



Boyd Briefs: February 12, 2015

From Dean Dan

Next Thursday, we are pleased to host the [16th Annual Public Interest Law Association Auction](#), a great community event for the law school that promotes all of our efforts to support students pursuing careers in public interest law. This year's auction is already the most successful ever, and I want to recognize and thank the exceptional hard work of all our student members of the Public Interest Law Association (PILA). This year, PILA is honoring [Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez](#), a longtime friend of the law school and distinguished member of the bar, for her outstanding commitment to public interest. Past honorees were Bill Curran (2014), Justice Michael Douglas (2013), Barbara Buckley (2012), and Franny Forsman (2011).

16th Annual Public Interest Law Association Auction

Thursday, Feb. 19, 5:30 p.m.

The Smith Center for the Performing Arts - Reynolds Hall Lobby

[PILA](#) is a non-profit, student-run organization created to raise awareness about public interest work and the opportunities available to law students. Each year, the auction helps to raise funds to finance summer internship grants for Boyd students working in the public sector. You can learn about some of the wonderful things our PILA students are doing by reading about two of them in the student section below. The auction really is a wonderful cause – not only are you supporting Boyd students who commit their time to practicing public interest law, but also the many people in our community who would not receive legal assistance if not for their dedication.

Dan

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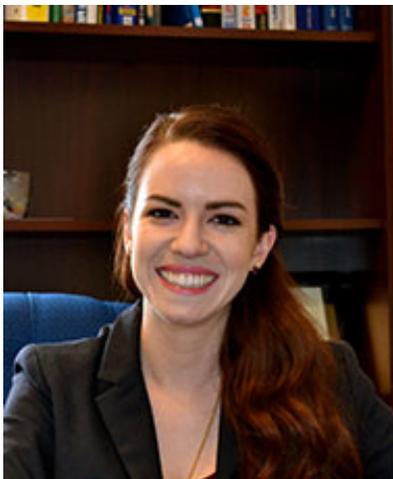
FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Ian Bartrum

Professor [Ian Bartrum](#) is an expert on matters of Constitutional interpretation. Naturally, there are a number of theories about how the U.S. Constitution should be interpreted. Bartrum believes that most of these theories are right. And wrong. The interpretive theories are right in the sense that these various approaches can lend insight and legitimacy to the critically important task of interpreting our Constitution. Yet these interpretive theories are wrong to the extent that they seek to foreclose other interpretive approaches. Bartrum argues that it would be dangerous for a society to commit in advance to any theory of interpretation that would reduce the number and kind of interpretive tools that have emerged from the centuries of lived experience.

In one of his recent articles, titled *Two Dogmas of Originalism*, Professor

Bartrum challenges a prominent theory of constitutional interpretation called New Originalism. In his typically erudite fashion, Bartrum exposes a number of structural flaws within this interpretive modality. But his principal criticism is directed at the theory's constraint principle, which would restrict judges to follow a fixed semantic meaning that, in turn, is the product of certain linguistic facts (a term Bartrum calls "conceptually oxymoronic"). Bartrum bristles at this—or any—exclusive constraining principle because it would represent a radical challenge to our longstanding interpretive traditions. "Judges must speak fluently in our constitutional language, and opinions that depart too radically from the inherited interpretive norms are very much like assertions offered in a foreign tongue. In truth, these evolving practical norms, built and adapted over centuries of lived democratic experience, better keep judges within the contours of our collected political wisdom than any external normative theory ever could."

Professor Bartrum is not only one of the faculty's leading scholars, he is also a popular and effective teacher. A leader, a team player, and a welcome iconoclast, Bartrum lives in Boulder City, and is a frequent hockey player and mountain biker.



Bailey Bortolin

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Bailey Bortolin and Shaina Plaksin

Dean Dan's plug above for the fabulous Public Interest Law Association (PILA) Auction seems a fabulous segue to talk some about this year's fabulous PILA co-presidents, Bailey Bortolin and Shaina Plaksin.

Shaina has toiled tirelessly to make this year's auction bigger and better than ever. As a Boyd Public Interest Fellow, Shaina has worked as an intern in the Fraud Unit of the Nevada Attorney General's Office. Additionally, she has served as a student attorney in our Immigration Law Clinic, a research assistant for Professor Fatma Marouf, and founding president of Boyd's Federal Bar Association Student Chapter. Shaina is an articles editor for the *Nevada Law Journal*. Following graduation this May, she will clerk for the Honorable Gloria Navarro of the United States District Court for the District of Nevada. Of her time at Boyd, Shaina says, "I live by the belief that life is what you make of it. Looking back on my law school experience, I feel that I have made the most of the many opportunities at Boyd to learn and give back."

Also a Boyd Public Interest Fellow, Bailey currently finds herself in beautiful Carson City, Nevada, participating in Boyd's Legislative Externship Program; she is working as a lobbyist for the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada (LACSN) as well as Washoe Legal Services. In 2014



Shaina Plaksin

she earned the *Nevada Law Journal* Scholarly Writing Competition Award. Bailey has been a student attorney with Boyd's Family Justice Clinic, as well as events coordinator for the Child Advocacy Law Association. Recently she was named a recipient of the UNLV Graduate and Professional Student Association Service Award. "Boyd and LACSN have helped me cultivate a voice and a passion for helping community members in need," shares Bailey. "I am proud to be a part of such extraordinary legal programs."

If you can make it to the PILA auction for fun and fundraising next Thursday, 5:30 p.m., at the spectacular Smith Center – and we certainly hope you can – make sure you say "hey" to Bailey and Shaina and congratulate them on an event well done. For more information on the PILA Auction, please go to <http://law.unlv.edu/PILA2015auction>.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Christina Mills '07

Christina Mills is a '07 Boyd graduate and currently serves as senior counsel at Aruze Gaming America. Christina provides primary legal support to Aruze's Sales Team and assists with other corporate transactions and gaming compliance matters.

After Christina graduated from the University of San Diego with a degree in Political Science, she returned to Las Vegas to attend Boyd. Christina started her legal career at Aristocrat Technologies as a law clerk while attending Boyd, and was promoted to associate counsel in 2007. After Aristocrat, she spent time at MGM Resorts International and Station Casinos as associate general counsel, before she became the general counsel of SLS Las Vegas during the development phase of the property. Upon successfully opening the SLS, she returned to the manufacturing side of gaming with Aruze.

Christina credits many experiences at Boyd to her success as an attorney, including her time as an extern for Federal Judge James Mahan and participating in the Juvenile Justice Clinic; however, she credits her success in the gaming industry to her time as a student and mentee of Bob Faiss.

"Bob was a true inspiration to so many people and although I was just a drop in the bucket of his life, he was instrumental in making me the attorney and person I am today. I feel so privileged to have been a student of Bob's."

Christina is married to Darin Mills and they have a 2-year-old Labradoodle named Riese and 12-year-old cat named Calvin.
