



Boyd Briefs: August 27, 2015

From Dean Dan

Welcome to the start of a new school year at the Boyd School of Law. I hope you had a wonderful, productive summer. We did at Boyd.

I'm delighted to report that in a study exploring the scholarly impact of law faculties at the top third of ABA-accredited law schools, the Boyd faculty was ranked 50th among law schools nationwide. This is a remarkable success for a school as young as ours and shows how widely respected and recognized our faculty is. This ranking was published in the *Scholarly Impact of Law School Faculties in 2015* and can be found [here](#).

Among the many individual accomplishments of our faculty at Boyd, Jean Sternlight, Director of the Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution and Michael and Sonja Saltman Professor of Law, was honored with the 2015 American College of Civil Trial Mediators [Lifetime Achievement Award](#) (you can read more about Professor Sternlight below). Professor Marketa Trimble was elected as an associate member of the [International Academy of Comparative Law](#), a high honor in an internationally distinguished organization that brings together scholars to focus on the comparative study of legal systems.

Along with our commitment to scholarly excellence, Boyd continues to serve the legal needs of Nevadans. This year our Community Law Day drew its biggest response ever, with more than 200 people coming to Boyd to attend free legal education classes. Students, faculty, staff, alumni, and public interest lawyers teamed up Saturday morning in partnership with the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada and Nevada Legal Services. The classes focused on bankruptcy law, divorce, paternity/custody, tenants' rights, access to tax refunds, and more. My thanks to Associate Dean Christine Smith for another great year.

Finally, we are proud and excited to welcome the inaugural class of students in our [LL.M. in Gaming Law and Regulation](#). This is the first LL.M. in gaming law in the country, and we have an excellent group of students from around the country. As gaming continues to expand throughout the world, we are committed to building the leading center for gaming law education in the nation.

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FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Jean Sternlight

Jean Sternlight is Director of the Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution and Michael and Sonja Saltman Professor of Law. This year alone, she received both the ABA Section of Dispute Resolution Award for Outstanding Scholarly Work and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American College of Civil and Trial Mediators.

1. Which of your recent books should I read? *Psychology for Lawyers: Understanding the Human Factors in Negotiation, Litigation, and Decision Making* (ABA 2012). Together with my co-author, Professor Jennifer Robbennolt from Illinois, I explore how lawyers can draw on cognitive and social psychology to become more effective counselors and advocates. We first summarize the psychology of understanding, memory, communication, judgment, and decision making. We then show how this psychology can help lawyers more effectively interview and counsel their clients, conduct discovery, write, negotiate, and also be happier, more productive, and more ethical. I use these same insights when I teach an upper-level class on psychology and lawyering and when I teach civil procedure to first-year students.

2. What are you working on? My study of psychology suggests that people tend to learn best and most through stories. That insight led me to work on a book that will tell stories about real lawyers to illustrate in a memorable and human way how knowledge of cognitive and social psychology can help attorneys be more effective. Each chapter will focus on a different well-known lawyer -- civil and criminal litigators, transactional attorneys, family practitioners, and so on. The book will show either how the lawyer used psychology to great effect or how the lawyer failed badly in ways that psychology would have predicted. Sadly, some of the failures even ended up disbarred or in jail.

3. What reading has influenced you? I just finished reading Kate Atkinson's novel, *Life After Life* (Hachette 2013), and I loved it. This book traces the lives of a set of characters in England, around the time of World War II. But what is unique about it is that the characters' lives keep ending differently. Small changes in events make major differences in whether people live or die, who they marry, where they live, and what jobs they get. The main character dies many times in many different ways, but she also leads many different and rewarding lives. I found it empowering to see all the different ways a person's life could go.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Anthony Ruggiero

Betty Smith gave us *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, Mikhail Prokhorov gave us the Brooklyn Nets, and, of course, the Beastie Boys gave us "No Sleep till Brooklyn." But it is Brooklyn that gave the Boyd School of Law third-year part-time evening student Anthony Ruggiero.

Born in the storied borough and raised in Queens, Anthony earned a B.S. in Criminal Justice from St. John's University and embarked on a career in the field. While the New Yorker will never be taken out of Anthony, there came a point where he chose to experience the world beyond New York. "I relocated to Las Vegas in November 1999 and am proud to say it was the best decision I ever made," says Anthony. "To date, I have been afforded every opportunity an individual with drive and determination to succeed could ask for."

Along with earning a master's in Public Administration from UNLV, Anthony has established a formidable record of service in the areas of public affairs and public communications. "My employment background includes positions as a Special Assistant to the Mayor and City Council for the City of Las Vegas, Chief Investigator for the State of Nevada

Consumer Affairs Division, and Criminal Investigator for the State of Nevada Office of the Attorney General. I have had unique and exceptional opportunities to work with elected officials, high-ranking individuals, and administrators from a variety of backgrounds."

Anthony and his wife, Barbara, are the proud parents of Mia and Anthony Jr. And he's loving his law studies. "I have thoroughly enjoyed my Boyd experience thus far, not only because I have a great cohort in the rising third-year part-time evening class, but because the curriculum is crafted for success, and I am confident I will be thoroughly prepared for the bar exam and the profession."



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Amber Robinson '06

Amber Robinson, class of 2006, is Battle Born and attended UNLV's northern rival before moving back home for law school. Amber enjoyed her time at Boyd. She continues to be active at Boyd, as a board member on the Boyd School of Law Alumni Chapter Board since 2012. She has served as Board secretary and is currently the Board's treasurer. Amber continues to provide financial support to the Alumni Chapter's 3L scholarship and the chapter's annual golf tournament.

Upon graduation, Amber clerked for two family court judges. She then was offered a job by a firm focusing on divorce litigation. In 2011, Amber opened her own firm, Robinson Law Group, exclusively practicing in family law.

Over the years, Amber volunteered with the Truancy Diversion Program, spending her Friday mornings at a nearby middle school. She was recently recognized for her pro bono service to the community by Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada. Next on Amber's list of community involvement is to become actively involved with Junior League.

Amber combats the stress of running her own firm and business through yoga, hiking, and regular exercise. She is especially fond of traveling out of the country as a way to relax and rejuvenate.
