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**THE
CONFERENCE ROOM**



Margrave Celmins, P.C. Scottsdale, AZ
January 2018 Quarterly Newsletter



Tovrea Castle at Carraro Heights, courtesy of Gage Skidmore

Described as a “Jewel in the Desert,” Tovre Castle is located on East Van Buren Street in Phoenix. The historical landmark four-story, 5,000 sq. ft. pine wood and stucco building is the dream of Italian immigrant Alessio Carraro who planned to build a resort here in 1927. Working without blueprints and using salvaged materials, he finished the hotel in 1930. Two years later he sold it to cattleman Edward Tovrea. Tovrea died soon after,

but his widow Della lived in the castle until her death in 1969. The structure contains robin eggs embedded in the plaster ceiling, basement tunnels leading out to groomed cactus gardens and desert wildflowers, mahogany kitchen cabinets made from bank teller windows, parapets surrounding the roofline on each of the three tiers, and other European architectural influences. Now part of the Phoenix park system, two-hour docent-led tram tours cover the 44 acres for \$15 either during the twice-daily tours September through May or twilight tours in June. (Tickets sell out quickly: January through May 2019 tours go on sale in early July.)

The holiday madness is behind us at last (as proof, see the photo from our annual Christmas luncheon). This year we plan to send specialized blogs with pertinent information to two groups of clients: estate planning and business. For example, we recently sent Laura Trujillo's blog on harassment to our business clients with a heads up regarding a current issue in national focus.

We mentioned the return of Patrick Van Zanen in our October issue. We expand that information in our Attorney Spotlight this month in order to familiarize you with Patrick's areas of practice and abilities.

Be sure to read Michael Margrave's article on electronic signatures this month, as well as enjoy the photos from his trip to Africa in July and August of 2017.

Patty Copeland, Editor
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ATTORNEY SPOTLIGHT - January, 2018



Patrick J. Van Zanen

Michael Margrave said, "We are pleased to welcome Patrick back to the firm and to have his expertise in commercial transactions and complex commercial litigation such as securities litigation, fraud claims, RICO claims, fiduciary breaches, as well as partnership/shareholder disputes and claims. He will be an important member of the firm."

Patrick has been practicing law in Arizona since 2001 and has a litigation and commercial transaction practice. He has served on the Arizona Regulatory Board of Physicians Assistants since 2010, as well as served on the boards of directors for the Arizona Animal Welfare League, the Maricopa County Bar Association and the Maricopa County Board of Health. To learn more about Mr. Van Zanen, please refer to [his attorney bio page](#) on the firm's website <http://www.mclawfirm.com>, contact him at pvanzanen@mclawfirm.com or call him at 480-994-2000.



The Christmas Luncheon



A FEW THOUGHTS ON ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES

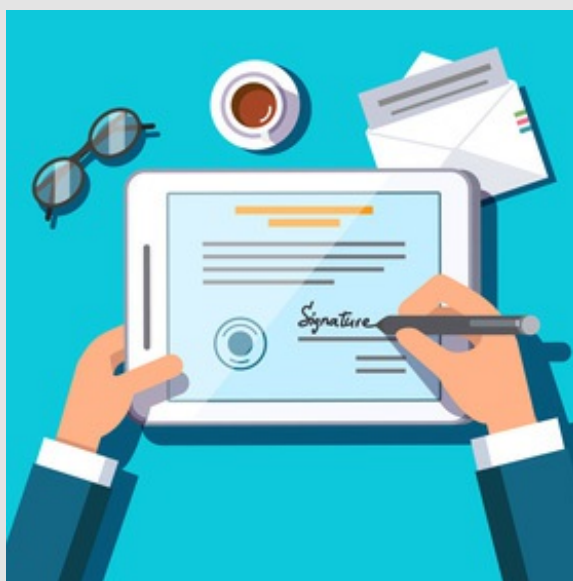
Who hasn't at some point in time been asked to agree on line to the terms of service for using an App or to approve the terms of a contractual agreement for the purchase of something. No hand-written signature is

required to create a legal obligation. This is the world of electronic signatures--a world, by the way, that started way back in 1844 with the advent of the telegraph. The problem back then was that the telegraph wasn't effective for consummating business transactions because it was not possible to readily verify that the signature on the telegram was that of the person's name appearing at the bottom of the message.

Slowly, but surely, the usage of electronic signatures in commercial transactions has grown, particularly with the enactment of both federal and state statutes and statutes in other countries. Arizona has its own Arizona Electronic Transactions Act, which defines an "electronic signature" as an electronic sound, symbol or process that is attached to or associated with a record containing information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or is stored in electronic medium that is retrievable.

Of course, there are still legal issues and disputes that arise. Many of these issues seem to revolve on whether a party consented to the use of the electronic medium or whether the way a name appears in a document constitutes an electronic signature.

And of course, some banks and other financial institutions seem uncomfortable in dealing with an electronic signature transactions, particularly as to whether the name appearing on the signature line is actually that of the contracting party as they have traditionally dealt with paper signatures.



That leads to the question as to whether all electronic signatures are equal. And the answer is no, as a greater degree of certainty as to the legitimacy of electronic signatures can be achieved by utilizing digital signatures. Digital signatures utilize an encrypted technology that can be likened to providing the certainty of a passport. This offers greater security and confidence in a transaction utilizing electronic systems.

I think the dye is cast, and the use of electronic signatures will increase and enhance commercial transactions not only here in Arizona, but throughout the U.S. and the rest of the world. In some ways, it is surprising that this usage has not occurred at a faster rate in light of the many advantages offered.

Michael Margrave



Victoria Falls on the Zambezi River at the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe.



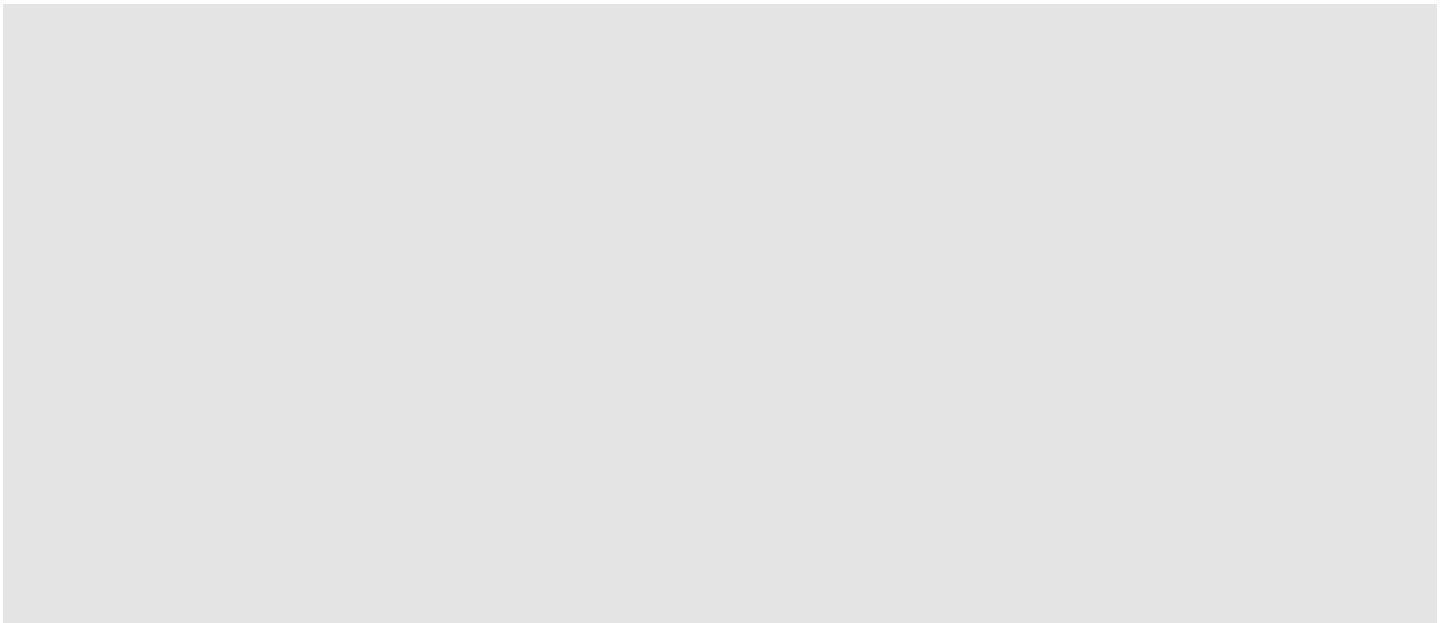
"I set a world record: it took me 47 years to cross this bridge (between Zambia and Zimbabwe). I first tried to cross at Victoria Falls in July, 1970, but the border into Zimbabwe was closed due to the political situation. I didn't get a chance to complete my trek across the bridge until late July last year."



Roughing it: Michael's shower stall at the Fly camp in Hwange Communal Area in Zimbabwe



Roughing it: Michael's sleep accommodations at the Fly camp in Hwange Communal Area in Zimbabwe





Roughing it: The camp's modern kitchen facilities



Departing camp at the Hwange Communal Area in northwest Zimbabwe (It really does just about take a village).

Legal Resources

Instead of hunting around on Google looking for these sites, just log on to
<http://mclawfirm.com/legal-resources>

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Margrave Celmins, P.C.

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