FROM THE EDITOR



Doggone It

For your reading enjoyment this month, we've got dogs-yes, dogs-comin' and goin'. What could be more appropriate in the dog days of

Off the Leash

Guest

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summer?

I am not being metaphorical when I say "dogs." To see exactly what I've got in mind, turn to page 68, where Bill Schafer reminds us of what may be one of the more evocative closing arguments ever penned. Ask anybodythey don't write 'em like that anymore.

The 1872 case at hand, Bill explains, arose as a property matter. It ended, as you'll see, as something much more than that.

Anyone who has ever had the privilege of sharing your den with a dog-or most any petwill appreciate the case's Solomonic wisdom.

As we publish his paean to the puppy, Bill reminds me that our timing is Spot-on (get it?). Though the essay

would be best in show any month of the year, this combined July/August issue will be on your coffee table when National Dog Day-August 26-arrives. (More information is at www.nationaldogday.org.)

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That combination of fact and sentiment is what I enjoy most about the evolution of our back-page column to include occasional contributors. Most readers are accustomed to our "Last Word" essays,

penned by our talented regular contributors. But a few years ago, we opened the page to any Arizona lawyer with a good essay in her or him. "My Last Word" is the successful result.

Well, one guest column deserves another. Bill's essay reminded me of the time in 2005 that I invited a guest to write my own column. That was in honor of a cover feature story we ran on the State Bar's new Animal Law Section. To recognize the event, I asked our dog Cleo to write about the Section's significance.

Many people enjoyed the piece, but some pointed out that she went on a bit long.

I made a note of that, and so I'll keep this month's offering brief

Want us to consider your My Last Word column? Contact me at arizona.attorney@azbar.org. Or just send me a brief bio and high-resolution headshot, along with your 700-word essay. It doesn't even have to be about a dog.



A Publication of the State Bar of Arizona

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