



Boyd Briefs: September 19, 2013

From Dean Dan

Next week at Boyd we are proud to be hosting the 8th Annual Colloquium on Current Scholarship in Labor and Employment Law on September 27 and 28. The Colloquium provides an opportunity for labor and employment law scholars to present works-in-progress and receive feedback from their colleagues in the field. The keynote lunch panel on Friday will feature Paul Frymer from Princeton University, Tanya Hernandez from Fordham University School of Law, and Vicki Schultz from Yale Law School. Every year we award the Paul Steven Miller Scholarship Award to a labor and employment law scholar. Past honorees include Professors Michael J. Zimmer and Charles Sullivan. This year's awardee is Professor Marley Weiss of the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law. My thanks to Professors Ann McGinley and Ruben Garcia for organizing a terrific conference.

Dan

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FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Chris Blakesley

Chris Blakesley brings a world of experience to the classroom and to his scholarship. Among other positions in his distinguished background is service in the Office of the Legal Adviser to the State Department. In this capacity he worked with Dr. Henry Kissinger on matters of international criminal law, including counter-terrorism and extradition. Professor Blakesley is multilingual, holds four advanced degrees, and has three forthcoming books.

One of Professor Blakesley's recent publications is an article titled *Law, Language, Crime, and Culture: The Value and Risks of Comparative Law*. The article advances an important thesis, but readers will also notice the intellectual depth and range that Blakesley possesses—illustrated by a wealth of historical and literary references that are seamlessly, effortlessly, and effectively woven into this compact article.

The article makes three key points. First, law is like a language. Fluency develops over time, as words become word-symbols for ideas that are freighted with the nuance and subtlety of a specific culture.

Second, building on the adage that if one really wants to understand his or her own language, she needs to learn another one, Professor Blakesley observes that the same is true for legal systems. Comparative law helps us get out of our own way and appreciate the nuances and

subtleties that are embedded in our legal words and doctrines; because there is no view from *nowhere*, the best we can do is generate multiple *somewheres*.

Third, Professor Blakesley reflects on the role of comparative law in public international law. He describes international law a *sui generis* legal system that is a "mixed jurisdiction" with both common law and civil law elements. And he ruminates on "comparative law" as an intellectual activity—a verb—that can be especially useful in revealing the "instinctive and deepest moral values" at the core of public international law.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Elliot Anderson

Many individuals undertake law school with aspirations for public office. For Elliot Anderson, the two endeavors go hand in hand.

Elliot entered the Boyd School of Law as a part-time evening student in August 2011. Our part-time program was particularly appealing to him since, in addition to working a full-time job, Elliot had been elected to the Nevada State Assembly in 2010. Committed to reconnect his constituents with their government, Elliot sees his in-progress legal education as an increasingly valuable instrument in his mission to better the lives of the citizens of his district, both in representing them in the greater state political context, and in extending himself to them when they seek help with particular problems.

Committed to serving others from a young age, Elliot enlisted in the United States Marines in 2001. He was deployed throughout the world and spent significant time in combat conditions in Afghanistan. He earned many forms of recognition for his USMC service, including the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, three Sea Service Deployment Ribbons, and a Combat Action Ribbon.

His duty completed in 2005, Elliot returned to his homeland and chose to set roots in southern Nevada. He enrolled at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and, while working various full-time jobs in the casino industry, pursued his bachelor's degree in Political Science. To cap off his undergraduate studies, Elliot landed a UNLV Political Science Department Legislative Internship during the 2009 Nevada Legislative session. Soon thereafter, an Assemblyman was born.

Busy life, right? Sure, but he would have it no other way. Elliot attributes his ability to handle the many tasks before him to a motto he took to heart in the Marines: "If I slept, I had enough time."

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Becky Pintar '01 and Bryan Albiston '12



Becky A. Pintar '01 and Bryan Albiston '12 formed Pintar Albiston LLP in January of this year, but their journeys through law school began some years before when Becky was in the charter class at the William S. Boyd School of Law. Today they are a mother-son law firm here in Las Vegas, and we proudly celebrate their legacy connections to our law school.

Becky fondly remembers attending her law school classes at Paradise Elementary School not only because of this unique setting, but because of the strong bond she and others experienced as the first students to attend Nevada's first and only law school. She entered law school after 16 years as an educator, including 13 years with the Clark County School District. Becky started practicing law at a mid-sized law firm following graduation. After more than 10 years in the legal field, including three years as a partner, Becky started her own law firm in March 2012. In addition to her J.D., Becky received her B.S. in mathematics from the University of Utah and a M.S. and Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from UNLV.



Bryan joined his mother Becky in the practice of law after passing the bar exam in October 2012. He started as a law student at Whittier Law School in Costa Mesa, California, and after his first year transferred to the Boyd School of Law. Bryan earned a B.S. in accounting from UNLV in 2001. After a couple years of crunching numbers, Bryan obtained his real estate license and began working as a new home sales agent. Their legal practice focuses on business and family law.

Becky and Bryan credit their legal skills and expertise to the outstanding curriculum offered by the Boyd School of Law and its faculty. Becky has another son, Timothy, who is Director of Internet Gaming at Bally Technologies. Bryan's wife Mindy, a graduate of the Air Force Academy, is an engineer and holds the rank of Major in the Air Force. Bryan has two daughters, Sabrina, 2 years, and Lilian, 4 months. Sabrina is already aspiring to be a future attorney as she spends every Friday at the office with Dad and Grandma.