

Distinguished Nevadan Nomination Form

Deadline: December 31

Please send all nominations to:

**Scott G. Wasserman, CEO and Special Counsel to the Board of Regents
2601 Enterprise Road, Reno, NV 89512
e-mail: Scott_Wasserman@nshe.nevada.edu Fax: (775) 327-5049**

1. **Salutation:** Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms. Dr.

2. **Nominee's Name** (*Please ensure correct spelling.*)

Bret Whipple

3. **Nominee's Mailing Address:** _____

4. **Nominee's Phone Number:** **Work:** _____

5. **Employment History** (*Attach additional material if necessary.*)

Please see biographical information (attached).

6. **Educational Background** (*Attach additional material if necessary.*)

Please see biographical information (attached).

7. **Reasons for Nomination**)*Please include outstanding accomplishments, achievements, and contributions to Nevada and its people. Please be specific and provide considerable detail. You may attach additional pages if necessary.*

Please see biographical information (attached).

8. **Other NSHE Awards** *(Please list other awards this individual has received.)*

9. **Nominated by*:** Regent James Dean Leavitt (District 13)

* Candidates for the Distinguished Nevadan Award may only be nominated by a current member of the Nevada Board of Regents. (Added 6/05)

Bret O'Neil Whipple

Justice Law Center
1100 S. 10th Street
Las Vegas, NV 89104
(702) 731-0000

A practicing attorney in the state of Nevada, with offices in Las Vegas, Ely and Reno, Bret's primary area of concentration is criminal defense. His experience in the field of law is wide-ranging and includes numerous jury trials, preliminary hearings and an "oral argument" before the Nevada Supreme Court.

As a fourth-generation Nevadan, Bret Whipple has a deep and personal knowledge of the unique issues related to providing legal representation throughout the state. Having lived in Las Vegas and rural Nevada, he is acutely aware of the issues present in the state of Nevada.

Bret's professional experience was honed early in life. At the age of 18, Bret left Nevada searching for his path in life, and what he discovered is that the best route to a good life is through education. As a Nevada state officer of the Future Farmers of America, Bret Whipple learned to cultivate crops at a young age. As a member of the Board of Regents from 2003 through 2008, he adapted that knowledge to fit the needs of Nevada's growing system of higher education.

Growing up on a ranch in Hiko, Nevada, Whipple fed cattle and milked cows by hand every morning and every night. He laced up his boots during school weeks and walked a quarter mile to reach his school's bus stop. Three days after graduation he packed his bags and set off for Western Europe. Although his mother provided most of the funding for his trip, he earned the rest from agricultural employers. After spending five months working on a family farm in Germany, Whipple traveled for a couple of months through other countries, eventually making his way to Australia.

Once home, Whipple picked up where he left off with traditional education. After a year and a half of junior college, Whipple knew he wanted to attend an Ivy League school on the east coast. After interviewing at Princeton, Brown, Yale, and the University of Pennsylvania, Penn accepted him first.

In addition to the time he devoted to his studies, Whipple was a member of the Penn football team that won two Ivy League championships in football. He also spent considerable time in the ring, perfecting his boxing skills by training under Joe Frazier in north Philadelphia. After three years, he graduated from Wharton School of Business with a bachelor of arts in economics/ accounting. But he wasn't ready to return to Nevada just yet. Instead, he spent some time boxing on the east coast, and then returned to Europe. Once there, he worked as a tax accountant during the day and spent his leisure time representing Hanover, Germany on the city's amateur boxing team.

So far, Whipple's life has been a fascinating journey. He's gone from a farmer, to an athlete, to a CPA — all while maintaining one belief. "I believe education is the one route all Americans have equal access to in order to benefit their lives." That belief has not only kept him grounded, but was no doubt part of the reason he earned his juris doctorate from the University of Arizona's College of Law.

Bret and his wife Paige are the proud parents of daughter Hope and son Shea. In addition to being a successful lawyer, husband and father, Bret is also a certified public accountant licensed to practice in Arizona, New York, Pennsylvania and Nevada.

Education

- University of Arizona College of Law, Tucson, Arizona, 1995
Juris Doctor
- University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School of Business, 1987
B.A., Economics/Accounting

Professional Experience

- Private Law Practice, Justice Law Center in Las Vegas, Ely and Reno, NV
- Deputy Special Public Defender, Office of the Special Public Defender, Las Vegas, NV
- Deputy Public Defender, Office of the Public Defender, Las Vegas, NV
- Associate/Law Clerk, John Sacco, Attorney at Law, Las Vegas, NV
- Clinical Practice Attorney, Pima County Attorney Office, Tucson, AZ
- Law Clerk, Timothy Olcott, Attorney at Law, Green Valley, AZ
- Jurgen Heitman Tax Accountant, Hanover, Germany – Preparation of individual and corporate tax returns
- Ralph Thompson CPA, P.C. New York, NY – Auditor, CPA licensed in New York, Pennsylvania, Arizona and Nevada
- Fluent in German

Elected Positions

- Board of Regents, District 2, Nevada System of Higher Education, 2003 – 2008
 - Served as Chairman of the Board of Regents, 2005 – 2007
 - Appointed the initial Board of Regents' ad hoc Health Sciences System Committee, 2006

Honors/Accomplishments

- Dean's List, two semesters, University of Arizona College of Law
- Jessup Moot Team Member, Advanced Trial Advocacy Class
- Recipient 1992 Nevada WYCHE Award, Writer for Arizona Advocate
- WESTLAW Student Representative
- Linebacker on Ivy League Football Champion Teams 1984 – 1986, University of Pennsylvania