fest"
- **Ethical Assistant** (ethics portion)
- Cyber Crimes

Guest Speakers

- **Elliott Sattler, Deputy District Attorney, Criminal Division of Washoe County**
- **Maizie Pusich, Chief Deputy Public Defender of Washoe County**
- **John Petty, Chief Appellate Deputy, Washoe County Public Defender's Office**
- **Detective Dennis Carry, Washoe County Sheriff's Office**
- **Laura Peters, CP, Investigator for Nevada State Bar.**

Schedule of Events

8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Check in; vendor fair; continental breakfast

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Capitol & Criminal Crimes and Appellate Procedure

There will be 15 minute break and vendor fair

1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

One hour Lunch (included with registration)

2:45 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Ethics: "The Ethical Assistant"

4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Cyber Crimes

Drawing and door prizes

Registration

Name: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Firm Name: _____

\$88.00 Members

\$35.00 Student Members

\$105.00 Guests/Non-members

\$25.00 Vendors (lunch included)

Email Your Reservation To: l.palmer1@live.com by MONDAY, April 4, 2011

**Please bring your check to the seminar or mail to:
SNAP, P.O. Box 2832, Reno, Nevada 89505-2832**

Detective Dennis Carry, Washoe County Sheriff's Office, has worked in law enforcement for 15 years. He's been a Detective for over half of his career, working homicides, sexual assaults, and other violent felony crimes. Detective Carry works at the Northern Nevada Cyber Center and is assigned to the Nevada Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and FBI's Innocent Images National Initiative Task Force. Detective Carry has investigated over 200 cases involving online child exploitation resulting in numerous arrests of predators who target children. Detective Carry also conducts computer forensic examinations to locate potential related evidence of various crimes. Detective Carry is a current instructor for the task force and has instructed over 300 law enforcement personnel nationwide in the use of online investigative techniques. Detective Carry often testifies as an expert for various cases in state and federal court and often presents to national conferences. Also, Detective Carry's responsibilities with the task forces, he's also a member of the Sheriff's Office SWAT Team.

Laura Peters is a Paralegal/Investigator for the Office of Bar Counsel in Reno, Nevada. She received her CLA designation in May 2002, after earning her associates degree in Legal Assistance at TMCC. Laura has worked in the areas of civil litigation, administrative law, water rights and real estate. She is a member of the National Association of Legal Assistants and the Organization of Bar Examiners.

John Reese Petty is a Chief Deputy Public Defender for Washoe County. He has worked in the Public Defender's Office for over 19 years, first as a trial deputy and, for the past 17 years, as the Chief Appellate Deputy. In the interim John served as the first Discovery Master for the Second Judicial District Court. As an appellate attorney John represents criminal defendants in direct appeals to the Nevada Supreme Court, including death penalty appeals. He also handles extraordinary writ proceedings in the Nevada Supreme Court. In 2003 the Nevada Supreme Court appointed John to serve on the Board of Bar Examiners for the State Bar of Nevada. John received his undergraduate degree from the University of Nevada, Reno and his Juris Doctorate Degree from California Western School of Law in San Diego, California. John lives in Reno with his wife, Lisa.

Maizie Pusich is a Chief Deputy Public Defender for Washoe County. She has worked with the PD for over 20 years, supervising their homicide and major crimes unit for nearly fourteen. Maizie has defended over fifty homicide cases, including nine in which the State sought a death sentence against the defendant. Of seven Washoe

County criminal defendants sentenced to die, and later saved from death row, Maizie has represented three. She is the treasurer for Nevada Attorneys for Criminal Justice and serves on the Board of Directors. Maizie was born and raised in Reno, and lives here with her husband, Pat, and their children.

Elliott Sattler moved to Northern Nevada when he was three years old and has lived here ever since. He graduated from Sparks High School and went to college and law school in Oregon. Elliott returned to Nevada after graduation from Willamette University College of Law in 1992. Elliott worked briefly in private practice in a small, general practice firm in Incline Village after graduation. In 1993 he was hired as a prosecutor in the Washoe County District Attorney's Office and has been there ever since. He considers himself a "career prosecutor".

Currently, Elliott is assigned to a felony trial team and is responsible for a case load of hundreds of felony matters at any given time. He is a certified arson investigator and handles most of the arson cases in our area. Elliott is one of seven prosecutors assigned to "homicide" cases in the Washoe County District Attorney's Office. This means he handles the murder cases which occur in our community. Elliott has prosecuted many murder cases in his career. He has also participated in numerous "death penalty staffings". This is a review process to determine if the death penalty should be sought. Some of the notable cases Elliott has prosecuted are: the *State of Nevada v. Darren Roy Mack* (prior to the case being taken over by the Clark County District Attorney) — the defendant murdered his estranged wife and shot a local judge "sniper style" from a parked car; the *State of Nevada v. Valerie Moore* (as co-counsel with David Clifton) — the arson at the Mizpah Hotel which led to twelve murder convictions; and recently the *State of Nevada v. James Michael Biela* - the 2010 death penalty trial wherein the defendant was convicted of murder, kidnapping, and three counts of sexual assault for a series of crimes that occurred in and around the University of Nevada campus. Biela received the death penalty.

Elliott is the President of the Washoe County Bar Association and is a board member of Washoe County Legal Services. He has been married to his wife Sigrid for fourteen years. They have a ten year old daughter. He is a voracious reader of history and claims to be "the world's worst avid golfer".