



### From Dean Dan

Tomorrow the [Southern Nevada Association of Women Attorneys](#) (SNAWA) will hold its annual Justice Miriam Shearing Gala, an event that raises funds for scholarships. This year's gala will honor the late Judge Susan Scann with the fourth annual Justice Miriam Shearing Award. The Boyd School of Law recognizes with respect and admiration the many contributions of Judge Susan Scann, who leaves a legacy of maintaining high standards and serving as a committed and ethical legal professional. Since 1998, a total of 41 Boyd students have received SNAWA scholarships. This year's scholarship recipients are Alysa Grimes, Seleste Hamilton, and Sarah White. Congratulations to our student scholarship recipients and many thanks to Justice Shearing; SNAWA President Diane Welch, a 2009 Boyd alumna; and the entire SNAWA Board for its long-time support of the law school. More on the event, including ticket information, can be found [here](#).

Dan

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### Faculty Spotlight: Emma Babler

*Emma Babler joined Boyd this July as research librarian and assistant professor of law. She is a native of Wisconsin and received both her J.D. and her M.L.I.S. from the University of Wisconsin.*

**What's the most important thing you are working on right now?**  
Research assistance for the faculty members that I work with as a library liaison. I love that I get to work on something different all the time and in many different areas of law.

**What is the most significant issue facing modern legal researchers and how should it be addressed?** At this point, what do we even call our research platforms? West, for example, has rebranded itself so many times even since I was in law school (Westlaw, Westlaw Classic, West, Westlaw Next, Thompson-Reuters' Westlaw) that it becomes a confusing

mess of terminology. In all seriousness, though, I think the most important thing modern legal researchers need to be aware of is that research isn't static. It's a living thing, and so you can't just learn how to do it once and think you know how to research; you need to continue learning about new methods and platforms and be willing to utilize new methodology.

**What have you read, listened to, or watched recently that has influenced you or your work?**

I just finished watching Season 4 of "Orange is the New Black," and it continues to make me think deeply about how we deal with incarceration in our country and how we need to make serious changes. I also recently read *The Man in the High Castle* by Philip K. Dick, which I find very relevant to today's political climate.

**What is it about being a law librarian that inspires or motivates you?** I've always been very motivated by finding the answers to questions. I grew up reading Nancy Drew, and this job makes me feel a lot like a legal sleuth a lot of the time! It gives me great satisfaction to do legal research.



### Student Spotlight: Elizabeth and Jose Carmona

**So what's it like to attend law school with your spouse?**

When we first started law school, everyone thought that it would ruin our marriage, but they were wrong! Going to law school together allowed us to learn and understand the stresses that this experience brings. On the other hand, our academic performance has also benefited from our joint law school experience because we attend the same classes and study together.

**Elizabeth, you're an extern with Judge Jerry Tao of the Nevada Court of Appeals this semester. How's that going?** My externship with the Court of Appeals has been amazing! I work with the law clerks on a daily basis by discussing our assigned cases and conducting legal research. I am also strengthening my legal writing skills by drafting memoranda to Judge Tao, as well as proofreading and editing his written opinions.

**And Jose, how are you enjoying your externship with the National Labor Relations Board?** My externship with the NLRB has exceeded my expectations. While the externship is still in its early phases, I have already gotten the opportunity to work with the attorneys, assist our compliance agent, and watch court proceedings. I look forward to watching other procedures, being assigned my own cases, and participating in union elections.

**Is there a Carmona and Carmona law firm in your future?** Yes! We have both discovered the fields of law in which we are interested, and coincidentally they are very similar. Liz has a passion for employment law and I have always enjoyed labor law. Without a doubt this will lead to a Carmona and Carmona law firm somewhere down the line!

### Alumni Spotlight: Zachary Conine '13

*Co-Founder of Joseph Beare & Company*

**Tell us about your decision to attend the Boyd School of Law.** I had always wanted to attend law school, but after taking my LSAT, I got the job offer of a lifetime and moved to Las Vegas. As I got older, the choice of stopping work for three years got harder and harder. Luckily, Boyd has an amazing part-time program --



allowing me to work during the day (in finance and, later, opening the Downtown Grand) while attending classes at night. I'm glad I did! Boyd expanded the way I think and introduced me to some truly amazing people.

**You're a member of the Alumni Leadership Circle. Why do you feel it is important to donate to the law school? Also, in what capacity do you feel your membership in this group impacts the school?** Institutions like the law school contribute an important part of the educational and cultural background of Nevada. Supporting an institution that is directly and indirectly benefiting our state is an obvious choice. I'm hopeful that the Alumni

Leadership Circle is able to provide the Boyd administration with additional points of contact within the legal and business community to improve the law school experience and placement for current students.

**You're involved in a lot - business, philanthropy, public service, and family. How do you keep a healthy balance?** One of my mentors said something to me early on that has stuck: Always have the highest possible opportunity cost. What he meant was that, optimally, at any point the decision of what to spend your time on should be as hard as possible. That has always worked for me; if everything is important and proportionately rewarding, it helps to keep things in balance. Having a strong family relationship also helps bring balance back when one focus starts overwhelming the others.

**Where do you see yourself in 10 years?** I would like to continue working to move Nevada forward through my professional work and through public service. I expect the professional vehicle will be through my businesses (Joseph Beare & Company; Beare Law; and my involvement with the Unmanned Aerial and Robotics Resource Center) and I will continue to look for a way to serve in a public capacity.



#### Community Member Spotlight: Phyllis Gilland

*SVP & General Counsel at American Casino & Entertainment Properties, Member of the Gaming Law Advisory Board at the Boyd School of Law*

**Tell us about your decision to serve on the Gaming Law Advisory Board and what makes UNLV Law's mission meaningful to you.**

The decision was very easy! I was honored to be asked to contribute. It is an opportunity that allows me to use my experience and background, and to support people who want the Boyd School of Law to remain a prominent place in the Las

Vegas community and a competitively placed law school. The dean and his associates strive to make it a place of excellence in the gaming legal community. In addition, it provides me with an opportunity to meet and interact with other persons of distinction and expertise in Las Vegas.

**What was your first or most memorable job?** My first memorable job was with KPMG. Right after law school, where I also took accounting classes at night, I started my career at KPMG in the tax department. It was quite a shock to learn that I would have about 30 bosses! I worked many, many hours, and I worked on all types of projects for all types of people. It was the best learning experience! I didn't think it was so great at the time, but it really prepared me for the fast pace and broad nature of the legal world and issues that a general counsel would face. Of course being general counsel for Principal Finance Group's Principal International Companies was also very memorable, as I got to do quite a bit of international travel all over the world and work on many mergers and acquisitions in foreign countries.

**Where is your favorite travel destination?** My favorite travel destinations tend to be my weekend trips. My husband and I like to get away for quick breaks; maybe for some golf or a wine country weekend! Of course we also like to get to do some big explorations. We just recently spent time in Venice and other parts of Italy, and we had a great trip!

**Tell us about a book you've read that's made a real difference to you.** That would probably be *Who Moved My Cheese* by Spencer Johnson. It is a book about how to handle change, which of course is always happening at work, at home, etc. It portrays three mice who take different approaches to handling change in their world. It then discusses how they react to change and how their reactions frame their outlooks (life). When I see change, I try to remember to be the person who embraces and makes the most of it for the project, the company, and for my own life.

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