



Tools for Busy Lawyers



If providing practice tools is one of the missions of ARIZONA ATTORNEY, this month we are a hardware store.

We have received much feedback from our January issue in which Sam Thumma and Lynda Shely dissected the fee agreement and provided guidance to the creation of your own agreement, one that fits your practice and your client circumstances. Although their sample agreement was available on our Web site in PDF format, you could not download it as a word processing document, which would let you use all of it—or only the portions you needed.

Now, it's online, downloadable from the State Bar's Web site, www.azbar.org. From either the ARIZONA ATTORNEY page or the Attorney Resources page, you can choose to download it as a word processing document. We expect it will be a great help to the business side of your practice.

New to the magazine this month are detailed summaries of issues accepted for review by the Arizona Supreme Court. This information, to be provided monthly, can give you insight into the Court's upcoming calendar. Thank you to Supreme Court Staff Attorney Donn Kessler for his willingness to take on this valuable task—as well as his writing on our Appellate Highlights.

And little is more practical to a lawyer's work than the guidance of Arizona ethical rules—which are changing. Michael Owen Miller and Lynda Shely describe the work of the Bar's Ethical Rules Review Group, which has nearly completed its analysis of the ABA's Ethics 2000 Report. Our ERRG is completing its recommended changes to the rules, but it needs member input. See page 50 for the proposals and a list of Town Halls.

If that is not enough, our issue also looks at U.S.–Mexico law practice. Inside, you can read about real estate and product liability issues, and even read the words of two lawyers who live and work in Mexico.

And now some just deserts:

I had the great privilege to be one of the judges asked to review and rank the work of the student finalists in the Richard Grand Legal Writing Competition at the University of Arizona Law School. I was pleased to see that the writing—and thinking—were first-rate. Congratulations to Mark Hummels, Sarah Meadows, Kevin Chlarson, Brett Rigg and Diana Kanon. Keep an eye on those names—they are lawyer leaders in the making.

Finally, on page 9, you can read about Ron Johnson, the Bar's Government Relations Director, and his winning this year's prestigious Saint Thomas More Award. Ron performs countless tasks (and hours) in service to members, and he is a wonderful colleague, as well. We congratulate him on his recognition.

As always, contact me with comments or questions at soundoff@azbar.org. ▀

Tim Sigo