



Boyd Briefs: November 7, 2014

From Dean Dan

Last week, Nevada Legal Services held its annual Champions of Justice event. A wonderful colleague of ours here at Boyd, Professor [Francine Lipman](#), was given a special recognition award for all she does in the community for those needing assistance with tax questions. Congressman Steven Horsford, our commencement speaker last year, was named the 2014 Champion of Justice. One of our graduates, Hai Ling Chu '11, was named the Pro Bono Volunteer of the Year. Many of our alumni work for the organization as attorney volunteers and pro bono case attorneys. The law school is proud of our long-standing partnership with Nevada Legal Services, and we are all fortunate to have this organization in our community. Congratulations to all and sincere thanks for upholding the best traditions and values of our profession. To read a news item about this event, click [here](#).

Dan

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FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Stanley Hunterton

The Boyd School of Law could not achieve its goal of graduating successful, ethical professionals without the extraordinary contributions of our adjunct faculty. These faculty members allow Boyd to offer students a much wider variety of course offerings -- including in highly specialized areas of practice. Moreover, these faculty members, many of whom are nationally and even internationally renowned practitioners in their fields, bring unique experience and perspective into the classroom. Our current students are tomorrow's judges, lawyers and leaders, and it is reassuring to know that our adjunct faculty members serve as excellent role models. The contributions of our adjuncts are all the more impressive and profound when one appreciates that these busy professionals teach not for the meager amounts that we pay them, but rather because they enjoy teaching and because they care about the future of our noble profession.

One of our distinguished adjuncts is [Stanley Hunterton](#). Rare is the lawyer who is recognized as a master of both civil litigation and white collar criminal defense, and rare is Mr. Hunterton. A lion of the Las Vegas bar, Hunterton has been a special attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice, deputy chief counsel to the President's Commission on Organized Crime, general counsel to Sierra Pacific Resources (now NV Energy), a member of the Standing Commission on Judicial Ethics and Election Practices, and of course an outstanding member of the Las Vegas bar for several decades -- now with his own law firm, [Hunterton & Associates](#).

Professor Hunterton co-teaches one of our Trial Advocacy courses. Our students are fortunate to have him as their professor. Our faculty is fortunate to have him as a colleague. And our legal community is fortunate to have him teaching the next generation of lawyers.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Mike Valiente

"Get an education," Mike Valiente's father Reinaldo advised him, "because it's the only thing no one -- not even the government -- can take away from you." Reinaldo, you see, was raised in Cuba and lived firsthand under a government that routinely and unpredictably took things tangible and intangible away from its citizens. A young man in his 20s, he left his homeland behind to give the family he had yet to start an opportunity for the American Dream. Mike calls his father's advice a gift, though it was a gift he did not immediately open.

After graduating high school, Mike chose to make a go of it on his own in the "real world." Having worked as a bank teller and saved a chunk of money, he secured his real estate license and eventually purchased a couple rental properties. With the rental proceeds, Mike began to invest in properties throughout Las Vegas. He worked hard and managed to stay somewhat ahead, even when the bottom dropped out with the onset of economic recession. Still, he felt the need to reassess his plans for the future. That reassessment led him back to his father's gift.

Mike enrolled at the College of Southern Nevada and made his way to UNLV. He chose to major in political science and became "fascinated with learning about the prevailing conditions that allowed societies to degenerate from varying degrees of democracy to dictatorships." He earned his B.A. summa cum laude in 2012. Now in his second year at Boyd, Mike is a member of the [Nevada Law Journal](#) and the Society of Advocates and serves as president of the Real Estate Law Society.

And he intends to pass the gift from his father on to his 1-year-old son Dean.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Elda Sidhu '01

As a native Nevadan, a graduate of UNLV's School of Allied Health Sciences and a member of the Boyd School of Law Charter Class, Elda always says that coming to work for UNLV eight years ago was like coming "home." She served as UNLV's associate general counsel and associate vice president/associate counsel before being promoted to general counsel in 2012. Prior to joining UNLV, she was in private practice in Las Vegas where, over the years, she had the opportunity to work in each of her firm's major departments: Bankruptcy/Reorganization, Litigation, and Transactional. So when UNLV's Office of General Counsel needed someone to do a "little bit of everything," Elda was the perfect fit. In her current role, she oversees an extremely wide range of litigation, transactional, administrative and compliance matters.

Elda credits her successful legal career with her law school experience. She took courses in everything from tax law to trademarks to secured transactions (although she regrets dropping Professor Markell's bankruptcy course!). It was Professor Bybee (now Judge Bybee) who suggested she apply for federal clerkships, which led to her serving as law clerk to the Honorable Valerie P. Cooke of the United States District Court, District of Nevada.

Elda says serving as in-house counsel varies from private practice in multiple respects. She works to educate law students and young lawyers about in-house career options through her involvement with the Association of Corporate Counsel.

Boyd recently honored Elda with its inaugural Distinguished Alumni Award.