



Boyd Briefs: January 29, 2015

## From Dean Dan

Next week, we are pleased to host the [11th Annual Philip Pro Lectureship](#) in Legal History with Professor Kenneth Mack of Harvard Law School. The series, named in honor of Judge Philip Pro, a loyal friend of the Boyd School of Law who was instrumental in its creation, offers a unique opportunity for members of the Boyd community to hear from an internationally prominent scholar on various legal history topics. This year I am excited to welcome Professor Kenneth Mack, inaugural Lawrence Biele Professor of Law at Harvard University and co-faculty leader of the Harvard Law School Program on Law and History. Professor Mack -- a renowned author whose 2012 book *Representing the Race: The Creation of the Civil Rights Lawyer* was selected by the *Washington Post* as a Top 50 Non-fiction Book of the Year, among other recognitions -- will address the issues of law and morality raised by the sit-in cases of the 1960s, and offer a reconsideration of those issues 50 years later. The event is free and open to the public; no RSVP required.



### **11th Annual Philip Pro Lectureship in Legal History with Kenneth Mack**

Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015 | 6 p.m.

Thomas & Mack Moot Court Facility

A reception will immediately follow the presentation.

On Feb. 9 at 5 p.m., the Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution will host Professor Sharon Press, professor of law and director of the Dispute Resolution Institute at Hamline University, for a [presentation](#) on mediation in the courts. Having formerly served as director of the Florida Dispute Resolution Center, Professor Press is well acquainted with both the theory and practice of mediation throughout the United States. We hope this event will inform a broad conversation about mediation in Nevada's courts and what, if anything, should be done to manage mediators. A live stream of Professor Press' talk will be hosted by the National Judicial College on University of Nevada, Reno's campus. The talk is free and open to the public. Members of the state and federal bench, bar, and mediation practitioner community from around the state plan to attend. 1.5 hours of CLE credit are available.



### **Professor Sharon Press on Court-Connected Mediation**

Monday, Feb. 9, 2015 | 5 p.m.

Thomas & Mack Moot Court Facility

1.5 hours of CLE credit



## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Anne Traum

It could rightly be said that the best law professors operate on all levels -- from the intellectual to the practical -- weaving together strands so that practice and theory reinforce each other. Professor [Anne Traum](#) is a shining example of the "engaged scholar" model that the Boyd School of Law so values, and her contributions to both the academy and the justice system in Nevada are far reaching.

Professor Traum's recent scholarship addresses a fundamental truth about our criminal justice system: For all its shaping by substantive and procedural law, it is in fact largely a "market" system, with more than 90 percent (and rising) of convictions resolved by plea bargaining. In "Using Outcomes to Reframe Guilty Plea Adjudication," published in the *Florida Law Review*, Professor Traum explores the ways in which judges can ensure that the market for guilty pleas functions properly. The editors initiated a symposium on the article, to be featured on Florida Law Review Forum, in which other scholars are invited to respond. In "Fairly Pricing Guilty Pleas," forthcoming in *Howard Law Review*, Professor Traum investigates how market theory could be used to inform and tailor legal doctrine to regulate plea-bargaining. But Professor Traum's work is not all high theory. Her hallmark is drawing on theory to propose sensible reforms that can reasonably be implemented within the existing legal rules or with only incremental change. With increasing interest in criminal justice reform both on the bench and in the halls of policy makers, Professor Traum's fresh voice is being heard on the national stage.

As associate dean for experiential learning, she has led our clinics and externship program to new levels of engagement. Her leadership secured the federal justice AmeriCorps grant to provide representation to unaccompanied minors in immigration proceedings, making Boyd the only law school in the country to take part in this critical program. And she has redesigned the legislative externship to enable our students to participate directly in the lawmaking process and provide support for the Governor's office, legislators, and advocates during this legislative session. A skilled and committed advocate, Professor Traum in recent years has also lent her expertise to design the Nevada Supreme Court's appellate pro bono program, and a similar program in Nevada's federal district court. As a result of her work, more indigent Nevadans are represented by counsel on appeal, lawyers are gaining hands-on experience under the mentorship of seasoned practitioners, and courts are benefitting from the counseled presentation of issues. This is smart and effective access to justice for the good of us all.

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## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Michael Aires

Many of us, if given the chance to do it all over again, would have spent some time in the "real world" before pursuing a JD. Had we 1) negotiated life's vagaries on our own and 2) gained awareness of the plights of others, the theory goes, we would have better appreciated the law school experience and the opportunities it spawns. The time Michael Aires spent in that real world did just that.

Having planned to complete his undergraduate degree and proceed



directly to law school, "life happened" midway through his studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and Michael found himself on an altered course. That course took him to a local church where he initially engaged in volunteer work and eventually paid employment as a minister. "I was given the chance to look beyond my own selfishness and invest myself into bettering the lives of others. I worked with local nonprofits in their efforts to aid the homeless and others in need. I eventually led trips out of the country with a group of my peers to Romania and the Dominican Republic to work with orphans and others less fortunate."

His perspective and circumstances altered for the good, Michael resumed his education through Lincoln Christian University, earning a B.A. in General Ministry and subsequently a M.A. in Organizational Leadership. He then jumped back onto his path to law school, arriving here at Boyd where he has focused his studies on transactional law. Now in his third year, Michael continues this work as a part of the Small Business and Nonprofit Clinic's inaugural class. He also has served on the Student Bar Association Board of Governors, as a member of the *UNLV Gaming Law Journal*, and as Vice President of the UNLV Graduate and Professional Student Association.



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Alissa Cooley '14

Alissa Cooley, class of 2014, along with [Katelyn Franklin '14](#), joined the Thomas & Mack Legal Clinic's Immigration Clinic as grant-funded justice AmeriCorps attorneys in December 2014. justice AmeriCorp is a program developed by the Department of Justice and the Corporation for National and Community Service to address the surge of unaccompanied immigrant children in the United States in summer 2014. Boyd was the only law school in the nation to receive this new grant.

Immigration law is a new passion for Alissa. Though long interested in indigent defense and the protection of constitutional rights, she had never considered immigration law as an outlet. Her first experience with immigration law occurred in the fall of her 4L year, when she assisted in the release of a student-authored report on the conditions of confinement for immigrant detainees at the Henderson Detention Center. "The report shined a light on important issues, and had an impact." Alissa realized that she could foster her passion for indigent defense and constitutional rights in the immigration context.

As a student attorney in the Immigration Clinic, Alissa learned how vital it is for immigrants in removal proceedings to have an attorney. "There is no right to counsel," she explains, "and without an attorney, it is difficult for someone to navigate her way through the process successfully."

For children, facing immigration proceedings alone is daunting. "That's why jAC is such a great program. Its goal is to ensure that every unaccompanied immigrant child has representation." As jAC members, Alissa and Katelyn represent children in their immigration court proceedings and conduct related community outreach. "Already this job is so rewarding. I am getting great training, and helping these children, who have heart-wrenching stories to share."