



Boyd Briefs: January 21, 2016

From Dean Dan

Thank you to our students, faculty and staff for another terrific semester. This will be the last issue of Boyd Briefs until January when the spring semester begins.

Until then, I would like to highlight some of the exciting and innovative courses being offered at Boyd during the winter intersession.

Jan. 4-8

Nevada Civil Practice

[Dennis Kennedy](#), [Kelly Stout '10](#), and [Sarah Harmon](#)

Jan. 7-9 and 11-12

Mediation Essentials

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

Jan. 11-15

Bankruptcy Litigation

[Judge Gregg Zive](#)

Jan. 11-15

Mediation Advocacy

[Judge Valerie Cooke](#)

Jan. 11-15

Sports Betting and Fantasy Sports

[Keith Miller](#)

Dan

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FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Fatma Marouf

[Fatma Marouf](#) teaches immigration and human rights law and co-directs the Immigration Clinic. Her research and advocacy has meant concrete progress toward solving a range of problems associated with the adjudication of immigration cases.

What's your most significant current project? One of the most important projects I'm working on right now is a report for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on alternatives to detention for LGBT



asylum seekers. Over 400,000 people pass through immigration detention in the U.S. each year, many of whom are highly vulnerable. Transgender women, in particular, are at high risk of sexual assault, solitary confinement, and inadequate access to medical care. The report explores community-based alternatives to detention that focus on case management. These types of models are much less expensive than detention and have proved highly successful in other countries. In preparing the report, I've interviewed numerous organizations that work with LGBT asylum seekers around the U.S. in order to identify best practices in designing an alternative-to-detention program for this population.

How does your scholarship contribute to your teaching and service? My research and writing tend to be strongly connected to both my teaching and service. For example, two of my publications have addressed the treatment of mentally incompetent individuals in deportation proceedings (the most recent essay is being published online by the *Cornell Law Review*). I became deeply involved in this issue through an Immigration Clinic case that involved a client who had such severe mental illness he could not assist counsel. The students who represented him did extensive briefing, worked closely with expert witnesses, and handled a lengthy trial. They succeeded in winning protection under the Convention Against Torture, which is only granted in 2 percent of cases. Under a recent nationwide policy, the Department of Justice is now appointing "qualified representatives" to detained individuals who have been found mentally incompetent. I am proud to be involved in training hundreds of those representatives.

What recent reading has influenced you? One of the poems that influenced me most this year was "Home" by Warsan Shire. Describing the gut-wrenching decisions made by refugee parents, she writes: "You have to understand, no one puts their children in a boat unless the water is safer than the land." That poem, along with the heartbreaking photos of a 3-year-old Syrian boy washed up on the Turkish coast and a 4-year-old girl raising her arms in surrender when a photographer pointed his camera at her shattered our notions of childhood. The vulnerability of these children reinforced for me the importance of the Clinic's work with unaccompanied minors through the justice AmeriCorps grant. I am incredibly proud of our attorneys, Katelyn Leese '14 and Alissa Cooley '14, for not only providing top-quality legal representation but also offering holistic, trauma-informed, and compassionate care.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Kory Koerperich

You're from smallish Holbrook, Arizona, right off I-40. Why would someone passing through want to stop there? There was a time when people HAD to stop in Holbrook -- Route 66 made a ninety-degree right turn in the middle of town. Now travelers choose to stop, usually for gas, food, and a place to stay the night. If you're ever traveling through, stop for some Mexican food, tour the old courthouse/jail, see a Wigwam hotel room, and drive down "Bucket of Blood Street."

Your parents are teachers. How did that shape your approach to your education? As a kid, it meant I was always held to a different standard in the classroom. My parents didn't need to wait until parent-teacher conferences for updates on my behavior and grades -- they were down the hall! Now, I realize my parents instilled in me a certain discipline and love of learning.

You certainly could have stayed in your native Arizona for law school, but

you chose Boyd. Why? I saw a chance to be part of something special at Boyd. Being such a young school, and the only law school in the state, I knew Boyd offered unparalleled access to the legal community and the ability to shape the reputation of a growing institution. The writing program's status, and opportunities for new experiences, helped make the decision easy.

As you emerge from law school "halftime," what's been the highlight of your experience thus far? My recent highlight is sitting at counsel's table in a federal trial! Overall, I'm from a small town where we "cruise" the main street for fun. So from hearing the President speak, to visiting the Nevada Supreme Court, to the lifelong connections I've made, the new experiences and highlights of the past year and a half have been unimaginable!



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Krystal Rosse '09

Krystal (Gallagher) Rosse '09 is an Assistant United States Attorney in the District of Nevada. Krystal represents and defends the United States, its employees and agencies in civil litigation matters.

What brought you to Las Vegas? When I was looking at law schools, knowing I wanted to practice in public interest, my sister, a practicing attorney in Las Vegas, suggested applying to Boyd. After visiting Boyd during an open house, I loved the enthusiasm of the students, professors, and administrators I met -- everyone spoke highly of the program and, more importantly, the community. I feel very lucky to have received a great, affordable education in a legal community that is very supportive of Boyd students and graduates. My legal career has been largely shaped by the opportunities Boyd provided, including its externship program, which led to a clerkship with Justice Michael Douglas at the Nevada Supreme Court. I cannot imagine a better way to have started my legal career.

What drew you to the U.S. Attorney's Office and what do you like most about your work there? Following my clerkship and three years in private practice, I felt very lucky to accept a position and to pursue my dream career at the U.S. Attorney's Office. My job is extremely fulfilling because I get paid to do the right thing, whether it's defending the government in an employment case or providing assistance to a veteran returning to civilian employment.

What do you enjoy in your off hours? I enjoy yoga; spending time with my friends, family, and dog; watching the San Francisco 49ers (rough year) and Golden State Warriors; cheering on my husband at races; cooking; and baking.



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