



Boyd Briefs: April 2, 2015

From Dean Dan

I want to recognize the good work of eight of our law students who spent part of their spring break in northern Nevada participating in our Alternative Spring Break program.

Over the course of several days, our students visited Minden, Carson City, and Reno. During the trip, they met with prosecutors, public defenders, and judges; observed court proceedings; toured the Supreme Court of Nevada; observed the legislative session; met with staff from Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevadans; volunteered at the Food Bank of Northern Nevada; and more. Special thanks to all of our northern alumni who made our students feel so welcome.

This is our third Alternative Spring Break program. Our goal is for our students to work with different legal communities throughout the state. We hope that the students who participate in the program will one day be interested in returning to Nevada's rural counties to serve those in need of increased access to legal services and information.

We appreciate the support of the Access to Justice Commission and the State Bar of Nevada's Lawyer Referral and Information Service in helping make this program possible. Thank you to everyone in northern Nevada who graciously hosted our students and enriched their law school experience. And special thanks to Nikki Harris, professional development and public interest coordinator, for coordinating the trip and traveling with the group.

To see photos from this year's Alternative Spring Break, click [here](#).



Dan

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FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Greg Gemignani

Greg Gemignani is a software systems engineer turned corporate lawyer. He is also a Wisconsinite turned Nevadan. But turned may connote more of a transformation than is accurate. After all, his corporate law practice is grounded in intellectual property law. And this desert dweller is a proud stock holder of the Green Bay Packers.

Professor Gemignani is one of our distinguished adjunct professors. He frequently teaches our introductory class in gaming law, and he has led seminars in Indian gaming and gaming law policy. Gemignani teaches these courses because he is a prominent practitioner who is able to translate his experience and expertise into the setting of law school classroom. He and [Jennifer Roberts](#) frequently instruct as a team. As one of their students recently stated in a course evaluation, "They do very well as a 'one-two' punch!"

Professor Gemignani is a partner at Dickinson Wright, a large firm with nearly 400 lawyers in 13 offices in North America. He was one of eight lawyers who joined the firm when Lionel Sawyer recently closed. Gemignani's clients range from the largest casino companies to small, start-up ventures. For gaming and non-gaming clients, he practices trademark law, copyright law, entertainment law, Internet law, and technology law. He negotiates media agreements and technology agreements. He has a niche practice in drafting rules and terms for contests and promotions in a variety of contexts. And he was named one of the Best Lawyers in America for IT outsourcing law. Gemignani's practice incorporates his background in systems and software engineering to better understand the complex needs of his clients and to find creative solutions.

The William S. Boyd School of Law is proud of its affiliation with the Nevada bar, and we are grateful for the support of our adopted alumni.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Madeline Arcellana

Prospective law students frequently gravitate toward the liberal arts in preparation for the pursuit of a J.D. Few consider the study of mathematics a pathway to law school (many of those few, in fact, find math study downright repellent). It does happen, though, and fourth-year Boyd student Madeline Arcellana is proof positive.

As an undergraduate at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, Madeline was academically smitten. "I loved the study of mathematics and the processes by which it allows one to think and consider the world," Madeline recounts. "I could simplify or delineate complex scenarios to find the best solution." But the typical professional career options for math majors -- teacher, accountant, actuary -- didn't exactly figure for her. Hoping to experience something more in the "human realm," Madeline spent a year in service to her community through AmeriCorps, which helped her solve the equation: the law.

While working full-time to finance her legal studies, Madeline has been a proud part-time evening student, and a very active one. She has served three years on the Student Bar Association Board of Governors, currently as vice president for the part-time division. She also has been a member of the Organization of Part-Time and Non-Traditional Law Students, Phi Alpha Delta, and the Organization of Women Law Students.

Her May graduation approaches, and Madeline calculates her future thusly: "While attending Boyd, my full-time job was at a software company, where I designed products. When taking Property Law during my 2L year, I was introduced to intellectual property law, which illuminated a whole new path for me. Since then, my academic focus has been on IP, and now my goal is to find a career that lets me blend two of my passions: technology and protection for inventors."

It all seems to add up, Madeline.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: John Yang '08

John Yang '08 is the senior director of intellectual property for Euro-Pro, the creator of the famous Shark and Ninja brands. He lives in Newton, Mass., and received his undergraduate degree from the University of



California, Berkeley. Euro-Pro is a pioneer in innovative cleaning solutions and small household appliances. In his current role, John is responsible for all aspects of intellectual property for the company, including procuring and enforcing patents, trademarks and copyrights, as well as managing IP-related litigation matters.

Prior to law school, John worked for nearly 10 years in the semiconductor industry as a process engineer and research scientist. Although satisfied with the work, John always felt that there were greater challenges to be had in life. A little nudge from his wife helped push him over the threshold. Law school exposed John to various practice areas, but he decided to leverage his technical skills and educational background to focus on intellectual property law, with specific emphasis on patents.

Although he began his legal education in Texas, John is forever grateful to Boyd for accepting him as a transfer student into the evening program. Admittedly, it took him a few years to realize it, but John recognizes his Boyd education prepared him for the Bar, but it was the alternative thinking and thought-provoking engagements with the outstanding faculty and fellow classmates that helped mold him into the independent thinker he is today. This combination of stimulating education and camaraderie taught him that when presented with a problem, do not get lost staring at the tree, but remember to take a step back and look at the forest. Even though the problem may appear impossible to overcome initially, approaching it from different angles will ultimately lead you to a solution in the end.
