



Boyd Briefs: February 25, 2016

## From Dean Dan

I am delighted to report that the UNLV Boyd School of Law has partnered with [The National Judicial College \(NJC\)](#) to bring our award-winning [Kids' Court School](#) to Reno and Northern Nevada. Kids' Court School Founder [Rebecca Nathanson](#), the James E. Rogers Professor of Education and Law at the law school and the UNLV College of Education, and Boyd student Samantha Rice, will coordinate the program. Its official launch was Feb. 17 (view the announcement [here](#)).

Since its introduction in 2002, more than 1,000 children in Southern Nevada have participated in Kids' Court School, which will now extend to the children of Northern Nevada. During the event, key players in the Northern Nevada judicial and legal community were introduced to the award-winning program in the hope that they and agencies, such as the Department of Family Services and Juvenile Public Defenders Office, will recruit children who need the services to the program.

We are grateful to NJC President Chad Schmucker for partnering with the Kids' Court School to advance its mission of educating children about the courtroom process and helping to reduce their anxiety. Thanks also to Professor Nathanson for her tireless dedication to the program and to Samantha, who you can read more about in our student profile below, for taking the reins and helping to bring the program to our friends in Reno and, in particular, the NJC.

This afternoon, we are hosting our annual [Philip Pro Lectureship in Legal History](#). The lectureship, named in honor of Judge Philip Pro, a loyal friend of the Boyd School of Law who was instrumental in its creation, offers members of the Boyd community a unique opportunity to hear from an internationally prominent scholar on various legal history topics. This year we are very glad to welcome [Christine Desan](#) of Harvard Law School. Professor Desan, the Leo Gottlieb Professor of Law and co-founder of Harvard's Program on the Study of Capitalism, will speak on "The 18th Century Innovation That Constituted Capitalism: New Money and its Epochal Aftermath." Her most recently published book is *Making Money: Coin, Currency, and the Coming of Capitalism* (Oxford University Press, 2014).

Dan

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## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Ann McGinley

*[Ann McGinley](#) is internationally recognized for her work in employment law, employment discrimination, and disability law. She is a trailblazer*



*in Multidimensional Masculinities Theory, an emerging discipline that applies masculinities theory from social sciences to legal interpretation.*

**What are you working on?** My new book, *Masculinity at Work: Employment Discrimination through a Different Lens* (NYU Press, available March 2016) is a culmination of nearly 20 years of work on gender theory, employment discrimination law, sociology, and psychology. It encourages lawyers representing plaintiffs in sex and race discrimination claims to use experts in masculinities to educate both judges and juries. It criticizes undue reliance on juries' and judges' common sense to interpret behaviors alleged to have occurred because of sex; it demonstrates through real-life examples how masculinities studies can offer a more accurate interpretation of the behaviors of employers and employees in workforces. This is the first book that adopts masculinities theory and explains its application to proving employment discrimination claims under Title VII. Even for non-lawyers, the Introduction to the book is accessible. It features the story of Jonathan Martin, viewed through a lens of masculinity theory. After more than a year of ongoing harassment by his teammates on the Miami Dolphins, Martin checked himself into a mental health institution. The Introduction explains how masculinities theory could help Martin prove that the behavior occurred because of sex even in an all-male workplace.

**How have your teaching and scholarship supported one another?** I teach Employment Discrimination Law, and my research on cognitive behavior and masculinity theory has led to class discussions on whether employers should be held responsible for discrimination that occurs because of the employer's implicit biases. Students take the Harvard Implicit Association Test online and often learn that they have unconscious implicit biases that could affect their judgments. This recognition helps students understand the doctrine and theory behind the cases we read. I am also currently teaching a seminar on Masculinity, Law, and Popular Culture. My students are working on writing long narratives that deal with how legal systems and popular culture view masculinity.

**What recent reading has influenced you?** *Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family* by Amy Ellis Nutt is the true account of a young woman who was born a male with an identical twin. It describes her instinctive recognition that she was a girl and her transition from a male to a female body. It demonstrates the trials that "Nicole" and her family experienced from the time she was a very young boy, and the difficulties of negotiating the issues presented at school by her condition. The book raises serious questions about how society treats transgender individuals, and it affirmed my conviction that federal anti-discrimination law should prohibit discrimination in workplaces and schools based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

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## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Samantha Rice

**It all started in spectacular Winnemucca, Nev., right?** Growing up in a small town taught me the true definition of community. The civic duty of looking after one another became an integral part of my character. As a child, I dreamed of becoming an attorney and providing equal access to justice for all members of the community.

**At the end of last year, you were named Public Interest Law Student of Distinction by the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada. What was your reaction?** It was an unforgettable experience. I was honored to accept



the award with the support of family, friends, and Boyd staff members. I love public interest work and was humbled to be in a room full of legal professionals who also place great importance on serving the needs of the community. The number of attorneys who impacted the lives of others was breathtaking.

**You are spending this, your final semester, in Reno establishing Boyd's Kids' Court Program in Northern Nevada. How's that going?** I am fortunate for the opportunity to extend this program to Reno and serve the children and youth of Northern Nevada. On Feb. 17, we officially launched Kids' Court Reno and gave a presentation to legal professionals in the area. The National Judicial College was very welcoming of the program and we received tremendous support from the community as well. I am excited for the full implementation of the program and intend to head the program for many years to come.

**Where are you headed after graduation this May?** I look forward to beginning my legal career at Laxalt & Nomura at their Reno office. Last summer, I enjoyed the work and the collaborative atmosphere. I also hope for opportunities to travel to Winnemucca to help serve the community that raised me.



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Alan R. Smith '13

*Alan R. Smith '13 works as a staff attorney for the Nevada Court of Appeals.*

**What brought you to Las Vegas?** My family moved to Las Vegas while I was pursuing my bachelor's degree in Russian Studies and International Affairs at the University of Colorado. At that time, I began traveling to Las Vegas regularly to visit. I went on to study for a master's degree in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies at Stanford. After graduation, I joined my family in Las Vegas and began applying to law schools. When I was accepted at Boyd, I decided to make Las Vegas my permanent home.

**What drew you to the Nevada Court of Appeals?** I accepted a clerkship with the Honorable Abbi Silver in December 2014, shortly after Nevada voters approved a constitutional amendment to create a court of appeals. The creation of a court of appeals in Nevada was a historic moment. To be able to assist the new court was a tremendously exciting opportunity for me. I was also eager to work with Judge Silver and to gain the experience and knowledge of the law that a judicial clerkship offers.

**You are a staff attorney for the Nevada Court of Appeals now. Tell us about your work as a staff attorney.** Yes, in the fall of 2015, I transitioned from judicial clerk to become a staff attorney for the Nevada Court of Appeals. As a staff attorney, I do not work for a specific judge, but rather, work for the court as a whole. My work involves assisting the court in resolving motions, advising the court regarding matters assigned to it through written memoranda and oral presentations, and preparing proposed written dispositions for such matters.

**What do you find most rewarding about working for the Nevada Court of Appeals?** My time at the Nevada Court of Appeals has been invaluable, as the court is a tremendous environment in which to hone the legal research and writing skills that I developed at Boyd -- skills that will make me successful regardless of the path I take in the legal

profession. But the most rewarding part of my time at the Nevada Court of Appeals has been the opportunity to work with, and learn from, the judges and other talented attorneys at the court.



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