



## Choices, Choices

### The neglected gift.

We've all got one—if not more than one. It may have been given with the best of intentions. It may have taken significant sacrifice to create, or to obtain. And though it's grown dusty, it holds the promise of being a treasured possession, if only we'd polish it and put it to use. Its benefits are not always immediately apparent, but it has the potential for greatness.

This month, we all get the chance to take that gift off our closet shelf and try it out. If you haven't used it in awhile, here's how. Just stop by your local polling place and **cast a ballot**. In that ballot you'll find an outlet—however singular and small—for the “thousand natural shocks” that the body politic is heir to. Go on; get a lot off your chest.

The multitude of issues confronting the voter this month may be a shock itself. And so we dedicate a large number of our pages to elections and electioneering.


First, **Joe Kanefield** explains the newest version of elections: deciding crucial issues in courtrooms in advance of the election. His article will help you understand the next time you hear about a petition challenge or the like.

And then five authors address a topic much in the news, both in this Arizona election and nationwide: eminent domain. Thank you to the lawyers who spent so much of their time crafting stories on this most hot-button of issues: **Jay Dushoff, Bob Kerrick, Jeff Gross, Steve Hirsch** and **Doug Zimmerman**.

By next month, I'll be able to give you more details about our **2007 Creative Arts Competition**. We had a record number of submissions last year, and we're considering arts categories now. Entries will likely be due in late January, so start sharpening your creative pencils now.

The unhappy task falls to me this month to relate the departure of a valued colleague from the magazine and the State Bar.

The name of **Matt Silverman** did not appear on our masthead, but his decision to seek out greener pastures has been a blow nonetheless. Matt was the Senior Director of Communications at the Bar, and when he came here eight years ago, he brought to the organization an expertise and professionalism honed in the news business. It was those skills that led him to persuade the Bar to commit to professional-level communications products and people. And it was Matt who brought on board all the current staff of our department, including the magazine staff.

Matt has moved to a prominent advertising agency, where he will head up their PR work in Arizona. We thank him for his vision, service and camaraderie, and we wish him well. 



**Matt Silverman**

*Tim Eigo*

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