



Stories From the Past

Here was our challenge: deciding what in **Arizona legal history** was compelling and relevant to readers.

After all, you're busy people. It's difficult enough to see into the future—even a week or a month—without spending time gazing backward. Who has the time for all that time past?

In the State Bar's 75th anniversary year, though, we thought we could provide some insights for the future by telling stories from the past.

It was while working on this issue in the past month that I had the chance to see a little of that past-future interaction up close. To do so, I only had to go to Flagstaff.

There, just northwest of downtown, my family and I came upon the **Lava River Cave**. And if anything thrusts the present into perspective, it is standing on the cooled remnants of a 700,000-year-old lava flow.

What adds to the juxtaposition is to hike the trail with children, in our case our two daughters, aged 12 and 7. There is little that is more charming—and frightening—than watching your kids, head-lanterns strapped on, clamber and slide over violently tilted geology. Even more exciting, the mile-long trail is underground and completely pitch-black. It varies between three-story-high rooms and passages narrow enough that you wonder if you fit through.

Human history is just as complex. It is confusing and obscure in many places. As we look back at especially dark spots, we sometimes wonder how we got from there to here. But there are also past spots that are breathtakingly beautiful.

We open our history issue with a **roundtable conversation** with lawyers beginning practice and those who have been at it for decades. We follow that with some stories about Arizona legal history. Not geologic time, perhaps, but some remarkable milestones nonetheless.


Look for more history stories as we head into the fall.

Welcome, Gary.

In this issue, we introduce a **new writing column** by **Gary Stuart** that may help your practice and give some joy to your spare moments.

The column will focus on high points of legal writing: Why beat up the bad when you can tout the good? We cast our net wide to find the best, even beyond examples in briefs and boilerplate. In his inaugural column, on **page 68**, Gary introduces us to a legal novel that is worth our time.

Many of you may know Gary already. Among other accomplishments, he wrote the compelling book *Miranda: The Story of America's Right To Remain Silent*, and he prevailed in this past year's magazine writing competition (May 2008). If you have ideas about praiseworthy writing, send them to arizona.attorney@azbar.org.

Very soon, I will be developing the **2009 editorial calendar**, our magazine roadmap. If you have ideas for stories, profiles, special features or trends we should cover, we want to hear from you. 



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