

Boyd Briefs: October 29, 2015

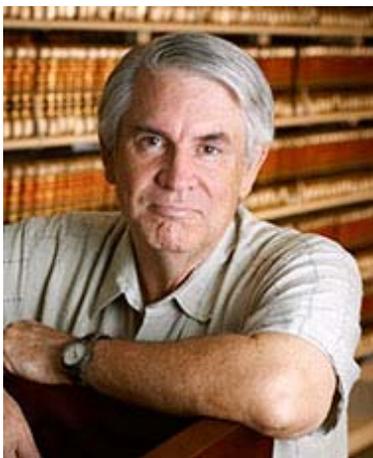
From Dean Dan

I'm delighted that on Nov. 19, the Nevada Court of Appeals will sit at the UNLV Boyd School of Law. The Court will hear two civil cases that morning inside our Thomas & Mack Moot Court, and afterward the judges will take questions from our students. This is a terrific opportunity for the Boyd community and we are grateful to Chief Judge Michael Gibbons, Judge Abbi Silver, and Judge Jerome Tao for the chance to experience oral arguments firsthand. This is extremely valuable as we train lawyers to be skilled advocates.

The successful efforts to create the Nevada Court of Appeals roughly a year ago was led by Nevada Supreme Court Chief Justice James Hardesty. The Court has already made a significant impact in the Nevada legal system, helping hundreds of cases reach resolution much sooner and providing guidance and decisions in critical areas of case law. It was a great pleasure for me to support the creation of this Court, and it is a thrill to see it in operation, particularly at Boyd. The Court has already hired several Boyd graduates as clerks and we are thankful that they are helping provide this kind of opportunity for our students.

Dan

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FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Thomas B. McAfee

As almost every Boyd graduate knows, Thomas B. McAfee is an expert on the Constitution and an advocate for its thoughtful interpretation. One of the founding faculty members at Boyd, he has been teaching in law schools for more than 30 years.

1. What are you working on? I am completing the research and writing of a book I've worked on for almost two years. The tentative title is *Mormonism and Marriage Equality: History, Law, and Prospects*. It documents the evolving Latter-day Saints (LDS) perspective on homosexuality and gay rights, the change from the 1960s to 2015 being more dramatic than one might imagine. Exemplary is that LDS leaders supported repealing orientation employment discrimination laws in the 1970s, and in 2015 endorsed the Utah anti-discrimination law that was adopted. The book also carefully reviews the role of the church in the 25 years of debate over marriage equality. It is largely addressed to the thoughtful LDS member and leader, ultimately examining the prospects for any further evolution -- but will hopefully be of interest to any thoughtful person.

2. Which of your recent articles should I read? I would recommend "Setting Us Up for Disaster: The Supreme Court's Decision in *Terry v. Ohio*," 12 Nev. L.J. 609 (2012). This is a rare Fourth Amendment article, produced for a symposium issue on "disastrous" Supreme Court opinions. It charmingly explains how the stop and frisk decision that seemed almost expansive in securing Fourth Amendment rights has been construed and applied to contribute immensely to eviscerating the security offered by the Fourth Amendment. Mainly it was fun to write and will be fun to read (not being too long, for example). Read this and it may convince you to take Criminal Procedure: Investigations.

3. How has your research and writing affected your teaching? I'm always astonished that whenever I go to "explain" something to support a scholarly thesis, I discover that there is more to learn -- and to think about -- if I am going to state the underlying ideas in an understandable and convincing fashion. This semester I will teach *Lawrence v. Texas*, invalidating laws making sodomy a crime, for at least the 10th time. This past year I came to fully appreciate that *Lawrence* is not really a decision about sex (even adult consensual sex), but is really about *relationships* -- and in particular the intimate relationship of gay couples. And now I fully perceive the decisive role it played to further our journey on the path to marriage equality this year. So the idea that our legal scholarship can contribute to teaching law is no myth.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Lynell Reyes

1. Tell us about your summer at Switch (a leading data technology company based in Las Vegas)? Prior to law school, I was the Las Vegas marketing representative for Samsung Electronics. My background in technology and goal of becoming corporate counsel piqued my interest in applying to work at Switch. I learned about its Corporate Summer Internship Program through the Career Development Office: I applied, interviewed, and was offered the position. During my summer at Switch, I worked on a variety of topics from property to contracts to regulatory compliance.

2. You have a son. What's he into these days? Kainoa loves knights and Darth Vader. We spend time together pretend jousting and listening to Darth Vader's theme song on repeat during car rides. He also likes to help me highlight entire pages in my casebooks. Kainoa tells his friends that his mommy also goes to school.

3. You are the Latin Bar Association (LBA) liaison for La Voz, Boyd's Latino student association. Tell us a little about your work with LBA on La Voz's Huellas program. As liaison, I work closely with the LBA to secure attorneys for the Huellas mentorship program that groups a practicing attorney with a law student, an undergraduate student, and a high school student. It's been a fantastic way to network while positively impacting the legal community.

4. What's been your "Wow, that's really cool!" moment in your time at Boyd? I have accepted a summer associate position with Fox Rothschild next year. Between Switch and Fox, the Career Development Office has really prepared me and put me on the right track to pursuing these professional opportunities. I think to myself, "Wow, that's really cool!" My career is taking off and I am so thankful for everyone's help at Boyd in helping make my dreams come true.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Stephanie Buntin '11

Stephanie Buntin '11 is an intellectual property attorney in the Las Vegas office of Michigan-based firm Howard & Howard Attorneys PLLC. Stephanie's practice focuses on trademark prosecution and patent prosecution for businesses. In addition, Stephanie represents abused and neglected children pro bono with the Children's Attorneys Project through the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada.

Stephanie graduated from Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. with a degree in biology. During her time at Boyd, Stephanie was an articles editor for the *Nevada Law Journal*.

She enjoyed Professor Mary LaFrance's intellectual property courses and seminars, which helped prepare her to sit for the patent bar exam to become a registered U.S. Patent Attorney. Stephanie is also grateful to Professors Jean Sternlight and Robert Corrales for their mentorship throughout law school.

Stephanie lives in Summerlin with fellow '11 Boyd alumn and family law attorney Ilan Acherman. In their free time, they enjoy traveling, cooking, and binge-watching their favorite television shows.
