



Boyd Briefs: November 12, 2015

## From Dean Dan

This week, I want to highlight the Boyd School of Law students who received scholarships awarded by the Las Vegas Chapter of the National Bar Association (LVNBA). The 26th Annual Scholarship Gala was held Nov. 7 and featured many Boyd students and alumni. Each year, the event helps raise scholarship funds for law students with an extensive record of public and community service and who are committed to serving minority, low-income, and underserved communities in Clark County.

Congratulations to the winners of the following scholarships:

### **Judge Johnnie Rawlinson Scholarship**

Marckia Hayes  
Scott Morris

### **Judge Del Guy Scholarship**

Keith Hightower  
Loline-Marie Djidade

### **Judge Earl White Scholarship**

Crislove Igeleke  
Matthew Cook

### **LVNBA President's Scholarship**

Steven Washington

Thanks to Boyd Professor [Rachel Anderson](#), president of the LVNBA, to Booker Evans, Jr., and to all in this organization who do so much to recognize and support Boyd students.

I'd also like to congratulate Boyd alum [Terry Johnson](#) '11 on being honored with the Attorney of the Year award. Terry is Boyd's first member of the Nevada Gaming Control Board and was last year's recipient of UNLV Law's Young Alumni Award.

Dan

Dean & Richard J. Morgan Professor of Law  
[daniel.hamilton@unlv.edu](mailto:daniel.hamilton@unlv.edu)  
[facebook.com/DeanDanHamilton](https://www.facebook.com/DeanDanHamilton)



## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Terrill Pollman

Professor Terry Pollman was on the founding faculty at UNLV. She is nationally recognized for designing and developing Boyd's Lawyering Process Program, consistently ranked top five in the nation.

**What are you working on?** In addition to writing a legal research book with colleagues here at UNLV, I plan to spend this spring developing a topic that grows out of the course I've been teaching on Law, Language, and Leadership. The class devotes equal time to leadership theory and to rhetoric, both classical and modern. I think leadership theory is integral to what we endeavor to accomplish here, as Nevada's only law school. Combining leadership theory with the study of written, oral, and visual persuasion in the legal context is currently underdeveloped and ripe for exploration.

**Which of your recent publications should I read?** Last summer I led the project of transforming *Legal Writing: the Journal of the Legal Writing Institute* from its traditional print publication to an electronic format. I learned so much by doing it. As part of the transformation process, I solicited essays from respected librarians and legal research scholars on the ways that our new electronic sources are changing legal research. Their responses are fascinating; you can read them [here](#). My next project for the journal is a series of essays on how technology is changing the way judges read and write.

**What recent listening or reading has influenced you?** The leadership students and I analyze various examples of oral rhetoric. The more famous speeches -- Churchill's "We Shall Fight on the Beaches," Shakespeare's "St. Crispin's Day," King's "I Have a Dream" -- have the power to thrill each time you listen. The more you know about them, the more fun it is to hear them again. But the students also make their own choices of speeches to analyze, and some of them are so surprising and wonderful. For example, one of my students is a former semi-pro football player who has listened to the same speech from a football movie for the last 16 years whenever he wants help rising to a challenge.



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Rebecca Wolfson

**You lived in London for a summer and worked for a member of Parliament. How cool was that?** After working for the Bay Area DA's office during college at the University of San Francisco, I wanted to see how the law fit into different cultures. Working for a member of Parliament was a life-changing and unforgettable experience. Plus, who doesn't love listening to a British accent?

**Growing up, you were a competitive gymnast. How has that experience carried over into your more recent endeavors?** Gymnastics has always been an integral part of my life. The sport taught me discipline and self-motivation, traits that guided me through law school and will continue to serve me in my legal career. Now, as a coach, I'm able to pay it forward by helping teach and motivate the younger generation of gymnasts.

**Your parents are both attorneys. That would send some children running in the opposite direction, but not you, huh?** I was lucky to get a crash course on the legal system because growing up, my parents would let me tag along to court. I started using legal jargon and it slowly became part of my vocabulary. I absolutely loved it. From watching my parents work, I became skilled at arguing points -- I think it even shocked them. And at a very young age, I knew I loved the law.

**You graduate in December. What then?** I have accepted a judicial

clerkship with the Honorable Valerie Adair next August. From spending a summer with Judge Adair after my 1L year, I instantly knew she would make an ideal mentor, guiding me into my first year of practice. No matter where I land, I know I will practice in Las Vegas. I look forward to serving the community that shaped me into the lawyer I hope to become.

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## **ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Jason VanMeetren '11**



Jason VanMeetren '11 currently practices real estate law at one of Beverly Hills' most trusted firms, Eisner Jaffe. Jason's practice group focuses primarily on real estate finance and acquisitions/dispositions of multi-family and commercial properties -- from negotiation through final closing. Jason is licensed in Nevada, California and Colorado.

Jason graduated from Stanford University in 2002 and played professional baseball in the Seattle Mariners and New York Yankees organizations before earning his J.D. at Boyd. Having played on teams for the better part of his life, the collegial atmosphere at Boyd was one of the most significant aspects of Jason's law school experience.

As a member of the *Nevada Law Journal*, president of the Christian Legal Society and Federalist Society, and active participant in Boyd's intramural sports teams, Jason enjoyed collaborating with other talented Boyd students. He developed strong relationships with many of his classmates that remain years after graduation. Jason is proud to see his Boyd classmates become successful and respected attorneys in their various fields, and he looks forward to further engaging with Southern California alumni to promote the Boyd brand.

In his free time, Jason enjoys tea parties with his 4-year-old daughter, Ellie, and early wake-up calls with his 6-month-old daughter, Sadie, and wife, Karri.

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