



Boyd Briefs: October 9, 2014

From Dean Dan

Nevada is emerging as a national leader on the technology and policy issues surrounding drones, or unmanned aerial systems (UAS). As UAS becomes more and more prevalent in our daily lives and as the technology changes, we need to consider the implications for privacy law and public policy. Boyd is working across campus and across the city and state to bring lawyers, scientists, and industry and political leaders together to discuss the implications for the use of unmanned aerial systems. On Oct. 16 we are hosting a symposium co-sponsored by the law school and the law firm of [Fennemore Craig Jones Vargas](#). Our other co-sponsors are the [UNLV Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering](#), [UNLV Department of Criminal Justice](#), and [Desert Research Institute](#). Topics will include the future of UAS applications in Nevada, legal implications of unmanned vehicle technology, and the ability of UAS technology to efficiently gather data and conduct surveillance. [Erwin Chemerinsky](#), dean of the University of California, Irvine School of Law, will deliver the keynote address on privacy, law and technology.

For more information and to RSVP, visit law.unlv.edu/SymposiumUAS.

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FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Jean Sternlight

Professor [Jean Sternlight](#) is among the most highly respected and most frequently cited scholars of alternative dispute resolution in the country. Yet this distinguished professor, whose curriculum vitae includes all of the publications, awards, recognition, and other indicators of traditional scholarly success, often writes about issues of practical and immediate importance. Indeed, on numerous occasions Sternlight's work has been discussed in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and other national media. Moreover, her work is often cited and used by courts.

In the world of alternative dispute resolution (or ADR), Professor Sternlight is especially well-known for her expertise on mandatory arbitration. She has been writing articles on this subject since 1996 -- long before it was the important issue that it has since become. Today, it is estimated that roughly 20 percent of the non-unionized American workforce is covered by mandatory arbitration provisions. Many of these employees are parties to arbitration clauses contained in employee handbooks or other small print documents, and are often unaware of the fact that they have waived their right to go to court. In the emerging debate about the appropriate role of mandatory arbitration as a form of

dispute resolution, Sternlight's insights are critically important.

Professor Sternlight's most recent article on this subject is titled "Disarming Employees: How American Employers are Using Mandatory Arbitration to Deprive Workers of Legal Protection." Sternlight argues that employers, with substantial assistance from the Supreme Court, are using mandatory arbitration clauses to "disarm" employees and to undermine the substantive laws that are designed to protect employees. Arbitration, once widely perceived as a form of ADR that could provide quicker, cheaper, and simpler access to justice, is instead -- as an empirical matter -- eroding employees' access to justice. In particular, Sternlight examines how mandatory arbitration clauses deter employees even from filing claims in the first instance. In this substantial article, Sternlight also interrogates possible solutions to this problem, proposing both short- and long-term approaches.

Jean Sternlight is the Director of the [Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution](#), the Michael and Sonja Saltman Professor of Law, a popular teacher, and an invaluable leader of the law school community.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Jessica Gandy

All jobs have their challenges, right? It's all just a matter of degree. Well, let's give a listen to Jessica Gandy, a Boyd third-year, part-time evening student, as she fills us in on the formidable job she takes on day by day.

"I am an English teacher working in what Nevada calls a 'continuation' school, a euphemism for a school with slightly more freedom than juvenile hall. The only difference between the two is that our students can go home at the end of the day. These students are everything from violent felons to teenagers that made poor choices and got caught. The 18-year-old awaiting trial for felony assault is in the same classroom with the 15-year-old who smoked marijuana before school and arrived in class high.

"My students come in two varieties: scared and not scared. Those who are scared do not want to cause any problems or be involved with anyone who does; they do their work, behave like model citizens, and never cause disruption. Most, however, are not scared. They have seen every corner of the juvenile justice system -- many have a piece of it strapped to their ankles -- and there is nothing anyone can say or do to convince them that education is an important part of the future. We work hard to get students to see that an educated life is safer than the life they currently live. Sometimes it works; other times it doesn't."

It's noble and arduous work that Jessica does, all while making the most of her evenings at Boyd. Jessica is the current president of Boyd's Organization of Part-Time and Non-Traditional Law Students; vice president of Legally Speaking, a Toastmasters chapter for Boyd students; and a class representative on the Student Bar Association Board of Governors.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: William Horne '01

[William Horne](#)'s path to graduation was not an easy or traditional one. His father died when he was very young, and his mother raised William and his two sisters by herself.



He was the first in his family to attend college. William worked many different types of jobs and left undergraduate school in order to work before deciding to complete his degree at age 36. His mother would often describe him as a "jack of all trades, but master of none." William did not start law school until he was 37 years old and graduated from Boyd in 2001 as a member of the school's second entering class. And it was in law school that William discovered his true passion -- public service.

William credits his law school experience with awakening within him his sense of leadership and service that are the hallmarks of his career. He remembers the many lectures he attended at the law school featuring prestigious individuals serving the community in some capacity or other. He recognized the opportunities open to him after talking to these individuals. Their desire to serve others was something that resonated deep within William, as well.

His law practice primarily focuses on criminal, civil and family. Recently, William's practice has evolved into representing clients seeking medical marijuana licensure in Nevada. He counsels his clients on the state and federal laws and state regulations of this emerging industry.

William successfully campaigned for and was elected to the Nevada Assembly -- where he has served for the last 12 years. His leadership skills and understanding of the issues were quickly recognized and he received the Freshman of the Year Award for his service in the State Assembly.

He is completing his term as Assembly Majority Leader -- a testament to his accomplishments during his tenure there. He finished his legislative career with the same degree of success with which he began his career -- being named the Outstanding Legislator during his last term.

William is now embarking upon a new path as he seeks election as a judge for Clark County District Court, Department 5, where he looks forward to continuing his career in public service. William stated, "When we achieve, we usually do so because others have helped." He acknowledges the tremendous role the Boyd School of Law played in his personal and professional development stating, "It has made me a better person and more committed to our community."