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MONA SHIELD PAYNE / SPECIAL TO VEGAS INC

**THE PLANNERS:** Attorneys, from left, Collins Hunsaker, Jason Walker, Corey Schmutz and Jeff Burr pause in the law firm of Jeffrey Burr and Associates, 2600 Paseo Verde Parkway, Henderson. The lawyers specialize in estate planning, probate and trust administration. The law firm was founded in 1983.

## MINIMIZING THE PAIN

Meet Southern Nevada's tax lawyers:  
Their job is to save you money and migraines

By Rob Langrell STAFF WRITER

Taxes and lawyers. Two of the most hated topics. ¶ But find a good tax lawyer and he or she is likely to change your mind. ¶ A well-trained tax attorney can keep you or your company on firm legal ground, prevent an IRS audit, and perhaps most importantly, save you money. ¶ Tax attorneys perform two main functions, whether their client is an individual, small business or multi-million dollar corporation. Simply put, they prevent problems and minimize obligations.

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SPECIAL FOCUS

## MONEYMATTERS

This month, VEGAS INC highlights taxes, finance and accounting.

## ASSOCIATION PUSHING FOR CLARIFICATION ON ROBOSIGNING

By Eli Segall STAFF WRITER

With the Nevada Legislature back in session today, a real estate lobbying group has a slate of issues it wants lawmakers to consider.

The most important is whether to change the state's controversial "robo-signing" law. The Nevada Association of Realtors is pushing for changes to the law while at the same time trying to downplay its impact on business.

AB 284 forces banks to provide a signed affidavit saying they have personal knowledge of a property's document history before they can foreclose on a house. Foreclosures have plummeted in the Las Vegas Valley since the law took effect in October 2011, and real estate brokers have blamed the legislation for reducing the inventory of homes for sale.

One in every 37 housing units in Nevada received a foreclosure filing last year, down almost 57 percent

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## INSIDE TODAY

**HOW MUCH IS A JOB WORTH?** | P. 6

State officials approve millions in tax incentives for job-creating companies

**CONTESTED WINS** | P. 11

What happens when you think you won a jackpot, and the casino says you didn't

**THE LIST** | P. 22

Women- and minority-owned businesses

READY, SET, WIN.

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# A well-trained tax attorney can keep a company on solid legal ground

## LAWYERS, FROM PAGE 1

Tax lawyers can help you with financial planning, advise on tax strategies and, if needed, negotiate with the IRS.

Southern Nevada is rich with talent in the field.

Several local firms focus solely on tax and estate issues, while many more have specialized practice groups on the topic.

Need good advice? These are some of the top tax attorneys in Southern Nevada:

### Robert C. Anderson, partner Holland & Hart



ANDERSON

With more than three decades of experience, Anderson advises private and public companies on federal income tax matters, as well as mergers and acquisitions. He has extensive experience working with limited liability companies.

Anderson helps clients with tax and business law issues and represents companies both in roll-up transactions and in assessing sale or exit strategies. He is well regarded for his knowledge and experience in structuring complex transactions to satisfy the needs of both buyers and sellers. He also represents companies actively pursuing buy-side acquisitions and those sought by publicly traded companies and private equity funds.

Anderson is an adjunct professor at the Boyd School of Law, where he teaches business planning, and is a guest speaker at UNLV and UNR. He is the chairman of the tax section of the State Bar of Nevada and the president of the Southern Nevada Chapter of the Nevada Society of CPAs.

### Jeffrey C. Boyce, member Boyce & Gianni LLP

Boyce received an AV rating by the Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory,

the highest professional rating for an attorney. His law practice focuses on taxation trusts, estates and business planning.

Boyce is a former vice president and regional trust manager for Wells Fargo Bank, and he worked for the Internal Revenue Service as well as the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee. He is licensed to practice in Nevada and Utah and in U.S. Tax Court.

He is a member of the American Bar Association, Clark County Bar Association, the State Bar of Nevada, the State Bar of Utah and the Southern Nevada Estate Planning Council.

Boyce received his undergraduate degree at Utah State University, magna cum laude, in 1993; his juris doctorate from Brigham Young University, cum laude, in 1996; and a masters of law in taxation from New York University School of Law in 1997.

### Christine A. Bricker, shareholder Gordon Silver

Bricker is a shareholder in the corporate and real estate department. She focuses primarily on real estate finance and loan restructurings, real estate acquisitions and development, leasing and commercial transactions.

Bricker also has represented clients seeking tax credits for the acquisition, rehabilitation or new construction of rental housing targeted to underserved markets.

Prior to joining Gordon Silver, Bricker was a partner at Bricker & Eckler in Columbus, Ohio. She also served as a judicial clerk for the Fourth District Court of Appeals in Ohio.

Bricker has been listed in Best Lawyers in America from 2005 through the present. She also was recognized as a Nevada Super Lawyer by Super Lawyers Magazine in 2008.

### Kenneth A. Burns, shareholder Kolesar & Leatham

Burns is a member of the State Bar of Nevada and is admitted to practice in U.S. District Court in Nevada, the

Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and U.S. Tax Court.

He is a co-author of "Business Law and Taxes: A Desk Guide" and a contributing author to "Legal Environment of Business, Government Regulation, and Public Policy Analysis." He previously worked for the IRS, where he was the primary legal counsel for a study to determine whether gaming should be a national coordinated specialization. He was instrumental in developing a number of IRS positions on gaming.

Burns received his juris doctorate from the University of Miami in 1982 and was selected for the prestigious John M. Olin Fellowship in law and economics while attending law school. He received his bachelor of business administration degree from Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi, in 1974 and a master of arts degree in economics from the University of Hawaii in 1976. He also completed all of the requirements for a Ph.D. in economics except for the dissertation.

### Jeffrey L. Burr, member Jeffrey Burr Ltd.

Burr has been recognized as one of the top tax and estate planning attorneys in Nevada. His personal client list includes many of the most prominent families in the Las Vegas Valley.

Burr's firm has received an AV rating from Martindale-Hubbell and he has named by his peers as one of Southern Nevada's top estate planning attorneys in every edition of Best Lawyers in America.

Burr also is a certified public accountant, having previously worked as a tax accountant for Deloitte & Touche. He also has been a faculty member at the Heckerling Institute on Estate Planning at the University of Miami School of Law.

Burr received a bachelor of science in accounting from Brigham Young University and his juris doctorate from the McGeorge School of Law at

the University of the Pacific in 1979.

### Thomas E. Crowe, member Thomas E. Crowe

Crowe focuses primarily on tax and bankruptcy law with an emphasis in dispute resolution and litigation.

In 1992, he became the sole shareholder of the Thomas E. Crowe Professional Law Corp. The firm has handled more than 1,000 tax matters on behalf of taxpayers challenging the government.

Crowe spent eight years working as an attorney for the IRS in Philadelphia and Las Vegas. He is licensed to practice in Nevada, New Jersey and Pennsylvania and in U.S. District Court, U.S. Tax Court and U.S. Bankruptcy Court.

He is a member of the State Bar of Nevada Section of Taxation Executive Committee, the American Bar Association Section of Taxation, the Philadelphia Bar Association and the Clark County Bar Association. Crowe also is a former special assistant U.S. attorney.

Crowe graduated summa cum laude from Temple University and was in the top half of his 1979 Cornell Law School class. He also attended the Villanova Law School Graduate Tax Program.

### Krisanne S. Cunningham, of counsel Holland & Hart

Cunningham's clients include people, entities and nonprofit groups. She provides guidance on asset and stock sales both from the buyer and seller's perspective, business structuring and planning and secured financing advice. She has experience working with limited liability companies and has represented nonprofit groups in obtaining federal and state tax exemptions.

Cunningham's mergers and acquisitions practice includes small, closely held businesses and corporations making acquisitions worth more than \$100 million.

She is an active member of the State Bar of Nevada and also is admitted to state bars in Georgia and the District of Columbia.

Cunningham also gives continuing