



A Century of Service

I am honored to serve as President of the State Bar of Arizona during the year in which Arizona celebrates its Centennial. I have made it a point to take the opportunity to celebrate 100 years of lawyers serving Arizona.

Although the State Bar of Arizona was not formally incorporated until 1933, there has been an organized Bar dating back to statehood. Arizona lawyers have helped shape the debate of some of the most important decisions in our state history.

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The Arizona Bar Association was first incorporated in 1906 and elected its officers in 1912. The first president was H. B. Wilkinson from Phoenix. The Bar printed a short historical pamphlet that year to celebrate Arizona's statehood. We will continue the tradition of celebrating Arizona's statehood as established by our founding fathers this summer at the State Bar's annual convention.

We've certainly come a long way since the establishment of statehood. In the early years of statehood, the admission fee to the Supreme Court was \$10, and the minimum qualifications for becoming licensed included being of "full age," of good

moral character, a U.S. citizen, and an Arizona resident. The State Bar's formal role in disciplining attorneys was not solidified until the early 1930s.

The first examination administered by the Bar had 100 questions, took two days, and proved very difficult to pass. By one account, the first passage rate was around 40 percent.

It's only fitting that a new uniform examination will be rolled out to the July 2012 test takers during the year of our Centennial. This exam will be administered in several states. Those passing the exam in another state will need to take a course on Arizona law to be admitted here. Let's hope that these examinees fare better than their inaugural brethren.

The impact of lawyers in Arizona goes far beyond the courtroom. Arizona's business and transactional attorneys

must be recognized for the work they have done to help our state grow and prosper. These lawyers assembled many of the land and business deals that helped fuel our economy over the past century.

Arizona lawyers also have served as elected officials at the federal, state and local levels, helping shape the policy of the federal and state governments. In fact, seven attorneys have been elected Governor of Arizona: John C. Phillips, Rawghlie C. Stanford, Ernest W. McFarland, Samuel P. Goddard, Raúl Castro, Bruce Babbitt and Janet Napolitano.

Ernest McFarland deserves special mention. He is the only Arizonan to serve in the highest office in all three branches of Arizona government—two at the state level and one at the federal level. He served as Arizona's Governor (1954-58), Pinal County Attorney (1925-1930), Pinal County Superior Court Judge (1934-40), U.S. Senator (1940 until 1952, when he was defeated by Barry Goldwater), and finished his career as an Arizona Supreme Court Justice (1965-1971), where he served as Chief Justice in 1968. As a U.S. Senator, he is considered one of the "Fathers of the G.I. Bill."

I would be remiss if I didn't also acknowledge Arizona attorney and U.S. Senator Jon Kyl for his impressive career in public service. He is retiring this year from the U.S. Senate after serving in Congress and the Senate for the past 24 years.

The theme of the State Bar's 2012 Convention next June will celebrate the lawyers who have helped shape our great state. I encourage all members of the State Bar to share their thoughts and memories of events and cases in which lawyers contributed to transform Arizona into a vibrant and modern community.

Please mark your calendars to join us at the Convention from June 20 to 22, at the Arizona Biltmore in Phoenix. Help us celebrate 100 years of lawyers serving the State of Arizona. 

