



Boyd Briefs: April 14, 2016

From Dean Dan

Dr. Nancy Brune, Executive Director of the Guinn Center for Policy Priorities, is a Senior Fellow at the UNLV Boyd School of Law. Please join me in congratulating her on her nomination by Obama to the President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. This is a recognition of Dr. Brune's outstanding work at the Guinn Center and before, and we are fortunate to have her as a member of the Boyd community.

I want to highlight two community and professional development opportunities coming up at the law school. First, I want to thank Professor Eric Franklin, Director of the Small Business & Nonprofit Legal Clinic, for partnering with the State Bar of Nevada and the Association of Corporate Counsel of Nevada to host a **Small Business Legal Clinic** on April 29. Free and open to the public, the workshop will feature presentations from local attorneys on topics including business formation, intellectual property, business licensing, and business contracts. Please click [here](#) for more information and to RSVP.

Second, the Saltman Center is hosting its **Summer Institute in Dispute Resolution** beginning in June. Taught by experts in the field, these short, intensive courses are open to law or graduate students, attorneys, and professionals. This summer's course offerings include Settling Legal Disputes - Negotiation & Mediation Advocacy, Intellectual Property and Dispute Resolution, and Mediation Essentials. Please click [here](#) to learn more and register.

Finally, the law school hosted a special event last week celebrating the public interest accomplishments of our students. The event honored Justice Kristina Pickering, this year's Public Interest Law Association Silver Staircase Honoree, and recognized the following award recipients: **Jessica Georgescu** (Richard L. Brown Community Service Scholarship) and **Samantha Rice** (Barbara Buckley Community Service Award). Congratulations to our students for their commitment to public interest and dedication to serving our community.



From left: Scott Morris, Graduating Public Interest Fellow; Jessica Georgescu, Richard L. Brown Community Service Scholarship recipient; Nikki Harris, Associate Director of Career Development and Public Interest Advisor; Dean Dan Hamilton; Christine Smith, Associate Dean for Public Service, Compliance and Administration; Samantha Rice, Barbara Buckley Community

Service Award recipient, and alumnus Jason Frierson '01

Dan

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FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Jeffrey Stempel

Professor Jeff Stempel is a prolific author across a range of topics—insurance, civil procedure, litigation practice—and in a range of publication outlets—textbooks, treatises, book chapters, and law review articles. He is a member of the American Law Institute, the State Bar of Nevada, and the Minnesota Bar.

If you could pick one of your recent publications to recommend, what would it be? *General Liability Insurance: Key Issues in Every State* (3d ed. 2015), co-authored with Randy Maniloff, a prominent Philadelphia attorney, may not sound like a page turner – but it's a recent work of which I'm particularly proud. It's a state-by-state survey of the judicial treatment of more than 20 important insurance issues that is a real aid to lawyers and claims professionals. Partnering with a practicing attorney (who is also a prolific author with a regular newsletter) provided an opportunity to fuse academic and practical perspectives in addressing these issues. Insurance law in particular varies from state-to-state, in part because of the efforts of Nevada political giant Senator Pat McCarran and the McCarran-Ferguson Act enacted in 1945 which placed insurance regulation primarily within the power of each state.

What's the most important thing you are working on right now? I am part of a project group that is drafting *Principles of Reinsurance Contract Law* for use in governing the operation of reinsurance treaties and facultative certificates and resolution of disputes regarding these instruments. Reinsurance is insurance purchased by insurance companies. It is used to spread the insurer's risk (so that they don't become unable to pay claims) and to add to the insurer's capacity to write additional coverage. Because most reinsurance disputes are resolved by arbitration, it tends to have low visibility. But it involves billions of dollars and is a lynchpin of global risk management and business operations. The project is centered in Zurich and involves the input of professors, attorneys, insurers, and insurance brokers from five continents.

How do you see the legal profession evolving in the next 10 years or so? The legal profession is under considerable pressure to deliver services efficiently and at lower cost, with particular emphasis on greater use of technology. This is both good and bad. No one dislikes efficiency. And technology can really be a boon to productivity. But law has been and always will be about judgment and reflection. Too much emphasis on speed and too much reliance on a software template or similar technology cannot be a substitute for reflective analysis – and an appreciation of the social values at stake in legal disputes. Legal education of course must keep pace with the times – but it should remain committed to serious and sustained analysis and critical thinking that gives students skills they can use throughout their professional lives.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Daven Cameron

Word on the street is that you are a pilates/yoga instructor. Can you confirm? That is correct. I started teaching hot pilates prior to law school and continued teaching throughout my 1L year and part of my 2L year. I really enjoyed teaching. It was a great way to take a break from anything law school related while at the same time help people reach their health and fitness goals. I also enjoyed teaching because it kept me comfortable with public speaking. While I am not a yoga instructor, there are many times a week you can find me getting my zen on.

What's been your favorite class at Boyd? If I had to name one, it would probably be Lawyering Process II with Professor Scharf. It was in LP II that I started to really enjoy legal writing, and it was my first experience with moot court/oral arguments.

Tell us about Dieszel. My son Dieszel is amazing. He turns seven this year, and he's entering first grade in the fall. Dieszel is probably the most kindhearted, thoughtful, compassionate, and funny child alive. Right now, he is a HUGE Star Wars fan, and, per his request, his bedroom has been decorated accordingly. Currently, he is into art, music, and wants to be an actor—but he has also told me he wants to be a veterinarian, school teacher, and "spaceman." So he's exploring career options at the moment. To be honest, I really could not have asked for a better kid. He helps keep everything in perspective for me.

What's on tap following graduation in May and the bar exam? I have the honor of clerking for District Court Judge Nancy Allf at the Eighth Judicial District Court. After that, I start as a second-year associate at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck in 2017.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Janell Bryan '07

Janell Bryan '07 works as a full-time juvenile public defender for the Utah County Public Defenders Association.

What was particularly useful to you about your time spent at Boyd? Time spent working in the Thomas & Mack Legal Clinic during law school was pivotal for me in eventually deciding to move completely into becoming a juvenile defender. Until two years ago, I worked in real estate and family law, but always held a couple of conflict contracts for juvenile court work. My assistant once told me that the contracts were actually costing me money because it was time away from other more lucrative cases, but I really enjoyed helping the minors (mostly teenagers). When the Utah County Public Defenders Association came to me and offered me a full-time position a couple of years ago, I decided to take a cut in pay and make the move. It is frustrating work at times, but I find satisfaction in assisting underrepresented people in the legal system.

What is a pet peeve you have? It is unprofessional and disrespectful when attorneys are consistently late, impolite, and/or do not come prepared. Most attorneys and judges have tight schedules and other commitments during the work day. They are also much more likely to make allowances in emergency situations when they have been treated

fairly and courteously by you in the past. I am a firm believer in professionalism and karma.

What extracurricular activities do you enjoy, and how do you balance your obligations? Once a week I also work pro bono at the Homeless Youth Legal Clinic in Salt Lake City; the work and interaction is extremely rewarding and often the highlight of my week. My advice regarding balancing work, family, and societal obligations is to take care of yourself, practice moderation, and have a strong work ethic.



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