



Boyd Briefs: March 24, 2016

## From Dean Dan

I want to thank Gavin Isaacs, CEO and president of Scientific Games, for delivering this year's Robert D. Faiss Lecture on Gaming Law & Policy. The lecture series is named in honor of the late Robert D. Faiss, a giant in gaming law and a great friend to the law school. Previous guest speakers have included Kim Sinatra, executive vice president and general counsel at Wynn Resorts, and Frank Fahrenkopf, past president of the American Gaming Association. Mr. Isaacs spoke on "Pace of Technology – Driving Globalization and Convergence in Our Industry" and gave an excellent talk in what has become a tradition of excellent talks at the Faiss lecture.

During Spring Break this week, a group of dedicated Boyd students are putting into action the law school's commitment to serving those who need representation the most. This year's [Alternative Spring Break](#) program includes activities such as volunteering at organizations including Catholic Charities and Three Square Food Bank; spending time with Boyd alumni and local attorneys; meeting with Eighth Judicial District Court Judges Joanna Kishner, Gloria Sturman, Nancy Allf, Elizabeth Gonzalez, Joe Hardy, Susan Johnson, Susan Scann, Elissa Cadish, and Mark Denton, as well as Discovery Commissioner Bonnie Bulla and Fifth Judicial District Court Judge Kimberly Wanker; and working with our partners, the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada and Nevada Legal Services.



**From left, 2016 Alternative Spring Break participants volunteer at Catholic Charities: Nikki Harris (Associate Director of Career Development and Public Interest Advisor) and students Scott Morris, Monica Martinez, Lyssa Owens, Seleste Hamilton, Bryce Moir, and Daniel Hansen**

Created by Boyd's Career Development Office, Alternative Spring Break is designed to expose Boyd students of all class years to access for justice needs throughout Nevada—especially rural Nevada where there is a shortage of lawyers—and encourage them to consider a career or pro bono work addressing these issues. Special thanks to Nikki Harris and our excellent Career Development Office for organizing this great initiative, and thanks to our students as they do their good work serving the legal needs of all of Nevada.

Dan

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## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Rachel Anderson

Professor Rachel J. Anderson specializes in business law, international law, civil and human rights, and empirical legal studies. In addition to her teaching and scholarship, Professor Anderson is active in legal education and across a range of organizations at the local, state, and national levels.

**What's the most important thing you are working on right now?** My most important current project is an article with the working title *A Theoretical Approach to Empirical Legal Scholarship*. This article draws on seminal work by W.E.B. Du Bois in the area of sociology and applies it to legal research and analysis. In this law review article, I propose a three-level theoretical model for using and analyzing both qualitative and quantitative empirical data in legal research and analysis. One of the benefits of my three-level approach is that it makes it easier for both scholars and readers of legal scholarship to assess the explanatory value of specific empirical data as it relates to law and policy. I include this approach when teaching students how to do policy analysis and, based on feedback, my sense is that they find it helpful.

**If you could pick a recent publication to recommend, what would it be?** I have a chapter entitled "Regulation of Transnational Corporations" in the *Research Handbook on Transnational Corporations* (Edward Elgar Publishing, forthcoming 2016) that, to my knowledge, is the first comprehensive categorization of the various theoretical approaches to regulating transnational corporations. This is significant because of the ever-growing influence transnational corporations have around the world, not only on the economy but also on all aspects of our lives. In this chapter, I categorize, discuss, compare, and critique a wide range of theoretical approaches, including international law, corporate social responsibility, law and economics, new governance theory, critical theory, and religious approaches. Being able to compare and contrast many theoretical approaches at once makes it easier to identify each approaches' strengths and weaknesses and the underlying values we seek to embody in law and policy.

**How have your research and writing affected your service to the profession and the community?** I have a passion for developing and applying legal theory to everyday problems and this infuses not only my research and writing, but also my professional and community service. Almost everything I do in my professional and community service is driven and informed by a theoretical approach. I am tempted to say everything but there's almost always an exception, right? For example,

my recent article entitled *Inattentional Blindness: Psychological Barriers Between Legal Mandates and Progress Toward Workplace Gender Equality* looks at inattentional blindness as a significant explanatory factor for the gap between law and compliance. Essentially, inattentional blindness is a phenomenon explaining why human beings do not see things that they are not expecting. This may sound like a wild tale to some but there are years of robust research demonstrating this phenomenon. This article explains why different groups of people may have differing perceptions of fairness for reasons that have nothing to do with being sexist, racist, or even disinterested. I have had the opportunity to present these insights and methods to overcome inattentional blindness in a range of professional and community contexts and it has been exciting to see the positive results.

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## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Veronica Salas

**You grew up in rural New Mexico: How did that experience shape your world view?** Looking back to when I was a child and a teenager, I realize that my world view was not that positive because I thought everyone had the same attitudes and outlook of the world as most of the people who lived in my community. There was always prejudice against the black community and the Mexican and Mexican American community by a lot of the majority population. I thought the majority of the population shared the same opinions and prejudices everywhere. However, my opinions changed later while living in Las Vegas. The world is a huge place with very good people of all races, ethnicities and cultures. Living in Las Vegas has helped open my mind.

**What do your children think of your going to law school?** My children think that it's great and that it shows them that they can do anything they set their minds to. I also know that they know any excuses regarding their college education will fall on deaf ears with me. If I can do it, they can too. NO EXCUSES.

**You've worked full-time as a paralegal while attending law school. Did that ever seem like too much of a good thing?** No, not really. Being a paralegal is not easy and very stressful and being a law school student is not easy and very stressful as well, so doing both at the same time is ridiculously difficult and stressful.

**Graduation approaches rapidly. What then?** Hopefully I pass the Nevada bar and then join the law firm where I have worked the last 14 years as an attorney. I have been offered a position already; we're still discussing the details. It should all work out!

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## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Catherine Mazzeo '02

*Catherine Mazzeo is Assistant General Counsel at Southwest Gas Corporation. She is also the 2016 President of the Clark County Bar Association.*

**What brought you to Las Vegas and to Boyd?** I moved to Las Vegas after high school to pursue my undergraduate studies at UNLV. My family followed about a year later and Las Vegas became my permanent home. As I was completing my bachelor's degree, the opening of the Boyd School of Law was announced. I was grateful for the opportunity to attend law school in Las Vegas and to be a part of Boyd's formative





years.

**What is the Clark County Bar Association (CCBA) and how did you become involved?** The CCBA is a voluntary organization with significant ties to the Las Vegas legal community. Membership opportunities are available for attorneys, judges, legal assistants and paralegals, law students, and even merchants who provide goods or services to the legal community. The CCBA promotes professionalism and collegiality, offers several avenues for social interaction, and performs outreach services both within the legal community and throughout Clark County. And you do not have to live or work in Clark County to join!

I learned about the CCBA as a law student and was fortunate that the partners in the first law firm I worked for supported my involvement, besides being very involved themselves. I joined the CCBA after passing the Nevada bar exam and have been a member ever since! I was elected to the Executive Board in 2008 and now have the honor of serving as president.

**Tell us about your work as Assistant General Counsel. What do you like most about working in-house?** I enjoy the variety of interesting issues that come across my desk on a regular basis. I also appreciate working collaboratively with other attorneys and the different business units within the company. It is exciting to not only see your projects through to their conclusions, but to see the results of your work making a difference in the day-to-day operations of the business.



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