

GRACE UNDER PRESSURE. Character and courage. Those are qualities sought by all attorneys, young and old alike. As deadlines loom and the workload increases, how well do each of us meet our challenges head-on?

This month's *Arizona Attorney* features one story of young lawyers who jumped into the deep end of the pool before they were entirely sure they had learned to swim. When Angela Wilson and Jennifer Shick were retained by Stephanie Ray and her Arizona family, they knew little about what lay ahead. By all accounts, including theirs, they often flew by the seat of their pants. Their tale is one of attorneys scrambling to file their first appellate brief, to argue a case in another state and to have their client's voice be heard. Regrets? They have a few. Missteps? They—and the judges whom they appeared before—willingly acknowledge that they took some. Ultimately, however, they are glad they took the case when they saw an unmet need.

Theirs, of course, is only one story of lawyers reaching out to make a difference. There are many. How difficult is it for attorneys to act on their caring instincts? The story of these two lawyers may serve both as an impetus to reach out and as a cautionary tale to avoid pleading beyond your resources. Exhausted and embattled, Wilson and Shick themselves are unsure which story to take to heart. Readers, too, may argue that case either way—and I expect you shall.

Character—the bad kind—also is examined in this month's article on administrator fraud by Marc Lieberman and Howard Sukenic. Company officials must look behind the veneer of competent administration, the authors argue, to prevent loss of corporate assets. Asking "Who's watching the money?" often, they say, will help companies avoid the tales of woe they describe.

Finally, we open the practitioner's toolbox in Jan Mills Spaeth's article on eliciting candid juror responses and in Marc Kalish's article on mediation. How educated are you on when and how to steer your client to that alternative? Kalish explains how you can become an effective advocate for the client and for settlement. Both, he argues, take a certain amount of inner fortitude, a quality we take to heart as we begin a new year. 🍷 —TIM EIGO