



Boyd Briefs: October 23, 2014

From Dean Dan

A few weeks ago the [Southern Nevada Association of Women Attorneys](#) held the Second Annual Justice Miriam Shearing Gala to raise funds for scholarships to support Boyd students. Barbara Buckley was named the second recipient of the Justice Miriam Shearing Award and recognized for her work as the first woman speaker of the Nevada State Assembly and the first woman majority leader of the assembly. Barbara also directs the [Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada](#), an organization that advocates for so many in our community who do not have access to legal assistance. Barbara and the Legal Aid Center have been partnering with the law school since 1998 and, through that partnership, we have helped more than 50,000 Nevadans. At the gala three terrific Boyd students were named recipients of SNAWA scholarships: Allison Vitangeli, Brittany Birnbaum and Stephanie Bedker. All told, 11 Boyd students attended to celebrate and to meet with leaders of the bar. My sincere thanks to SNAWA president Kathleen Paustian, past president Kathleen Maynard, and the Board. The gala was held at the home of SNAWA member Mariteresa Rivera-Rogers '03, who I am proud to say is a Boyd alumna. Billie-Marie Morrison '01, also a Boyd alumna, was the first of an unbroken line of distinguished SNAWA scholarship recipients from our law school. I am grateful for the organization's ongoing support for Boyd students over so many years. Thanks and congratulations to all.

Dan

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FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Michael Kagan

The faculty regularly hosts workshops where distinguished academics from other schools present their research. Following the speakers' presentations, our own faculty members ask questions and offer comments on the research. One faculty member who reliably asks some of the most meticulous, incisive, and thoughtful questions is Professor [Michael Kagan](#). No matter the subject matter (nor even the clarity of the guest's presentation), Kagan can skillfully de-construct and re-construct ideas, theses, and solutions. Indeed, he exhibits the depth and breadth of knowledge of a true intellectual, but also the cleverness and deftness of a trial lawyer.

Professor Kagan is an accomplished scholar, a popular teacher, and also the Co-Director of the [Immigration Clinic](#). In addition to teaching students the mechanics of practicing law, the Immigration Clinic demonstrates for students how the practice of law changes peoples' lives. Indeed, earlier this week an email from Kagan to the campus community reported unlikely success in an asylum case that he, two of his faculty colleagues,

and seven of his student colleagues had litigated for more than two years. As Kagan eloquently stated, "[This] work has given someone in a very vulnerable situation a new start."

Professor Kagan has recently completed two more law review articles that are about to be published. In *Immigrant Victims, Immigrant Accusers*, Kagan analyzes the federal government's relatively new "U-Visa program, which provides up to 10,000 visas per year to otherwise unauthorized immigrants who are victims of certain mainly violent crimes in the United States, on the condition that they are helpful as witnesses to law enforcement who investigate and prosecute the crimes." Kagan unpacks the details, goals, and virtues of that program, but also reveals some of its flaws, including how its requirement that the victim also be an accuser can undermine the program's stated goal of providing law enforcement protection and justice for immigrant victims.

In Kagan's other forthcoming article, *Speaker Discrimination: The Next Frontier of Free Speech*, he revisits and refines the speaker discrimination principle -- a principle used in the context of First Amendment cases that focuses on the identity of the speaker as opposed to the content and forum of the speech. Kagan suggests that this principle holds more explanatory potential for the Supreme Court's jurisprudence than is commonly recognized, and going forward, could help clarify otherwise confused areas of free speech doctrine.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Andrea Orwoll

For Andrea Orwoll, a first-year Boyd student, earning her J.D. is the next step in a progression toward assisting populations in need. "My undergraduate career [at Whittier College in California] focused on the voices of disadvantaged people -- specifically women -- in society, and my studies shaped in me a more mature understanding of power dynamics." A study abroad program in Denmark through the University of Copenhagen was particularly enlightening to Andrea as an undergrad; she was able to observe other cultures' discussions of the roles that sex and gender play in social attitudes.

From her studies in California (and beyond), Andrea made her way to the Land of Enchantment. Through the Teach for America program, she spent two years educating young people near Gallup, New Mexico. "I worked on a reservation with 8- and 9-year-old children, more than 90 percent of them Zuni. Many were a year or two behind in basic subject areas. I spoke daily about the education they would need to be able to succeed in the reality they faced. Knowing that the inclusion of Native voices in these conversations was integral, I invited community leaders to speak in my classroom. I formed close ties with families, and earned the privilege of invitations to significant cultural celebrations."

Andrea's experiences made for a synergistic fit with Boyd's Public Interest Fellowship Program, a terrific springboard to achieving her long-term service objectives. "Pursuing a degree in law, with a particular focus on service to women and children, I can do what I have wanted to do since childhood. I can expose and tear down oppressive barriers by giving voice - - and therefore power -- to children and families. My ultimate personal and professional goal is to specialize in public interest focused on policy and action that benefits women and the young."



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Jonathan Winn '12

Jonathan J. Winn '12 is an associate attorney at Kolesar & Leatham in Las Vegas. Jonathan's legal practice includes corporate and commercial transactions, land use matters, and privilege business licensing, including liquor licensing.

He was raised in Idaho and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Idaho State University, where he graduated with Highest Honors. While in college, Jonathan was a three-time letterman awardee for the Idaho State Bengals football team. He received the National Football Foundation and College Football Hall of Fame Scholar-Athlete Award for his achievements in athletics, academics, and leadership.

During law school, Jonathan was an Articles Editor for the *Nevada Law Journal* and a member of the Society of Advocates Moot Court Team.

"I will be forever grateful for my decision to attend Boyd. I received a top-notch education with minimal debt and met lifelong friends along the way. Boyd also afforded me the opportunity to secure employment at a fantastic law firm where I get to work with and learn from tremendously competent and pleasant people. Although I had many great professors at Boyd, Professors Stacey Tovino, Anne Traum and Adjunct Professors Michael Higdon and Matthew Christian really stand out." Jonathan and his wife, Paige, live in Las Vegas with their daughters, Grace and Nora.
