



### From Dean Dan

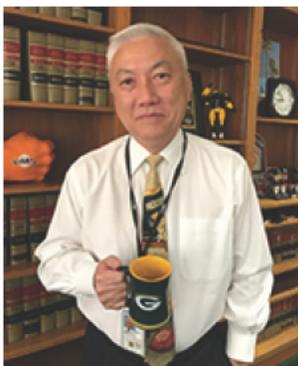
On Tuesday of last week we were delighted to welcome the Nevada Court of Appeals to the law school. The Court heard oral argument in two cases in our Thomas & Mack Moot Courtroom and took questions from students afterward. This was a wonderful opportunity for the Boyd community, and we are grateful to Chief Judge Michael Gibbons, Judge Abbi Silver, and Judge Jerome Tao. We were also very pleased to welcome former Chief Justice Robert E. Rose, a longtime member of the Nevada Supreme Court and former lieutenant governor, who heard argument in one of the cases, a case that was argued by law school alumnus Eric D. Walther '14.

Last spring, these three inaugural Court of Appeals judges received the Legacy of Justice Award, given annually by the student body at the law school's Barrister's Ball. Justice Rose was a previous recipient of the Legacy of Justice Award, which honors judicial leaders who demonstrate exceptional dedication to the administration of law in Nevada.

The Court's visit to the law school has become an annual tradition and we are all thankful for the critical work undertaken by the appellate courts in Nevada to develop case law and speed the appellate process in the state.

Dan

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### Faculty Spotlight: Judge Mike Nakagawa

*Mike K. Nakagawa is a Judge (and former Chief Judge) of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Nevada. He teaches courses in basic bankruptcy law and remedies at Boyd School of Law.*

**How did a California attorney land on the bankruptcy bench in Las Vegas?** One of my former law school classmates, Bruce Markell, was part of the original faculty at Boyd. He was appointed to the bankruptcy bench in Nevada in 2004. In 2005, amendments to the Bankruptcy Code created another bankruptcy judge position in Nevada. As I had practiced bankruptcy and business law in

Sacramento for more than twenty years, my former classmate suggested that I apply. I assured my bride that an attorney from Northern California would never be selected for the bankruptcy bench in Southern Nevada. So I applied and things did not go as predicted. Now I really owe her one. Forever.

After uprooting my family, I was sworn in as a bankruptcy judge in Las Vegas in September 2006. Then-Judge Markell assured me that being a bankruptcy judge is the best job in the world if you really like helping people. Ten years later I can say unequivocally that my friend and former classmate was right, even though he is a lifelong Dodgers fan.

**How does your "day job" affect your teaching?** I taught bankruptcy law for ten years as an adjunct professor at McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento while in private practice. I've now taught bankruptcy law as an adjunct professor at Boyd while on the bankruptcy bench. Teaching law from an attorney's perspective is very different from teaching based on a judge's experience. Many assumptions made by attorneys about what is important to a judge's decision-making are completely wrong. I try to teach students what will be important to the court when they eventually will be arguing issues before our bankruptcy judges. War stories from attorneys usually are about the attorneys. War stories from judges usually are about the results. I tend to think the latter may not be as fun, but actually are more valuable to law students.

**How does your teaching affect your "day job?"** Teaching can make both attorneys and judges a lot better. Teaching forces the "adjunct" to know and, more important, how to explain the substance of the law, the reasons for the law, and the process of applying the law. Attorneys usually know about all three facets, but often do not explain to the client how they affect their case. Occasionally even judges forget about all three facets, and how they affect their application of the law. Attorneys and judges who have an appreciation for all three are better able to predict or anticipate the outcome of a problem or dispute, and should be better able to help their clients and to serve the public.

**What do you do when not at your "day job" or teaching?** My day job takes as many or more hours each week as I devoted to private practice. The tidal wave of bankruptcy cases that hit Southern Nevada through 2013 may have receded, but a lot of debris remains. So I generally devote all remaining time to activities with my family. My son and daughter are active in sports and music, so we spend a lot of time playing or watching both, and make as many trips as possible to Lambeau Field and Northern California. Down time at home includes watching a wide variety of movies, tending more to the idiotic rather than the serious. We laugh a lot at ourselves and with each other.



Student Spotlight: Nelson Lambert

**It seems Boyd's LL.M. in Gaming Law and Regulation program was tailor-made for you and your career objectives, yes?** Yes. To be a student in the LL.M. in Gaming Law and Regulation program is to be in my element. I have a unique perspective of the regulatory side of gaming thanks to my father.

**Tell us about your father's work in the gaming industry.** My father, Patrick Lambert, started out working at a small law firm close to our hometown in North Carolina where he looked at the possibility of our Tribe [the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians] getting into the gaming business after Congress passed the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act in 1988. Soon after, he became the first Executive Director of the Tribal Gaming Commission [TGC]. He worked with our elected officials at the time to bring our first casino to Cherokee. In 1994, through his ability to negotiate with the Governor of North Carolina, my Tribe had our first Gaming Compact.

**How do you see your studies here preparing you to better serve your tribe?** Thanks to the

LL.M. program, I am proud to say that I am currently an extern with the Nevada Gaming Control Board. I will return home in May with knowledge that will enable my TGC to make certain changes to our current regulations in order to ensure that my Tribe stays on the forefront of gaming trends and technological advancements. I will be the only member of my Tribe with an LL.M. I will also be the first Native American in the world with an LL.M. in Gaming Law and Regulation. The knowledge with which this program will arm me will not only help me to serve my Tribe but will help me to serve all of Indian Country.



### Alumni Spotlight: Patrick Murch '06

*Patrick Murch '06 is Assistant General Counsel with the Clark County School District.*

**What drew you to the Clark County School District, and what do you like most about your work there?** Prior to becoming an attorney, I spent 10 years teaching elementary school physical education in the Clark County School District (CCSD). I attended law school at night while teaching full-time. My teaching experience and my two master's degrees in education have been invaluable in my current position, as I have an insider's

understanding of many of the issues and challenges facing my clients. My favorite part of my job is the variety. Among other things, I deal with labor and employment issues, negotiate and draft contracts, and handle litigation in state and federal courts. I also provide advice on numerous, interesting topics, including employee evaluations and discipline, custody disputes, public records requests, bid protests, and real property matters. No two days are the same, and I am fortunate to be able to say that I truly enjoy my work.

**Is there a nugget of advice you would give a recent UNLV Law graduate?** Find a good mentor. I was fortunate to spend eight years as an associate at McDonald Carano Wilson prior to returning to CCSD. I had the opportunity to work with and learn from several exceptional attorneys, including current U.S. District Judge Andy Gordon, former Nevada State Senator Terry Care, and Managing Partners George Ogilvie and Jeff Silvestri, among others. Their professionalism and guidance has been instrumental in teaching me how to practice law.

**What is a little known fact about you?** I grew up on a turkey farm with six brothers and two sisters in Upstate New York. We call our family reunions (my mom and dad, nine kids, nine spouses, and 26 cousins) "Murch Madness."



### Community Member Spotlight: Lou Dorn

*General Counsel & Chief Compliance Officer at SLS Las Vegas, Member of the Gaming Law Advisory Board at 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.**

I've been a member of the Executive Committee of the State Bar's Gaming Law Section for a number of years, and we've always looked for opportunities to assist the law school in a variety of ways. Once the law school began offering an LL.M. in

Gaming Law, I thought joining the Gaming Law Advisory Board would be a great way for me to help incoming students as well as graduating students obtain a better understanding of the practice of gaming law in Nevada.

**What was your first or most memorable job?** My most memorable job was serving as Chief of the Corporate Securities Division for the Nevada Gaming Control Board. As a chief regulator, I was fortunate to participate in high-level investigations and really get an excellent understanding about the agency and how it operates from the inside.

**What advice would you give to UNLV Law students?** I suggest to law students that they should get involved in as many community events and organizations as they can. Meeting people in the legal community and making an impression can go a long way in being considered for a position.

**What is your favorite travel destination?** So far, Rome, Italy -- it's beautiful and rich in history. Otherwise, I love to visit Lake Tahoe during the winter.

**How do you keep a good work/life balance?** I try to make it a goal not to bring home too much work. I think it's important to keep a clear separation between work and my personal time.

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