



Locked & Loaded

Constitutionally, this has been an exhausting month.

First, in *District of Columbia v. Heller*, the U.S. Supreme Court established your **personal right to pack heat**. (Fingers crossed that the rest of the Bill of Rights will benefit from this newer approach to scrutiny.)

Second, as Tip O'Neill famously said, "All politics is local," and the same is true of law. And in June, here are the two most common questions I received from members as I was out and about:

- You work at the State Bar, don't you? and
- Tim, how do you fit in the time to create a spectacular magazine when you and your cohorts spend much of your day plotting to crush the First Amendment rights of members, who, after all, merely want to do the right thing?

I may have taken some poetic license with that second question (they didn't say "merely"), but many people have inquired about recent events. And here's what I can say.

Because I do not work in the Lawyer Regulation Department, all I know about those events is what I read in the newspaper. The Bar's lawyers here are too wise to share with me, or with anyone else.

But after reading the ad placed in this month's magazine on page 31, I can say a few things.

The ad says that this is "a magazine paid for with our mandatory dues." But it bears noting that ARIZONA ATTORNEY has been in the black for a number of years now. Thus, although we tell our readers' stories and provide them an outlet (apparently even in ads), we manage to do all that without using any member dues. There's no guarantee that will always be the case, but for now, our revenues exceed our expenses. Perhaps that's not legally significant, but it is a matter of satisfaction for staff, who strive to run this pub like a business.

Second, of everyone named in the ad, I probably know Chief Bar Counsel **Bob Van Wyck** best. He needs no defense from me, but here's what I've found after years working with him: He's honest, professional, occasionally salty and often humorous, and he speaks his mind.

Maybe some members would prefer the alternative to those qualities. I know I would not.

Perhaps ironically, the State Bar is looking at **lawyer advertising issues**.


Convened long before any current events, the Bar's Consumer Information and Education Task Force is examining how the public selects lawyers and what information is available to them about the legal process.

One of the subcommittees (on which I sit) is charged with reviewing the ethical rules regarding lawyer advertising and proposing possible changes.

Comments regarding these topics can be sent to the Task Force chair, Pamela Treadwell-Rubin. For more information, see page 55.

This spring, the UA Law School held its annual Richard Grand Legal Writing Competition, in which its students write on an assigned topic. I again was kindly asked by the school to serve as one of the judges.

Congratulations to the five winners: **Victoria Torrilhon, Sarah Richelson, Raghu Nandan, Rebecca Stahl and Sara Birkemeier**.

The competition is named for Richard Grand, a Tucson trial lawyer with an international reputation. 



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