

# The WRIT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WASHOE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

**Wednesday, March 13, 2019, Harrah's Convention Center  
12:00 p.m.**

## BLOCKCHAINS - 1 Hour CLE

Stephanie Sciarani, Deputy General Counsel, with Blockchains, will provide a comprehensive overview of federal, state and select international laws governing blockchain technology. She will also provide an overview of existing blockchain legal developments. For more information, please go to <https://www.blockchains.com/resources>, to read the treatise, "Blockchain Through a Legal Lens".

Stephanie Sciarani is Deputy General Counsel of Blockchains, LLC. As such, Stephanie works closely with the General Counsel on all of Blockchains' legal affairs including employment, real property, corporate and acquisition matters. Prior to joining Blockchains, Stephanie worked in a boutique law firm in San Diego where she acted as outside general counsel for more than 50 companies and litigated various business claims. As a native northern Nevadan, Stephanie is excited to be back home in the Silver State and working for a



company that is dedicated to restoring the power back to the individual.

Stephanie is the co-author of *Blockchain Through a Legal Lens* (January 2019) and author of *Morbid Childhood Obesity: The Pressing Need to Expand Statutory Definitions of Child Neglect* (2010). In her spare time, Stephanie volunteers as the Risk Prevention Committee Chair for the international Kappa Alpha Theta women's fraternity where she oversees all risk prevention, investigations and risk enforcement for 150 chapters in the United States and Canada.

Stephanie earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Nevada, Reno in 2007, magna cum laude, and her JD from Thomas Jefferson School of law where she graduated summa cum laude. Stephanie is admitted to practice in Nevada, California and Washington state.

**RSVP** by March 11, 2019. \$25 per person for members and \$30 for non-members. Register online at [www.wcbar.org](http://www.wcbar.org) or call 786-4494.

# MILLENNIAL MINUTE

By: Kelci Binau, McDonald Carano

## MARCH IS THE MONTH FOR MENTORSHIP

Your hard work has paid off! You graduated law school and earned the auspicious title of Attorney at Law. Your first day as an associate at your new firm you practically rode into the front doors on cloud nine. You were received by warm welcomes, smiling faces and were led to your desk, a space you could call your own, where your career as an attorney was sure to blossom. Your phone rang, as you answered thoughts of disbelief ran through your head as you realized “I have my own extension, and someone knows it!” “... I hope you wrote that down, that’s the client matter number, you should be able to find a form in the database and please get the document to me before lunch time” CLICK!

Ah the adventures of a first-year associate. Many tried to warn us of the grave disparities between the endless academic hypotheticals vs. the reality of the client sitting across from us. We are now professionals and what would a new career be without a little self-doubt and the almighty learning curve, right? While in law school we adapted to and learned to navigate the competitive climate. We found our core group of friends that we could trust with our inner most insecurities, and let’s face it, with our course outlines. As associates we have been transported into an unknown realm where navigating the corporate waters and realizing that the elements we memorized in law school are not that useful when drafting a demand letter, which can make us feel like we are in a life raft out at sea. As millennials, we strive for perfectionism and of course want to portray confidence and competence to our employer, so what steps can we take and who can we turn to on those days when we need a tow to bring us back to shore?

Gaining insight into your needs and goals and connecting with a mentor will assist with your transition

into practice and will help both you and your mentor achieve a higher job satisfaction. A study published in the Journal of Vocational Behavior, revealed that employees who serve as mentors achieve higher job satisfaction and a deeper level of commitment to their employers while mentees receive tools to help combat job frustration, one-on-one coaching and insight into corporate culture. After working with a mentor for just six weeks, mentees reported feeling reduced levels of stress and anxiety and increased levels of confidence regarding their professions as their mentor taught them the necessary conduct and skills to be successful in their trade.

Dispersed from our trusty law school study groups, counselors and the watchful eyes of our law school professors, many of us question who we can or should turn to as an advisor or a true confidant. While it is oftentimes beneficial to traverse outside of your comfort zone, do not forget the many connections you made while in law school, the judges you interned for, or the attorney who spoke at one of your club meetings; these untapped acquaintances are all potential leads towards finding a mentor. Additionally, many professional attorney groups exist in Washoe County. The Washoe County Bar Association hosts a monthly luncheon where seating is unassigned, which presents the amazing opportunity to sit amongst judges and attorneys in the community. The State Bar of Nevada (the “State Bar”) has a Young Lawyers Section that hosts a variety of events and activities throughout the year and is geared towards newly admitted attorneys who are 36 years or younger.

If you still feel like you need a little push, the Nevada Supreme Court and the State Bar are here to support you. In a collaborative effort to foster your transition into the practice of law, the Court and the State Bar formed

Transitioning into Practice: A Mentor Program for Nevada Attorneys (“TIP”)\* to “introduce newly admitted lawyers to the high standards of integrity, professional conduct, professional competence and service to the public.” TIP pairs each newly admitted Bar member with a mentor. Your mentor is an experienced attorney who has demonstrated her/his commitment towards the ethical and professional practice of law and who now, has chosen to be there for you, to become your mentor. Over a six-month period, you and your mentor will schedule time to sit down and discuss various topics, as well as, any questions that you may have regarding navigating the challenging yet rewarding practice of law.

When in doubt just remember, the partners and attorneys at your firm got to where they are today because they reached out and received help; someone called to get them that first interview, took them to their first Washoe County Bar luncheon and offered them sage advice and gave them feedback on their first demand letter. Most attorneys are grateful for the mentors who assisted them along the way and are willing and eager to do the same that was done for them. It is acceptable and necessary for your mental health and career growth to reach out for support. You made it through your first day of law school, and your first day as an associate, now go take a step towards building a meaningful and rewarding mentor/mentee relationship. \*For further questions about the TIP program and how to become a mentor please visit [www.nvbar.org](http://www.nvbar.org), call 702-382-2200, or email [tip@nvbar.org](mailto:tip@nvbar.org).

*Kelci Binau is an Associate with McDonald Carano in the firm’s Business Entities & Transactions and Real Estate & Land Use practice groups.*

