



Boyd Briefs: August 28, 2014

From Dean Dan

Welcome back to the start of a new school year here at Boyd. Even before classes started, students, faculty and staff, alumni, and public interest lawyers joined in early Saturday morning at the law school for our fifth annual Community Law Day, a service project in partnership with the law school, the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, and Nevada Legal Services.

Close to 200 members of our community attended free legal education classes on bankruptcy, divorce, family law (taught in Spanish), DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), guardianship, paternity/custody, sealing records, and small claims. We provided written materials in Spanish for the bankruptcy, small claims, paternity/custody, and divorce classes. My thanks to Associate Dean Christine Smith and Cliff Marcek, the supervising attorney for the Community Service Program, for another great year. Thanks also to the Public Interest Law Association, one of the great student groups here at Boyd, for putting together a panel discussion with Bill Curran from Ballard Spahr, John Piro (class of 2010) from the Office of the Clark County Public Defender, Susan Noyce from LACSN, and Russell Smith from the Nevada Attorney General's Office. This program, which grows every year, exemplifies how Boyd, as the only law school in the state, strives to serve the citizens of Nevada.

Dean Thomas Main, Dean Frank Durand, and I had some fun for a good cause taking the Ice Bucket Challenge on the first day of class: Take a look at the video here.

Dan

Dean & Richard J. Morgan Professor of Law
daniel.hamilton@unlv.edu
[facebook.com/DeanDanHamilton](https://www.facebook.com/DeanDanHamilton)



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Stacey Tovino

The start of a new school year may be an especially appropriate time to celebrate the extraordinary classroom teachers on our faculty. Without exception, the members of this faculty are genuinely committed to the professional development of their students. The faculty's commitment and achievement is all the more impressive in light of the fact that it is also recognized for its distinguished and impactful scholarship. There is no better example of an extraordinary teacher and an extraordinary scholar -- whether at Boyd or elsewhere -- than Professor Stacey Tovino.

Students report that Tovino's classes are as demanding, intellectually rigorous, and challenging, as they are fun. Students flock to her classes, and the demand for independent research and writing projects with her is unprecedented. Her receipt of the Faculty Member of the Year award from each year's graduating class is a foregone conclusion, and deservedly so. As a dean, it is reassuring and exciting to know that our new students and our returning students are becoming successful, ethical, professionals with faculty like Tovino as their guides and role

models.

Very importantly, Tovino is also one of Boyd's most distinguished scholars. She is a nationally recognized expert in health law, mental health law, bioethics, and the medical humanities. Less than one year ago, I described in an issue of Boyd Briefs an article that she had then recently published. Since then, five more publications have been added to her CV, including the article *I Need a Doctor: A Critique of Government Financing of Graduate Medical Education* and a forthcoming text about HIPAA Privacy Law.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Brittany Cermak

It seems safe to say that Brittany Cermak '15 has found herself a path, and that path has led her into the areas of natural resources and environmental law. This past summer, Cermak worked as a corporate summer intern at the Las Vegas Valley Water District (LVVWD) where she "got to work on some exciting, high profile cases and learn from a lot of great attorneys." The experience with the LVVWD followed on the heels of a terrific spring 2014 semester that Cermak spent in Washington, D.C. as an extern with the United States Department of Justice, Environment and Natural Resources Division.

Cermak came to Las Vegas from the Midwest. She was born and raised in the Chicago area (she's a Cubs fan, to help place her Windy City origins geographically) and was a state champion high school volleyball player. For her undergraduate education, she headed north to the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she earned a B.A. in Political Science as well as a B.A. in Legal Studies, and where she was a member of ... get this ... the Wisconsin Water Ski & Wakeboard Team!

Entering her final year in Boyd's part-time evening program, Cermak will continue her work with the Water District. She serves as articles editor of the *UNLV Gaming Law Journal* and is a member of the Environmental Law Society.

Reflecting on her time at Boyd, Cermak notes that, "as a part-time student, it is easy to be selfish with your time because you have so little of it. But by putting your head in a book and going through the motions, you're doing yourself and the community a disservice. Boyd is full of so many great people who want to get to know you and help you succeed -- all you really have to do is let them."



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Sam Bateman '02

It has been nearly 15 years since the class members of 2002 began their study at the newly created William S. Boyd School of Law, then located in the Paradise Elementary School. A majority of the students were residents and had been waiting for the opportunity to stay in Nevada to attend law school. However, a substantial portion of the class came from outside Nevada and took a chance on the fledgling, up-start law school. Sam Bateman '02 was one of those students. He left the snow of Utah for the sun of Las Vegas.

Bateman received his undergraduate degree from the University of Utah in Salt Lake City in 1999. Having no idea what to do with an economics degree, he began researching law schools. Bateman chose Boyd after meeting Boyd's then Dean of Admissions, Frank Durand, at a law school fair at the University of Utah. Of course, they put Durand and the Boyd information table in the back of the room -- in the way back.

For his 21st birthday, Bateman vacationed in Las Vegas, staying at the MGM Grand. Durand invited Bateman to tour the school ... the elementary school. Bateman went on to serve on the Student Bar Association board and as an editor of the law review. After graduating, he clerked for newly appointed United States District Court Judge Larry Hicks. Bateman was one of Judge Hicks' first full-term clerks. One of the perks of the job was his seventh floor window view facing south down Las Vegas Boulevard -- this was, of course, before the same view became blocked by high-rise condominium towers.

After a year working for a large Nevada law firm practicing commercial litigation, Bateman switched gears and began his career at the criminal division of the Clark County District Attorney's Office. Today, he is a chief deputy district attorney where he has tried nearly 30 jury trials. Bateman also represented the Nevada District Attorneys Association in the 2009 and 2011 Nevada legislative sessions, fighting for victims and public safety in general.

Three years ago, Bateman was elected to serve as a city councilman in Henderson. He credits his successes in a wide range of areas to his law degree from Boyd. "Much of my success is due to Boyd. The law school provided me with a well-rounded education and a great base of contacts, peers, and great friends."