



Boyd Briefs: April 9, 2015

## From Dean Dan

I want to congratulate Professors [Fatma Marouf](#) and [Michael Kagan](#), and their collaborator Rebecca Gill (UNLV Political Science) for their selection as recipients of a UNLV [Faculty Opportunity Award](#). The award will be used to fund empirical work for an article about gender interactions in immigration appeals. This award both supports this fascinating and important research project, and affirms the high quality of their scholarship more generally. I'm also delighted to see our faculty's work recognized by the University -- and all the better that it's work undertaken in collaboration with the Political Science department.

The recipients were announced this week by the Offices of the President and the Vice President for Research and Economic Development. The awards, which were created in 2012, are designed to support faculty research with potential for continued external funding and to provide financial support needed to complete significant scholarly/creative works. This year a total of 20 proposals will be funded totaling approximately \$500,000.

Congratulations again, Fatma and Mike!

Also, I want to invite you to attend an event this evening. The UNLV Department of History and the Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution are co-hosting [Dr. Sean Foley](#) for a University Forum Lecture tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Barrick Museum Auditorium. Dr. Foley, an associate professor at Middle Tennessee State University specializing in Islamic and Middle East history, will speak on the topic of "To Forgive but Not Forget: Saudi Arabia and Middle East in the Age of ISIS."

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, please click [here](#).

Dan

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## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: David Wall

Formerly a litigator, public defender, district attorney, and trial judge, Professor [David Wall](#), who recently joined JAMS as a mediator and arbitrator, is an adjunct who brings a wealth of experience into our classrooms. As a litigator, Wall worked at -- and was a partner in -- prominent Nevada law firms. As a public defender, Wall was a member of the Capital Murder Defense team. As a district attorney, Wall prosecuted primarily homicide and other high-profile cases. And as a trial judge he consistently received the highest ratings, and was even named one of the "500 Leading Judges in America." He was such a respected and popular



judge that when Wall resigned from the bench in 2010, one blogger pondered whether there was some way that the public could force Judge Wall to complete the full six-year term to which he had been re-elected. With the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution one formidable barrier to such legal efforts, this blogger posited "we hogtie Wall to the bench and force him to continue to make rational, informed decisions for the next 3.5 years." Enthusiasm for the manifold contributions of a public servant is as telling as it is rare.

Professor Wall also has the rare distinction of earning Hollywood's gaze. Wall was one of the two lead prosecutors in the first trial related to the death of casino boss Ted Binion in 1998. The Binion story includes murder, buried treasure, drugs, a staged suicide, organized crime, and other dramatic effects. Accordingly, the list of Hollywood portrayals of this story -- and, therefore, also of the prosecution team -- grows.

Although his notoriety is amusing, it is Professor Wall's distinguished service as a lion of the Nevada Bar that is paramount. UNLV is fortunate to have him as a faculty colleague.



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Gil Kahn

Gil Kahn has got it going on. It isn't just a snappy opening line.

In his second year at Boyd, Gil has amassed a formidable record of accomplishment. He has received CALI awards for earning the top grade in several courses. He is a member of Society of Advocates, participating last month in the National Labor & Employment Law Moot Court Competition in New York City with partner [Stephanie Getler](#); and recently was named Lead Articles Editor for the *Nevada Law Journal*. Gil is an extern for United States District Court Judge James Mahan and a Research Fellow for Professor Sara Gordon (along with classmate [Dawn Nielsen](#)), reviewing and recommending changes to Alaska statutes governing the treatment of Alaskans with mental illness.

But if you ask Gil in what he takes the most pride, he likely will speak of his heritage. After completing his undergraduate degree at UNLV, Gil decided to work at a local non-profit organization, the Jewish Federation of Las Vegas, serving as director of the Hillel Jewish Student Center. Gil recounts leading a group of 40 students on an educational trip through Israel, staying in a youth hostel; taking them to Yad Vashem, Israel's national Holocaust museum; and sharing stories from his grandmother, who was forced into a concentration camp as a young girl. It was a poignant experience for Gil. "For the first time, I began to understand that the streams that carry us through our lives begin from the smallest of ripples. My ripple was a 14-year-old Romanian girl in a concentration camp decades ago, and it has expanded into the stream that brought me to that cramped hostel, trying to educate and inspire a room of college students. Today, it has carried me to the next segment of my life -- the pursuit of a legal education and career."

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Linda Marie Norcross '04

[Linda Marie Norcross '04](#) is a shareholder with the Las Vegas office of Howard & Howard Attorneys PLLC, as well as the firm's Trademark Practice Group Leader. Linda's practice focuses on protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights, with primary emphasis on



trademarks. She advises clients on all facets of trademark prosecution and enforcement (both foreign and domestic) including: trademark selection; clearance; proper trademark use; registration and renewals; and related transactions. Additionally, Linda assists the firm's Corporate Group with the due diligence process for mergers and acquisitions.

A UNLV undergraduate, Linda attended Boyd's part-time evening program, as a single parent, while working full-time in the MGM Grand Executive Legal Department. Linda is particularly grateful and acknowledges that she would not have been able to attend law school at all were it not for Boyd's part-time program. During her first three years at Boyd, Linda was elected class representative for the Student Bar Association, ultimately serving as vice president in her final year. Linda enjoys any opportunity to return to Boyd to volunteer her time, whether to guest lecture in Professor LaFrance's IP classes, or share her perspective on career development through Boyd's Career Services Department.

Linda serves as an associate mentor within her firm, as well as coordinates marketing efforts for the Las Vegas office. Recently, Linda was a featured speaker at UNLV's Lee Business School and volunteered as a business plan judge in both the Dominic Anthony Marrocco Southern Nevada Business Plan and D.W. Reynolds Governor's Cup collegiate business plan competitions.

Linda has been honored as one of the "Mountain States Super Lawyers" in 2013 and 2014, *Desert Companion's* "Top Lawyers 2014", and *Nevada Business Magazine's* "Legal Elite Top 100 Lawyers" 2009-2013, as well as named a 2009 "Best Up & Coming Attorney."

Linda is married to Matt, a local musician and stagehand. They are the proud parents of Shelby Larae (24), Jameson Presley (9), and Beckham Bradford (2). When not chasing around the littlest Norcrosses, Linda and Matt love to attend live music events and travel with the family.