



Boyd Briefs: February 26, 2015

From Dean Dan

The William S. Boyd School of Law is pleased to host the [10th Annual International Conference on Contracts](#) Feb. 27 and 28.

The two-day conference is designed to afford contracts scholars and teachers at all experience levels (including those preparing to enter the academy and those whose primary teaching appointment is not in a law school) an opportunity to present and discuss scholarship, works-in-progress, thought experiments, and pedagogical innovations. Attendees will also have the opportunity to network with colleagues, collaborators and mentors from around the country and other parts of the world.

Special thanks to our own Professor [Keith Rowley](#) for bringing this conference to Boyd and to our wonderful staff for their support.

Featured speakers at the conference include Professors [Susanne Augenhofer](#) (Humboldt University - Berlin), [Omri Ben-Shahar](#) (University of Chicago), [Victor Goldberg](#) (Columbia), [Robin Kar](#) (University of Illinois), [Nancy Kim](#) (California Western), and [Joasia Luzak](#) (University of Amsterdam).

I want to thank Professor [Stewart Macaulay](#) (University of Wisconsin) for helping us honor his co-author, the late Professor [Jean Braucher](#) (University of Arizona), with the conference's Lifetime Achievement Award.

For more information about the contracts conference, including the registration form and program, please click [here](#).

Dan

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FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Ruben Garcia

At the Quadrennial Convention of the AFL-CIO just over a year ago, Professor [Ruben Garcia](#) advocated on the convention floor for the adoption of a resolution calling for expanded labor-community partnerships. This resolution was part of a larger effort by Garcia and others to encourage unions to work jointly with nonunion workers to build a social movement to improve working conditions for all employees.

Professor Garcia brings experience, insight, creativity, and intellect to any conversation about labor and employment law. His years of practice in the field inform his judgment. And the depth and breadth of his scholarship draw attention and distinction. Labor and employment law requires



mastery of a number of overlapping federal, state, and even local legal regimes, and the State of Nevada is fortunate to have Professor Garcia on its law school's faculty.

In a forthcoming article titled *Politics at Work After Citizens United: The Minimum Wage as Case Study*, Professor Garcia begins to actualize -- in a scholarly fashion -- the mandate of that resolution calling for expanded labor-community partnerships. Specifically, Garcia analyzes various legal structures that make coordination between unions and nonunion groups difficult. He also reveals how the products of this type of coordination may be more vulnerable to retaliation than other forms of political combination. Garcia writes out of concern that the *Citizens United* decision has perverted our understanding of what political participation means. "Political participation is no longer seen largely as the act of voting, or running for office." In this maelstrom, according to Garcia, the labor movement has a choice: compete in the arms race of money at the national level, or "create new structures to localize politics and improve the lives of unionized and nonunion workers." His article confronts this choice, advocating specific reforms that would encourage, enable, and empower workers to participate in politics.

Professor Garcia is one of the faculty's most active participants in social media. You can follow him on Twitter at [@profrubengarcia](#).



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Ashley Lacher

Former NFL player and head coach and now ESPN football analyst Herm Edwards frequently reminds viewers of the following truism: "We are all a collection of our choices." Whether we're talking many (seemingly) small choices or one big fork-in-the-road kind of choice, the calls we make define us and what we value. First-year student Ashley Lacher made a big choice a few years back that speaks volumes for her.

Ashley took up golf at the relatively late age of 14. She clearly had an aptitude, however, and her game rapidly improved. As a sophomore at Faith Lutheran Junior/Senior High School here in Las Vegas, Ashley won the Nevada 3A state golf championship. She had proven she was good, and notice was taken by universities such as UCLA and Baylor, which offered her scholarships in hopes of landing her on their women's golf teams.

But just as these possibilities began to materialize, a situation far removed from golf presented itself. Ashley's grandmother and grandfather became ill and required a higher level of attention and care. The options available to Ashley's family were limited. And there is where Ashley made a choice. "I made the decision to give up the golf scholarships to stay in Las Vegas to care for my grandparents," Ashley recounts. "I helped keep their home functioning, making sure they had taken their medication and maintaining their medical supplies. Some days were more difficult than others, but we were able to make things work."

While carrying out her responsibilities as a caregiver, Ashley earned her B.S. in Accounting from UNLV and gained admission to Boyd. "My experiences with my grandparents have led me to pursue a career in law with a focus on elder care issues and financial planning," she affirms.

Another good choice, Ashley.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Eric T. Aldrian '10

Eric T. Aldrian '10 is part of the corporate counsel staff for Wynn Las Vegas, LLC, which owns and operates Wynn Las Vegas and Encore at Wynn Las Vegas here in Nevada. In this role, Eric negotiates commercial agreements; drafts marketing and promotional offers; provides legal guidance to hotel management; ensures the company's compliance with federal, state, and gaming regulations; and oversees much of the company's litigation.

Eric was born in Southern California and attended the University of San Diego, where he met his future wife (a native of Las Vegas). Eric moved to Las Vegas after graduation. After working in the casino industry for a few years, Eric attended the William S. Boyd School of Law. During law school, Eric served as a judicial extern for the Honorable Chief Judge Roger L. Hunt in the United States District Court for the District of Nevada. He also held several internships at local gaming companies. During the summer before his 3L year, Eric was a summer associate at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP, one of the city's most prominent law firms.

Upon graduation, Eric became a litigation associate at Brownstein, and later moved to Pisanelli Bice PLLC, where he focused on complex commercial litigation. A few years later, Eric was offered the opportunity to go "in-house" at Wynn Las Vegas, which he quickly accepted. Throughout it all, Eric has maintained his pro bono commitment, representing abused and neglected children and others in need of pro bono legal services through the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada.

Eric credits his success to his beautiful wife (who brought him to Las Vegas) and the exceptional faculty and staff at the William S. Boyd School of Law. He is very excited about the school's new LL.M. in Gaming Law and Regulation, which will further position Boyd as the preeminent school for gaming law in the world.
