



Boyd Briefs: February 5, 2015

From Dean Dan

Here at Boyd we are starting off the spring 2015 semester with an exciting new program offered in partnership with [Nevada Legal Services'](#) Low Income Taxpayer Clinic. Professor Francine Lipman and Associate Dean Christine Smith have created a new class, Taxes for Working Families, a free income tax education program we are offering to our community. Professor Lipman will work with law students helping them master the complexities of certain tax provisions that challenge working families, including taxpayer filing status, child tax credit, earned income tax credit, premium tax credit, and the dependent care credit. Boyd students will answer taxpayer questions at community outreach events, such as the following workshops:

- Saturday, Feb. 28, 12 to 2 p.m.
Downtown Learning Village, 715 Fremont St., Las Vegas, NV 89101
- Friday, March 13, 5 to 7 p.m.
Hermandad Mexicana, 2915 W. Charleston Blvd. #4, Las Vegas, NV 89102
- Thursday, April 16, 2 to 4 p.m.
West Charleston Library, 6301 W. Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89146

Boyd students and our public interest fellows will also assist Nevada Legal Services attorneys with monthly clinics in Pahrump and also provide tenants' rights clinics. Because students are among the most common tenants with landlord-tenant problems, these clinics will be advertised to Nevada college students and held at the law school. Boyd has long had wonderful partnerships with the [Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada](#) and Nevada Legal Services and we are excited to foster these new initiatives to enhance the legal assistance programs we provide to Nevadans throughout the state. Our thanks to AnnaMarie Johnson, executive director of Nevada Legal Services, and Bill Curran, managing partner at [Ballard Spahr](#) in Las Vegas and chair of the Board at Nevada Legal Services.

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FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Lydia Nussbaum

The idea that scholarship is a *conversation* has been around for quite some time. In this sense, books and articles are components of a framework of interconnected perspectives and insights, rather than arguments that can be consumed independently. Each piece of scholarship, then, contributes to the conversation. These conversations, in



turn, may lead ultimately to profound shifts in human behavior or to better public policies.

The faculty members at Boyd not only contribute to these scholarly conversations, they also instigate and lead them. [Lydia Nussbaum](#)'s work, for example, explores how the popular and familiar institution of mediation may be experiencing an important transformation. In her forthcoming article, tentatively titled "Mediation Creep: Expanding State Regulation of Private Disputes," Nussbaum describes how "[a]cross the country, state legislators are mandating mediation in a fundamentally different way than ever before." In its original conception, mediation was a voluntary and largely unstructured option for disputants seeking an alternative form of dispute resolution. More recently, courts and legislative mandates have required litigants to mediate as a prerequisite to formal adjudication. Nussbaum argues that we are now moving toward a third step in this evolution, to-wit, "legislators are embedding mediation requirements into statutory regimes, imposing a direct mandate on private parties to mediate." Moreover, increasingly, these statutory mandates micro-manage various components of the mediation process, thereby converting a once voluntary and unstructured enterprise into a mandatory and hyper-legalized one.

In this article, Professor Nussbaum explores this phenomenon, addressing both the *Why?* and the *So What?* Her theory is that this is an expression of a new, decentralized approach to governance which conceives of the state's regulatory role as building procedural architecture to advance social welfare. This piece of scholarship is a very important conversation starter. So once again, a Boyd faculty member is generating an important conversation.

Professor Nussbaum is the associate director of the [Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution](#) and is the director of the [Strasser Mediation Clinic](#). She joined the faculty in the fall of 2013.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Kerry Kleiman

"It was either this or stand-up comedy," quips third-year student Kerry Kleiman when asked why she came to law school, "and attorneys have better health plans." True though that may be, Kerry didn't come to Boyd as a joke. After years of working in theater and television, Kerry found herself in a relationship with someone mired in a child-custody dispute. Private attorneys were too expensive, and the court-appointed attorney didn't return phone calls or file papers. "It was the first time in my life that I understood why people said that justice could be bought," recalls Kerry, "and, to be honest, I agreed with them."

After her ex went pro se, Kerry taught herself substantive and procedural law to help her ex draft motions, earning the nickname "Kerry Mason" from her family in the process. "I couldn't appear in court, but at least responses were getting filed, so it was progress."

Although stand-up comedy may have been a viable career option -- after

all, she does have a B.A. in theater from the University of Southern California -- Kerry has not spent her time at Boyd goofing off. She is the editor-in-chief of the *UNLV Gaming Law Journal* and won both IAGA's 2015 Shannon Bybee Scholarship Award and the 2014 Anthony Cabot Award for Best Student Note for her article on conflicting international anti-money laundering protocols for casinos. As a member of our Society of Advocates, she was named second best oralist at Fordham University School of Law's 2014 Kaufman Memorial Securities Law Moot Court Competition. Currently, Kerry is a student attorney in our Juvenile Justice Clinic representing accused juveniles and working to combat the sex trafficking of minors.

Following graduation, Kerry will be a law clerk in the Eighth Judicial District Court for Judge Elissa F. Cadish.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Assly Sayyar '04

Assly Sayyar was born in Great Britain and immigrated to the United States as a child. In 2000, she received her Bachelor of Arts in English Rhetoric, cum laude, from the University of Alaska Anchorage. In 2004, she graduated 16th in her class and cum laude from the William S. Boyd School of Law.

Admitted to the Nevada Bar in 2004, Assly worked for several private practice firms and soon developed her skills as a trial attorney, focusing on business and real estate-related litigation. From her time working as senior associate at Adams Law Group, Ltd., Assly branched out and developed her skills as a transactional attorney assisting clients creating, negotiating, and drafting leases, stock purchase agreements, licensing agreements, independent contractor agreements, sale and purchase agreements, security and loan agreements, and a wide variety of other business and real estate contracts. Four years later, she was admitted to the California Bar. Assly also continued her higher education, receiving her Master of Arts in English Literature from UNLV in 2010.

After over seven years of civil litigation and transactional practice in small- and medium-size firms in the Southern Nevada area, Assly opened her own solo practice in the northern county of San Diego in May 2012, with a satellite office in Las Vegas. She continues to offer her skills as a trial attorney, civil practitioner, and business and corporate transactional attorney in both states. She is active in San Diego's legal community, joining The Lawyer's Club, where she co-chairs and participates in several committees; and she is a member of San Diego's North County Bar Association.

Assly travels to Las Vegas frequently to provide professional services to her Nevada clients; attend court hearings and trials; and meet with friends and family. She is happy building her practice in Southern California and putting down roots as a solo practitioner.
