



Boyd Briefs: December 3, 2015

From Dean Dan

The UNLV Boyd School of Law's nationally regarded [Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution](#) is a leader in the study of dispute resolution and mediation. Under the leadership of Director [Jean Sternlight](#) and Associate Director [Lydia Nussbaum](#), the Saltman Center recently celebrated 10 years of research, teaching, and public service in the field of dispute resolution. Professor Sternlight's work in the field was recognized earlier this year with two major awards, the 2015 American College of Civil Trial Mediators Lifetime Achievement Award and the 2015 American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution's Award for Outstanding Scholarly Work. We are grateful to Mike and Sonja Saltman and to the Board of the Saltman Center for their innovation and support. As part of its ongoing mission to offer quality continuing education programs on topics in conflict resolution that are of interest to the legal and larger community, we are excited to announce the center will host the following training:

Mediation Essentials: 40-hour Basic Mediation Training

Jan. 7-9 and 11-12, 2016

An interactive course designed to train participants in basic mediation skills and offer insight into the psychology of conflict and negotiation.

Trainers: [David Doto](#) and [Selina Shultz](#)

Please click [here](#) for more information.

Boyd at Work in the Community: To highlight the great work Boyd students and alumni are doing in service to Nevada, each week we will feature a member of our community whose efforts build upon our public service commitment.

This week, we recognize Adam and Homa Woodrum (spotlighted below) for their work with the [Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada](#). Both Adam and Homa, attorneys with boutique firm Woodrum Law, were named the Legal Aid Center's October 2015 Pro Bono Attorneys of the Month.

This year alone, they have taken on nine pro bono cases through the center assisting low-income clients and children in a variety of matters including guardianship, divorce, appeals, and children's abuse and neglect. Additionally, Adam and Homa have participated in the center's Ask-A-Lawyer Program, which offers unrepresented individuals a free 15-minute consultation with volunteer attorneys.

Dan

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FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Elizabeth MacDowell

In addition to serving as the director of Boyd's Family Justice Clinic, Elizabeth MacDowell has been studying the effects of domestic violence self-help clinics and the collateral consequences of criminal convictions. The clinic provides a range of family law representation services to low-income clients.

What's the most important thing you are working on right now? That would be my survey of individuals with criminal convictions. My students and I are talking to people about the collateral consequences of those convictions: in other words, how their convictions relate to accumulating debt, finding jobs and housing, and their relationships with their families. We are also asking about their vision for changing the system, and whether they believe they can make a difference. There is a general recognition today that the criminal system is in disrepair. But there is very little research showing how people fare after a conviction or incarceration, and even less about how they view the criminal system, political involvement, or paths to reform. This research can help fill the gap.

Which of your recent articles should I read? *Domestic Violence and the Politics of Self-Help*, 22 WM. & MARY J. WOMEN & L. (forthcoming 2016) is the first of two articles coming out next year that grew out of my ethnography of courthouse self-help centers. Self-help services are viewed as a way to help courts with their caseloads and increase access to justice. My findings show that self-help programs may sometimes constrain rather than increase access to justice. I'm hoping my research encourages more thoughtful implementation and evaluation of legal services for unrepresented litigants. On a personal level, the study -- which employed traditional methods for grounded, ethnographic research, including nonparticipant observation -- has been a long-term endeavor. I've been working on this research since 2009, and it's gratifying to get it out in the world and hopefully make a positive difference in the practice and theory of access to justice.

How do your research and writing affect your teaching? In my view, every research project is about teaching, outreach, and positive social change. For example, the collateral consequences survey grew out of teaching and directing the Family Justice Clinic (FJC), which focuses on inmates and their families. Several generations of FJC students helped develop the survey and interview the first wave of respondents. The survey has also helped me forge relationships with community organizations working on reentry issues; those organizations let us recruit respondents and conduct surveys at their offices. Our findings might help our research partners understand their clients better. I also use the study to provide examples in my Criminal Procedure class. This gets new generations of students excited about the clinic and interested in research and criminal system reform.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Kezziah Dale

You have a unique and interesting name. It is biblical in origin, yes? My name is from the last chapter of Job in the Bible. Spelled "Kazia," she was the second daughter (as I am) born to Job after he survived incredible trials and tribulations. She was given an inheritance alongside her brothers. Kazia was also the younger sister of the original pancake lady, Jemimah. Although I think breakfast for dinner is an amazing idea, I'm grateful to not be the firstborn, aka the Syrup Queen.

Tell us about your undergraduate study at the Air Force Academy and your time in uniform. I worked very hard to be a "stealth cadet" at the Air Force Academy, complying with the academic/physical/military standards and keeping out of trouble. For me, it was something to get through. While in active duty, I met some pretty incredible people and traveled to amazing places. One of my favorite trips was to North Pole, Alaska in the fall of 2009 where my wing participated in a multinational war game event.

How has your USAF experience helped during this, your first year of law school? My experiences in the Air Force have really helped shape my perspective when faced with the daunting challenge of keeping up with the daily requirements. Being in an environment where I am interested in the subject matter, no one is yelling at me, and the tasks before me may be attainable?! I feel very lucky to have the opportunity to learn about a field I enjoy.

What are you thinking in terms of career goals? In terms of career goals, I hope to practice in Columbia, S.C. within the next 10 years. It would be incredible to be a member of the District of South Carolina's Assistant United States Attorney's office team.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Adam '06 and Homa '07 Woodrum

As a Boyd graduate, Homa Woodrum '07 started her civil practice in January 2014, focusing on elder law, probate, guardianship (minor and adult), litigation, and immigration. The majority of Woodrum Law's guardianship practice focuses on exploitation cases and subsequent recovery actions. Last year, Homa was named one of two top guardianship attorneys by KNPR's *Desert Companion* magazine. Homa is also a co-founder of the free online disability law resource, The Allergy Law Project. She lobbied for stock epinephrine in Nevada and sesame allergen labeling in Washington, D.C.

In the summer of 2015, Adam Woodrum '06 joined Homa and brought his criminal expertise to the fold. Previously, he served as an Assistant District Attorney, a Nevada Deputy Attorney General, and a Senior Deputy Public Defender. Adam has argued multiple times before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The practical writing and speaking experience taught at Boyd was a great start to a career spent (so far) largely in the courtroom.

Adam and Homa both believe strongly in equal access to justice and are fortunate to be able to devote a generous portion of their time to representation and service of indigent individuals. Adam and Homa were recently recognized as the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada's October 2015 Pro Bono Attorneys of the Month.