

RENO MUNICIPAL COURT
KENNETH R. HOWARD, JUDGE



RENO, NEVADA

FILED

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TRACEY K. ZINDEMAN
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
BY *[Signature]*
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

October 28, 2009

The Honorable James W. Hardesty
Chief Justice of the Nevada Supreme Court
201 South Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4702

ADKT 410

Re: Evidence Retention and Destruction Protocol

Dear Chief Justice ^{Jim} Hardesty:

Please be advised that I am in receipt of your letter referencing the proposed evidence retention and destruction protocol advanced by the Nevada Supreme Court Commission on Preservation, Access, and Sealing of Court Records. I have had an opportunity to review the protocol and submit to you the following:

By the very nature of the Reno Municipal Court's jurisdiction and the cases tried before us, we do not handle evidence to the degree, scope, or of the type addressed by the District Courts. That said, I believe we could benefit by implementation of some aspects of the evidence protocol. For example, proper use and placement of exhibit stickers, preparation of certain trial exhibits (ammunition, firearms and multi-page documents) and the safekeeping of exhibits during trial are common sense recommendations which would be conducive to a uniform policy.

Our court has no uniform and specific procedure for the storage, retention and destruction of evidence. I suspect that like many courts, we continue to store and maintain items of evidentiary value long after there is a legal requirement to do so. The sample documents relating to the return and destruction of exhibits in criminal actions are also of benefit and can be tailored for use in our court.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this subject matter. Should you desire further inquiry, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Howard", written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

Kenneth R. Howard

KRH/jb