



Boyd Briefs: January 31, 2014

From Dean Dan

On Feb. 8 at Boyd we are delighted to host the [Honorable Lloyd George Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition](#). This is a regional competition that prepares teams for the annual Duberstein Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition, one of the largest moot court competitions in the country. Boyd is fielding two teams and will go up against law schools from around the region. We are grateful to the many judges who will take part in this competition, and, in particular, to the American Bankruptcy Institute, the Federal Bar Association Bankruptcy Section, the State Bar of Nevada Bankruptcy Section, Armstrong Teasdale, the Carlyon Law Group, and the Honorable Judge Lloyd D. George for supporting this exciting competition at the law school. Boyd has in a short time established itself as a national leader in the study of bankruptcy law, thanks in large part to the work of Gordon Silver Professor of Law [Nancy Rapoport](#), who is one of the top bankruptcy scholars in the country and a leader in innovation and reform. I am similarly delighted that U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judges [Mike Nakagawa](#) and [Gregg Zive](#) are teaching courses and seminars on basic bankruptcy and bankruptcy litigation this year at Boyd. Our students have served these and other bankruptcy court judges as clerks and externs and, we are told, continually do us proud.

Dan

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FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Lydia Nussbaum

One of Boyd's new faculty members is [Lydia Nussbaum](#). Professor Nussbaum is an experienced mediator and teacher who serves as Director of the [Strasser Mediation Clinic](#) and as Associate Director of the [Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution](#). Her contribution to the intellectual richness of our community has been immediate, visible, and greatly appreciated.

Trained in history, Professor Nussbaum's recent article examines the role that mediation and other alternative dispute resolution (ADR) techniques have played in tempering the consequences of the housing foreclosure crisis. The fact that many states and local governments turned to ADR under these circumstances is, itself, an interesting fact. And in [ADR's Place in Foreclosure: Remediating the Flaws of a Securitized Housing Market](#), Nussbaum reviews a range of ADR programs and approaches that have been deployed. At a practical level, the article describes best practices for governments seeking to utilize ADR as a tool to mitigate this crisis. Yet the article also introduces an engaging and more theoretical question about the use of ADR as a regulatory device: when are ADR processes appropriately used as a vehicle for regulating an industry and protecting consumers?

Continuing the Boyd tradition of authoring scholarship with impact, Professor Nussbaum is an important addition to our faculty.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Oscar Peralta and Jose Martin

Near the conclusion of *The Karate Kid, Part II*, Mr. Sato humbly tells Mr. Miyagi, "Your student [the spectacularly over-achieving Daniel LaRusso] has become my teacher." Well, here at Boyd, we have an instance where a student's former teacher is now his protégé. The storyline goes like this...

Boyd third-year student Oscar Peralta arrived in the United States at age 15 from his native Costa Rica, settling with his family in Carson City, Nevada. His days were spent striving to excel in high school in a new country and developing his English fluency; his nights were spent cleaning office buildings to help the family household make ends meet. The hard work yielded an opportunity not previously available to anyone in his family – higher education. To the University of Nevada, Reno Oscar went to study political science and philosophy.

Several courses in which Oscar demonstrated his intellect were taught by a certain adjunct faculty member, Jose Martin, now a second-year student at Boyd. Jose was born and raised in Spain and earned his B.A. in Philosophy at Universidad Complutense in Madrid in 1989. Later, Jose ventured to the United States to study philosophy at The Ohio State University, earning his M.A. in 2003. An opportunity to teach drew him to northern Nevada... and eventually placed him in a classroom at UNR standing before Oscar Peralta. "I really admired Jose," says Oscar. "His lectures inspired me to reflect more on some of the questions or issues that led me to pursue a legal career."

Oscar, who is considering a career in public service, is only too happy to reciprocate the guidance he received as an undergraduate from Jose, who anticipates practicing immigration law. And who knows? Perhaps their story will make for a cinematic masterpiece like... well, never mind.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Brandi Jensen '01

Boyd School of Law 2001 graduate Brandi Jensen writes: "I often hear, 'I don't know how you do it all.' The funny thing is, I don't. In all reality, I merely 'try' to do it all. I am a wife, a mother, an attorney and a cowgirl."

Brandi is a proud UNLV and Boyd School of Law alumna. Since law school, she clerked for Third Judicial District Judge Archie Blake and later served as a prosecutor where she handled everything from murders to llamacides. Four years ago she was offered the position of City Attorney for the City of Fernley (30 miles east of Reno, with a population of approximately 19,000).

Due to budget constraints, Brandi is the entire legal department, with one assistant. Brandi handles all criminal prosecution, employment law, and contracting--from small projects to million dollar roadways. She is constantly reminded that the job is similar to being in the halls of Boyd - every couple of hours your topic may change from Contracts to Con Law to Criminal Law.

Thankfully, Brandi works for a modern-thinking entity allowing her to work a flexible schedule to accommodate the challenges of attending City Council meetings, Criminal Court, and her children's (ages 8, 6 and 5) endless activities.

Brandi rodeoed for UNLV and still continues to compete. In fact, she has won the All-Around-Cowgirl twice in the last few years. "It's become a family affair," she adds, "with my daughters competing with me, as does my mom. Although I'm competitive, the sport is a wonderful stress

releaser. When I am on horseback, I never worry about legal issues or wonder if my coworkers will notice the goldfish in the back seat of the truck. I even took on another sport and ran my first half marathon in Napa this fall."

"My desk never clears, my laundry is never timely put away, and my horses are never given the hours I'd love to train them. My goal is to put my family first, work hard for a good reputation, and keep my sanity through the magic of a horse. I am merely a wife and mom, who happens to be a lawyer; who will forever be a cowgirl; and who is proud to be tortured up north for proudly wearing and cheering for the UNLV Scarlet and Grey."