



Boyd Briefs: February 11, 2016

From Dean Dan

More and more, law students are trained not only in litigation technique, but also in the equally critical areas of negotiation and problem-solving. Over the weekend, Boyd had the pleasure of hosting the American Bar Association (ABA) Regional Client Counseling Competition in partnership with the Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution. Congratulations to Boyd students Michael Stannard and Katherine Maher on placing first in the competition, and to students Kristian Kaskla and Aarin Kevorkian for placing second. Michael and Katherine will advance to the national finals competition this April at Baylor Law School.

I'd like to thank Saltman Center Director, Professor Jean Sternlight; Associate Director, Professor Lydia Nussbaum; and Graduate Fellow Jae Barrick '13. Thanks also to Sandra Rodriguez, Michael Hughes from the Clark County Bar Association and the Boyd Society of Advocates. Finally, I want to thank all those from the legal community who served as judges and clients during the competition, and in particular, Franny Forsman, Russell Marsh and Dr. Christina Saltman for serving as judges in the final round.

Click [here](#) to read more about the competition and see the winners.

Next weekend we are hosting our annual Boyd night at a UNLV basketball game. Please join fellow alumni for a pregame buffet on Saturday, February 20 before UNLV takes on UNR. The deadline to register is Feb. 17. Click [here](#) for more information and to reserve a seat. Thanks to our Alumni Association. We guarantee victory!

Dan

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

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Francine J. Lipman

Boyd Professor of Law [Francine Lipman](#) is an elected member of the American Law Institute, the American College of Tax Counsel, and the American Bar Foundation as well as the author of numerous articles on tax and accounting issues. In both her teaching and scholarship, she draws on an exceptional record of experience as an accountant and lawyer.

What's the most important thing you are working on right now? My current research project is focused on reframing how we analyze poverty in America. The existing analysis is targeted narrowly on the poor.



Focusing only on the poor suggests that they are the problem and must take responsibility for solutions. My analysis looks instead at the entire population of 320 million people living in America to better understand how our society allocates quality of life resources. While my research is at an early stage, I have already discovered that traditional government poverty measures exclude more than four million people who live in prisons, military barracks, nursing homes, and group homes or who are homeless. While these exclusions might be understandable, the result is disingenuous and undermines an informed discussion of how we are doing as a society.

If you could pick one of your publications to recommend, what would it be? Like a parent trying to select her favorite child, it is almost impossible to pick just one of my publications. I research and write in tax law and so my articles are the stuff of everyday life. Virtually every life decision has various tax consequences. For example, if you are interested in the environment, I have an article on the tax benefits of conservation easements. If you are concerned about the economics of immigration, I have articles on the taxation of unauthorized immigrants. If you are thinking about your retirement and Social Security and Medicare benefits, I have written several articles addressing the timing of the retirement decision. If you are disturbed by poverty, especially in children, I have written many articles on antipoverty relief delivered through the income tax system. If you want to understand how members of the armed forces are subject to taxation differently than civilians, I have a few articles discussing tax issues for "Private Ryan." And my latest scholarship de/reconstructs the recently deemed constitutional tax provisions implementing the Affordable Care Act. Tax law is everywhere.

What recent reading has influenced your thinking? *\$2.00 a Day: Living On Almost Nothing In America* (2015), by Kathryn J. Edin and H. Luke Shaefer, describes the harsh reality for 1.5 million households in America, including three million children, who somehow survive on cash incomes of \$2 or less per day. As shocking as it seems in a country as wealthy as America, this situation is not surprising given the transition from welfare to work-fare in the mid-1990s. The most significant antipoverty relief for families today is a wage subsidy delivered annually through filing an income tax return. As a result, families who can't work in the traditional sense quickly run out of any cash safety net. This environment is catastrophic for these families, especially the children who need basic resources to develop healthy minds and bodies. The tragedy of extreme poverty in America today motivates, inspires, and compels me to engage in regular community outreach and education as well as research and writing to do what I can to "be the change I wish to see in the world."



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Marta Kurshumova

Your life has been a journey, and it started in Bulgaria. What are your memories of growing up there? Bulgaria is a peculiar mixture of tradition and modernity. And I was fortunate enough to grow up in the best of both worlds. My memories are of supportive and loving family and friends through hardships and good times, of summers spent in my grandparents' village and endless walks in the sea gardens of my home city of Burgas. I love my country, and I hope one day to bring to it the knowledge and experience I have gained here.

And from Bulgaria you made your way to Macon, Ga., right? I aspired to study abroad from a young age and worked hard to achieve that goal. Wesleyan College in Macon, Ga. offered me a full scholarship, and that is when my journey began. The South is beautiful and its people are

extraordinarily hospitable. My experience there was a wonderful introduction to life in America.

So what brought you to Las Vegas? Las Vegas is a city of many opportunities, both personal and professional. I came to visit friends following my graduation and fell in love with the outdoors and the people I met. I found a position as a paralegal and, soon thereafter, I was accepted at Boyd, one of the proudest moments in my life.

Are you planning to stay here in Las Vegas, or do you think your journey will take you elsewhere? After leaving Bulgaria and my family at the age of 19 and adapting to a vastly different country and culture, I know that I can go anywhere and make it my home. However, at Boyd I have found such a family and supportive environment, which has made Las Vegas an even more welcoming place. I would be happy to stay here.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Holly Walker '14

Holly Walker '14 is a judicial law clerk to Justice Michael L. Douglas at the Supreme Court of Nevada.

Tell us about your clerkship. It is a dream come true. I analyze complex and fascinating legal issues on a daily basis, and I am grateful for the profound influence that this clerkship has had on my research and writing skills. I admire Justice Douglas and all of his contributions to the community. It is truly an honor to work for him and the Supreme Court.

What brought you to Las Vegas, and why did you decide to attend the Boyd School of Law? I was born and raised in Las Vegas, and I have always been dedicated to pursuing my education here. I graduated with high honors from Silverado High School, where I was fortunate enough to be named valedictorian and a National Merit Finalist Scholar. Then, I attended UNLV where I graduated summa cum laude with both University and Department Honors. At Boyd, I graduated cum laude, received seven CALI Excellence for the Future Awards, and was named a Fellow of the State Bar of Nevada Professional Development Program. The wondrous opportunities I have found here have encouraged my path to professional success. UNLV and Boyd have been very kind to me, from their supportive faculty and staff to the generous scholarships they offered.

What is something people might not know about you? In addition to the law, I studied psychology. My enthusiasm for the field inspired me to write an honors thesis on the topic of emotional intelligence. I have also received the honor of being published and presenting at conferences. Outside of academia, I enjoy playing tennis. However, at best, my interest in tennis is only recreational; unfortunately, I am not quite ready for the US Open.





UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law
4505 S. Maryland Parkway, Box 451003
Las Vegas, NV 89154 | (702) 895-3671 | www.law.unlv.edu

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